

## Kurt Cobain: 22 years on

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April 5<sup>th</sup> marked 22 years since the iconic grunge star had passed away. I was 4 at the time and had no idea who Nirvana was until I was 11 years old. The first time I heard Nirvana's loud, thumping and screeching music, I was in love. The music was true and energetic and even today Nirvana are still captivating new audiences. Every year I go to the Reading Festival, England, I will almost guarantee to see people of various ages wearing a Nirvana t-shirt. Kurt's lyrics were genuine, they were often about his feelings of loneliness, his childhood and drug abuse.

Kurt was also an artist, as conversed in the documentaries, 'Kurt & Courtney', and 'Montage of Heck'. When he wasn't playing guitar, he was doing something else creative. He was drawing and painting from an early age, with some of his artwork being used for album and single covers.



*Artwork for Insecticide album*

<https://youtu.be/EMkDv3D8nM0>

As mentioned in 'Kurt & Courtney', he was fascinated by callous and vulgar things and often drew and painted scenes of violence and blood. He also liked to draw people (including himself) as stick thin characters; mainly because this is how he saw himself.

Not all of his artwork could be considered dark, there are oil paintings, and pencil drawings of harbours and landscapes that would look great in any gallery.



*Lighthouse painting. Dated 1980.*

His music and artwork were his release from the pain of the world. They were an insight into his mind and emotions.

So while Nirvana, or grunge music might not be to everyone's taste, it's fair to say that 22 years ago we lost a talented, but damaged soul. His music will live on, like all good music. He had an amazing imagination and spirit and he was talented in more ways than one. His artistic vision was incomparable to anyone else in the band; this can also be seen in their videos. Although he did not direct them, they were all stemmed from his inimitable mind.

Singer, song writer, guitarist. Kurt's musical legacy is as strong today as it was when I first heard the explosive sound of Smells Like Teen Spirit. Although he may not be known commonly as painter, his unique artistic spirit is still available for the whole world to see.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vabnZ9-ex7o>