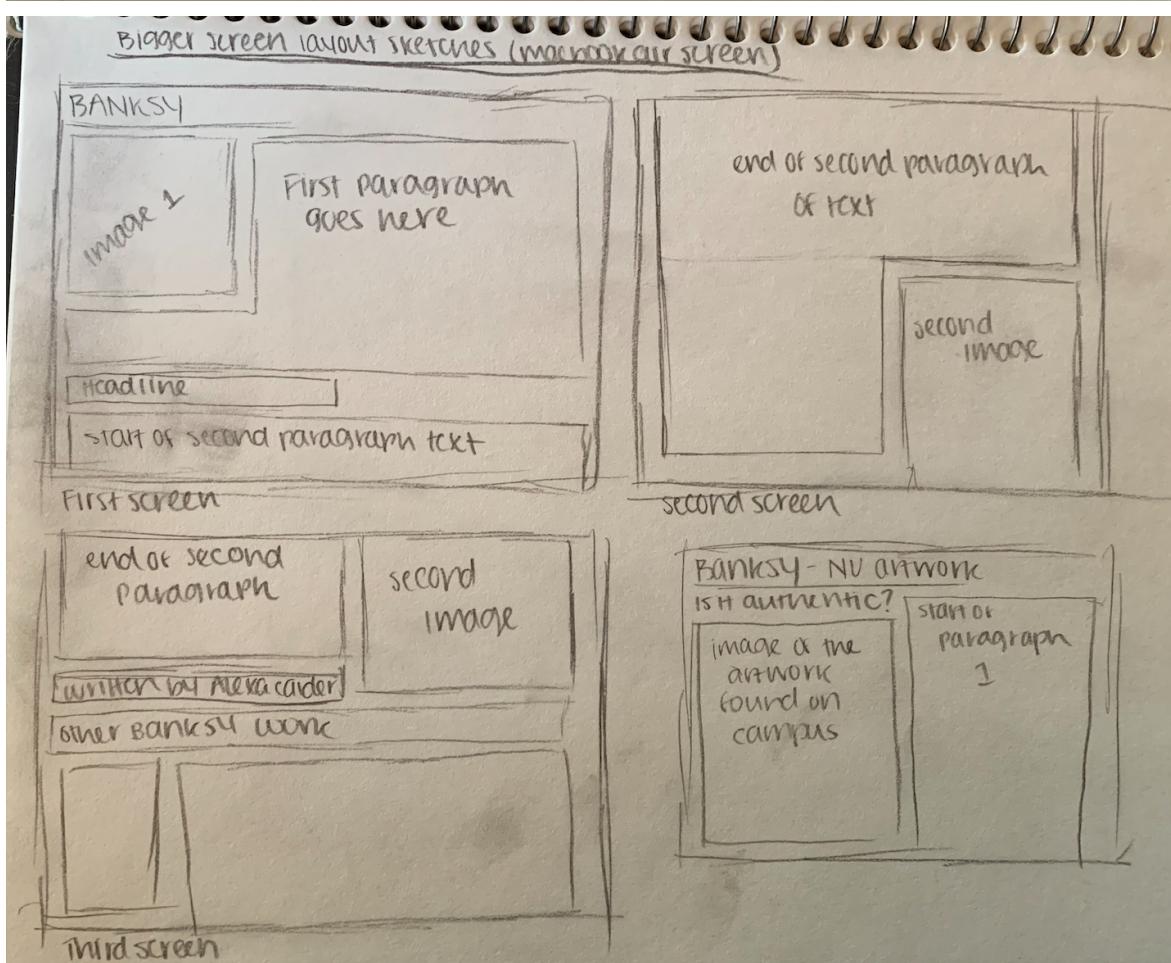
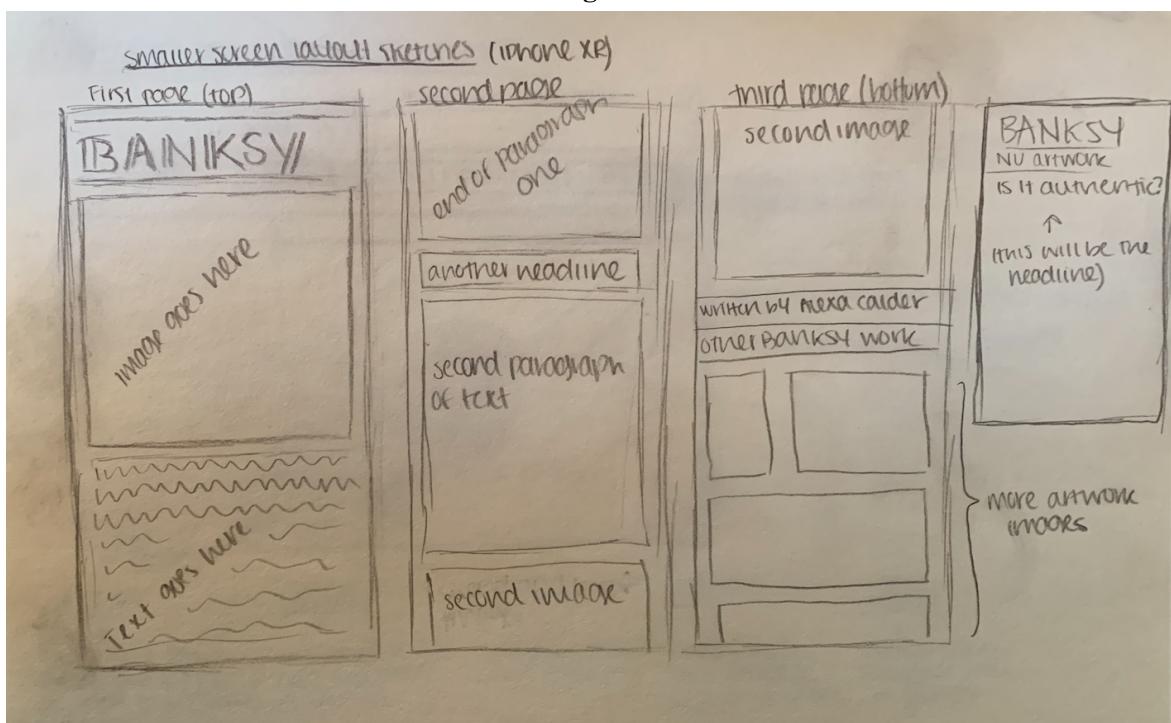


