

Basquiat Extra Credit

View Julian Schnabel's *Basquiat* (1996) and answer the following questions.

Given his start as a graffiti artist, why might the NY art establishment have been attracted to Basquiat's works in the 1980s? Basquiat often included the © symbol in his graffiti works. What ironic message is conveyed when the graffiti writer claims copyright to their material? In your opinion, who owns the work? How did the artist respond to the rapid interest in his work? How did Basquiat achieve such fame in so little time? Is this, perhaps, an element of his biography that we like to believe, but isn't necessarily true? How does the movie reinforce or refute the mythic characterization of Basquiat as the familiar tragic, conflicted, genius artist? Does the movie portrayal of the artist play into stereotypical views of contemporary art makers? (In particular, think of the scenes in which the artist is in the studio painting.) Why do we seem to love these tragic creative characters so much? How does Basquiat's race factor into this mythic stereotyping?