

# EXTRA EXTRA!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### Banksy artwork creates urban tree debate

This is an edited version of a story from  
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The boss of a firm responsible for pruning a tree at the centre of a new Banksy artwork in north London says the mural has "enhanced" the area. It features green paint on a wall behind a cut-back, or pollarded, tree to look like foliage.

Banksy's latest work also features a stencil of a person, holding a sprayer, next to it.

As with many of Banksy's murals, his latest piece has unearthed a range of opinions including from some conservation campaigners who fear the tree was pruned back too much.

Lawrence-Thor Stephen, 33, says the art has generated healthy discussion about trees in urban parts of the capital.

Mr Stephen explained his team used an "ancient form of pruning" known as pollarding — where the upper parts of the tree are removed.

He explained the practice limits the tree's growth and stops weak branches from falling off.

"I am hoping it will burst with growth in the spring and it will be interesting



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to see how the artwork progresses in the coming months."

Islington Council said it would continue to work to try and keep the tree alive and that it should re-bud across its crown.

But Giovanna Iozzi, who lives in the neighbouring borough and is the founder of the Haringey Tree Protectors group, feels the cherry tree was cut back too much. She believes this was the point of Banksy's artwork.

"It is interesting he chose this tree, it looks so stark," Ms Iozzi said.

"I can't see why it was necessary to chop all of its leaves and branches back.

"What it has highlighted for us is biodiversity."

"I was astonished people have missed the point, I love Banksy and his work and I think he's brilliant but I interpret it to be about greenwash and trees being severely pollarded.

"Cherry trees do not recover well from pollarding."

## TRUE OR FALSE?

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