



Joe Pasquale ditches banter for brushes to recreate classic Renaissance artworks

To launch season three of hit animated TV series Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Comedian Joe Pasquale today surprised Londoners with his artistic talents rather than his comedic wit as he unveiled his own versions of classic masterpieces by leading Renaissance artists – Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, Raphael and Michelangelo (and *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* namesakes)

The unveiling comes on the back of new research compiled to launch season three of the animated TV series on February 7th and reveals that Brits ‘draw’ their cultural knowledge from a variety of unusual places including popular TV shows from when they were young.

In fact, more than half (51 per cent) of those who grew up watching TV series *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* are able to correctly associate the names – Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael and Michelangelo - with Italian Renaissance Artists – so much so, that the crime-fighting Turtle version of Donatello is more well-known (34 per cent) than the original renaissance sculptor (28 per cent).

However, this is not always the case and while a quarter of Brits are interested in art, three per cent of Brits think Van Gogh is a shoe designer or Dutch football manager (2 per cent), Renoir is a French car manufacturer (three per cent) and Caravaggio a frothy coffee (five per cent). A further five per cent think Matisse is the President of France – with three per cent of women even stating it is a brand of dry hair shampoo.

To remind Londoners about some of these famous Renaissance masterpieces and bring to life the TURTLES love of cheeky pranks and their arty namesakes, Joe Pasquale has ‘re-mastered’ the classic paintings from the original Italian artists and will be unveiling them outside the National Gallery, home to the UK’s largest collection of Renaissance art.

The new works have been created using acrylic on canvas and include da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man, Donatello’s David, Raphael’s Sistine Chapel Cherubim and Michelangelo’s Creation of Adam—but all include a Turtle-inspired twist. Every painting has the addition of Turtle-inspired iconography from the cult TV series - from the distinctive coloured eye masks, to weaponry, knee straps, the Turtles’ favourite food and even the evil Kraang.

Joe Pasquale said: “My son was born in the 80s and grew up watching the Turtles so I always enjoyed watching it with him, developing a bit of an obsession with the series. It’s a cult classic and I was so excited to be able to draw upon everything from storylines to backdrops to create my cheeky artworks which will have art historians the world over shaking their heads disapprovingly. Who knew God was passing Adam a slice of pepperoni pizza in Michelangelo’s masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel?”

Tina McCann, Managing Director Nickelodeon UK & Ireland said: “Whilst Joe’s re-worked masterpieces are a cheeky and light hearted way to launch season three of the animated series, as our research shows, they might also help to encourage our audience to engage with art in an entertaining way. We hope they will be enjoyed by adults and kids alike.”



The one-of-a-kind paintings will be auctioned off in aid of Nickelodeon's nominated charities [Family Action](#), [Kids Out](#) and [TRACKS Autism](#).

Watch season three of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* at 9:30am every Saturday on Nicktoons starting from Saturday February 7th.

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About Nicktoons

Available in over 13 million homes, Nicktoons showcases the world's best comedy animation. Launched in 2002 and part of the Nickelodeon network of channels, Nicktoons broadcasts the very best in funny cartoons to audiences across the UK and Ireland, featuring top shows such as *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Sanjay and Craig*, and *Fairly OddParents*. More information is available at nicktoons.co.uk Nicktoons is available on Sky 606, Virgin 717 and through BT Vision.

The Nickelodeon Network is a top-performing commercial kids TV network in the UK and Ireland with Nickelodeon channels available in over 14 million cable and satellite homes. Having launched in 1993 Nickelodeon UK comprises seven dedicated entertainment channels for kids aged 4-15 and their families, and is a joint venture between Viacom International Media Networks and BSkyB.