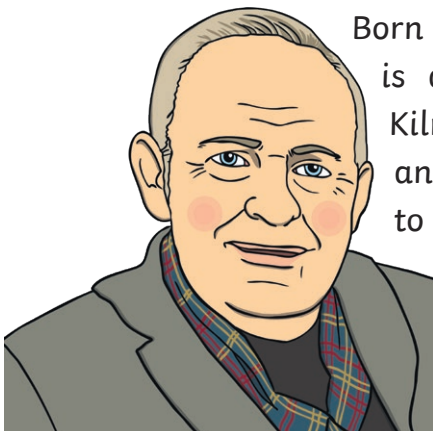


# Scottish Artist: Steven Brown

## About Steven Brown



Born in 1972 in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Steven Brown is a well-known Scottish artist today. He attended Kilmarnock academy, where he discovered his interest and talent for painting. His teachers encouraged him to follow a career in art. However, he left school in 1987 and began working in retail. In 1992, Steven married his wife Caroline and moved to Irvine in North Ayrshire. They share three children and two grandchildren together.

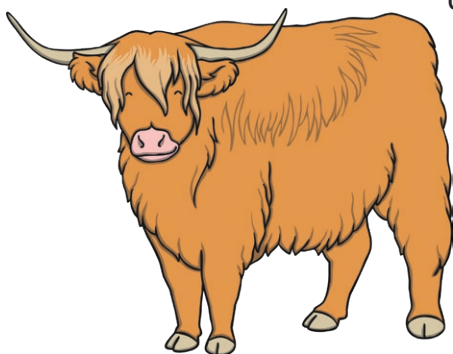
## Career

Surprisingly, it was just around six years ago that Steven Brown began painting again. He was focusing on improving his technique and finding his own style. Now Steven Brown is a full-time artist who has a love for colour. Normally, he chooses to work with acrylic paint and palette knives. Not only does he make and sell paintings but he also has a range of accessories printed with his designs, such as phone cases, mugs, placemats, cushions and even suitcases!



## The McCoos

The McCoo range is said to be the artist's most popular collection. It's a range of brightly painted highland cows each with a traditionally Scottish name. The paintings first became available to buy online and the business grew from here with customers requesting their very own McCoo design. Famously he designed 'Marie McCoo' to raise money for the cancer charity Marie Curie.



# Questions

Read the text carefully and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Where is the artist Steven Brown from?

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2. Who encouraged him to work in art?

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3. Has Steven Brown always been a painter?

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4. What does Steven Brown have a love for?

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5. Name three accessories you can buy designed by Steven Brown.

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6. What collection of work is he most known for?

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7. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?

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8. The 'Marie McCoo' was designed for which charity?

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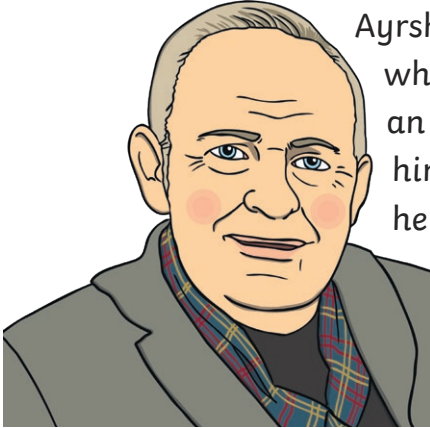
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# Answers

1. Where is the artist Steven Brown from?  
**Steven Brown was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.**
2. Who encouraged him to work in art?  
**His teachers encouraged him to work in art.**
3. Has Steven Brown always been a painter?  
**No, he worked in retail when he left school.**  
Or  
**No, he only became an artist around six years ago.**
4. What does Steven Brown have a love for?  
**Steven Brown has a love for colour.**
5. Name three accessories you can buy designed by Steven Brown.  
**You can buy phone cases, mugs, placemats, cushions and even suitcases!**
6. What collection of work is he most known for?  
**He is most famous for his McCoo collection.**
7. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?  
**Open answer.**
8. The 'Marie McCoo' was designed for which charity?  
**The 'Marie McCoo' was designed to raise money for the Marie Curie cancer charity.**

# Scottish Artist: Steven Brown

## About Steven Brown



Scottish artist Steven Brown was born in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire in 1972. He attended Kilmarnock academy, where he realised he had a talent for painting and an enthusiasm for art. Supportive teachers encouraged him to follow a career in his best subject. However, he left school in 1987 and began working in retail to earn money. After meeting his wife, whom he married in 1992, he moved to Irvine in North Ayrshire. They went on to have three children and two grandchildren.

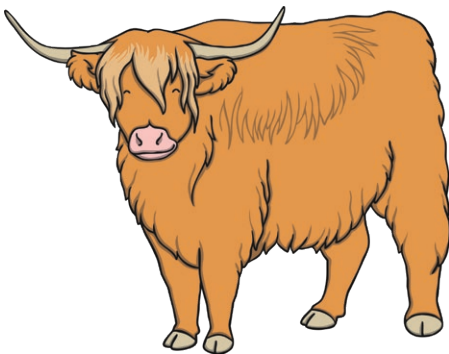
## Career

Unexpectedly, Steven Brown began painting again just over six years ago and has quickly become a full-time artist. He has created his own style through the use of bright colours and developed his technique for applying paint to canvases. Typically, he works with acrylic paints and palette knives to create his pieces. Now, not only does he make and sell paintings, but he also has a popular range of accessories printed with his designs including phone cases, mugs, placemats, cushions, coasters and even suitcases!



