

# my space

## Goldie Musician and artist

This is my studio in Hertfordshire, a graffiti writer's hobbit hole. It's nice and out of the way — I can put the music on full blast and paint away. Most people would think of me as a drum 'n' bass musician or an actor in *EastEnders* before they associate me with canvas. But for me, doing art is coming full circle, going back to what I love.

I first made my name as a teenage graffiti artist in New York, on the 116th Street layup in Lexington, which from a graffiti point of view is as good as it gets. We were getting chased by the police for this, now it's adorning galleries. I think people like Banksy are really good, as long as you understand where it comes from — stencil graffiti was used during the Spanish Civil War.

I've just finished my portrait of the Queen for the jubilee. It was inspired by Duke Ellington, believe it or not. He produced a tune in 1959 called *The Single Petal of a Rose*, which was presented to the Queen. To make it [my portrait], I cut up pieces of wood for stencils, and built up layers of paint. You can see cans of spray paint behind the portrait. I'm sitting on a flight case from the live music tours we did in the Nineties. The masks hanging by the window are to stop me getting cancer: the lacquers I use are pretty potent.

I'd say I was a monarchist. In 2011 I took a group of kids to the Palace to play music for a TV project, which is better than going on *The X Factor*. I grew up in this country, I was in care from age 3 to 18, so I've spent a lot of time in establishments. I love the UK and what it stands for. There will be people who disagree, but I'm a romantic in that sense.

**Goldie DJs at the Parklife Weekender**