Assignment 6.1



Banksy



Recently, it seemed that a Banksy artwork had cropped up on the Northeastern University campus. The piece— if not actually a Banksy— is at the very least modeled after his style. However, upon taking a closer look into the piece, it is evidently *not* a Banksy, regardless of how similar it looks.

Arguably the most controversial street artist in the world, the works of Banksy have become a subculture in their own right. Banksy's political statements and disruptive vision have impacted cities across the globe at vital moments in recent history, provoking alternative viewpoints and encouraging revolution in the art world. His identity remains unknown, even after more than 30 years of involvement in the global “graffiti” scene. He has worked in many different street art mediums and in many different styles, breaking down the boundaries and expectations of street art critics. His work includes many powerful, often controversial images, encouraging their rapid

spread across the internet. Today, his iconic works have been re-shared and repurposed beyond measure.

Who is Banksy?

Very little is known about Banksy himself, as he refuses to be interviewed and carefully maintains his anonymity. A world-renowned mystery man, Banksy has risen through the ranks to become one of the world's greatest street artists partly by creating an urgency and desire to understand and unveil his character. Street art fanatics are consistently impressed by the far-reaching scope, variety, and bravery of every artwork he delivers, but are always left wanting more. This tactic encourages viewers to explore a completely new perspective or idea, often inspiring both amateur and professional artists. This inspiration is also known as the “Banksy Effect.”

A number of claims have been made over Banksy's identity, fuelling media interest. Most recently, many sources, including an entire newspaper publication, suggested he was a Bristol native by the name of Robin Gunninham. Though the prospect of uncovering Banksy's identity would allow for a greater understanding of his motives and mission, no claim had ever been confirmed. His identity has reputedly even been concealed from his family.

Banksy's Artwork

In October 2013, Banksy undertook a month-long residency in New York in 2013 named “Better Out Than In”. During this time, he unveiled a new piece of work everyday. On Day 13, the artist disguised himself as a typical street vendor and set up a stand in Central Park, where he sold black-and-white original paintings for \$60. Only eight pieces of art were sold. The following day, Banksy authenticated those eight canvases on his website, alongside the message: “Yesterday I set up a stall in the park selling 100% authentic original signed Banksy canvases. For \$60 each”. A year after, ‘Winnie the Pooh’,

purchased during Banksy's New York residency, sold for £56,250 on July 2nd 2014 at Bonhams in London.