## The McCoo

Steven Brown's McCoo paintings are instantly recognisable for their bold and bright colours. They are said to be some of the artist's most famous pieces. He first began selling his paintings online but never expected they would be as successful as they were! Customers contacted him to request their very own McCoo, each with their unique characteristics and Scottish name! Famously, he designed the 'Marie McCoo', a delightful cow with a daffodil in her hair, to raise money for the cancer charity Marie Curie.



# Questions

Read the text carefully and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Steven Brown is from which part of Scotland?

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2. Who supported his interests in art? What did they think he should do?

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3. If he loved painting, why did he begin his life working in retail?

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4. What does the word 'adored' mean? (Paragraph 2)

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5. How long has Steven Brown been an artist for?

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6. Apart from his paintings, what other items can you buy with his designs?

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7. What is unusual about Steven Brown's painting of a highland cow?

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8. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?

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9. What makes the 'Marie McCoo' different to others and why was it designed?

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# Answers

1. Steven Brown is from which part of Scotland?  
**Steven Brown was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.**
2. Who supported his interests in art? What did they think he should do?  
**His teachers supported his interest in art and they thought he should follow a career in this.**
3. If he loved painting, why did he begin his life working in retail?  
**He began working in retail to earn money.**
4. What does the word 'adores' mean? (Paragraph 2)  
**The word adores means loves.**
5. How long has Steven Brown been an artist for?  
**Steven Brown has been an artist for just over six years.**
6. Apart from his paintings, what other items can you buy with his designs?  
**You can also buy phone cases, mugs, placemats, cushions, coasters and even suitcases!**
7. What is unusual about Steven Brown's painting of a highland cow?  
**The highland cows are unusual because they are painted in bright colours.**
8. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?  
**Open answer**
9. What makes the 'Marie McCoo' different to others and why was it designed?  
**The Marie McCoo is different because it has a daffodil in the hair and it was designed to make money for the Marie Curie cancer charity.**

# Scottish Artist: Steven Brown

## About Steven Brown



Contemporary Scottish artist, Steven Brown, was born in 1972 in the Ayrshire town of Kilmarnock. As a pupil at Kilmarnock academy, he found his enthusiasm and talent in art and encouraging teachers urged him to pursue a career in his best subject. Unfortunately, the budding artist put his dreams on hold and began working in retail to support himself financially. Soon after, he met his wife Caroline whom he married in 1992. He moved to Irvine in North Ayrshire and they went on to have three children and two grandchildren.

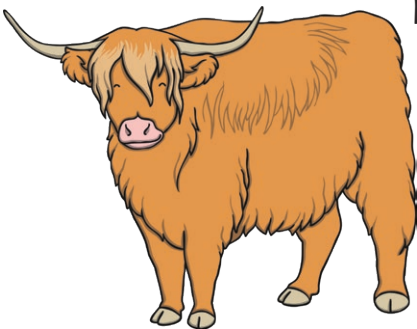
## Career

Remarkably, it has only been over the past six years that Steven Brown has become an established and successful artist. He has created his own style and developed his technique for applying paint to canvases after being inspired by contemporary and abstract artists. Quickly, he has become a full-time artist whose trademark is using the bold bright colours that he adores. Typically, he chooses to work with acrylic paints and palette knives to create his pieces. His work, however, is available in a range of products, not just canvases, including a popular range of accessories printed with his designs like phone cases, mugs, placemats, cushions, coasters and even suitcases!



## The McCoos

Steven Brown's McCoo paintings are instantly recognisable for their vibrant colours. The multi-coloured highland cows are said to be some of the artist's most famous pieces. The paintings were first made available online and immediately grew popular worldwide, with customers soon requesting their very own McCoo to be designed with their unique characteristics and even a Scottish name! His canvases can cost anything from around £49 - £150. Famously, he designed the 'Marie McCoo', a delightful cow with a daffodil in her hair, to raise money for the cancer charity Marie Curie.



# Questions

Read the text carefully and answer the questions in sentences.

1. List three facts about the artist's personal life.

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2. Who supported his interests in art? What did they think he should do?

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3. If he loved painting, why did he begin his life working in retail?

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4. Do you think Steven Brown made the right decision putting his art career on hold?

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5. Can you suggest another word for 'adores'? (**Paragraph 2**)

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6. Can you explain what is remarkable about Steven Brown's career?

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7. Why was it important for him to take time to develop his sense of style?

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8. What is unusual about Steven Brown's painting of a highland cow?

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9. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?

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10. What makes the 'Marie McCoo' different to others and why was it designed?

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# Answers

1. List three facts about the artist's personal life.  
**Steven Brown was born in 1972.**  
**He was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.**  
**He married his wife Caroline in 1992.**  
**He has three children and two grandchildren.**  
**His best subject at school was art.**  
**He worked in retail to support himself financially.**
2. Who supported his interests in art? What did they think he should do?  
**His teachers supported his interest in art and they thought he should follow a career in this.**
3. If he loved painting, why did he begin his life working in retail?  
**He began working in retail to earn money, as it would have been harder to become a successful artist.**
4. Do you think Steven Brown made the right decision putting his art career on hold?  
**Open answer**
5. Can you suggest another word for 'adores'? (**Paragraph 2**)  
**loves, admires**
6. Can you explain what is remarkable about Steven Brown's career?  
**It is remarkable that he is so well known and successful despite only being an artist for the past six years.**
7. Why was it important for him to take time to develop his sense of style?  
**It was important for him to develop his own style so that his work was unique, having his own technique would make him stand out.**
8. What is unusual about Steven Brown's painting of a highland cow?  
**The highland cows are unusual because they are painted in bright colours.**
9. Why do you think Steven Brown decided to paint a highland cow?  
**Open answer.**
10. What makes the 'Marie McCoo' different to others and why was it designed?  
**The Marie McCoo is different because it has a daffodil in the hair. It was designed to make money for the Marie Curie cancer charity.**