

## “A time to draw” – a suggestion by David Hockney for dealing with confinement

(Words in **bold** (en gras) are explained at the end of the text.)

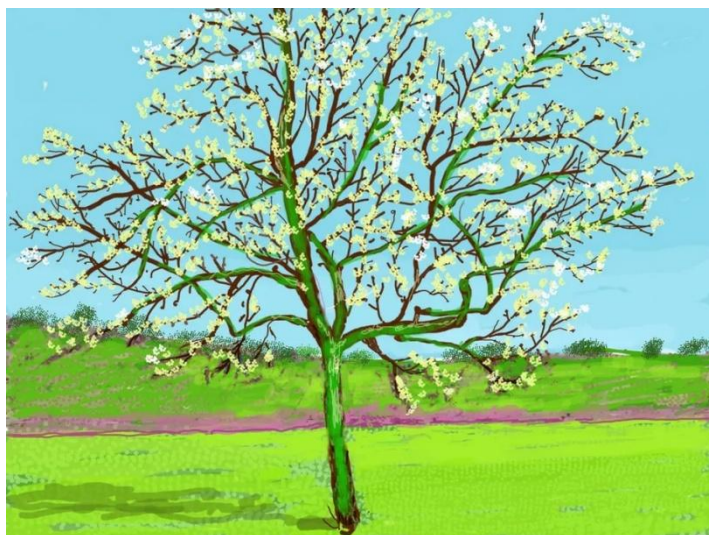
The British artist David Hockney is in **lockdown** in Normandy because of the coronavirus. Profiting from this beautiful time of year, when apple trees are **blooming**, Hockney continues his search for painting the world in **vivid**, bright colours.

Hockney has always been interested in using new forms of expression. In the 1970s, he notably used Polaroid instant photos to produce collages of **landscapes** and swimming pools: <https://arts.konbini.com/photo/les-polaroid-de-david-hockney-exposes-au-centre-pompidou>

With the development of iphones and especially ipads, he **turned to** this new medium, to pursue the same kind of sunny, joyous painting he became famous for, when painting clear blue swimming pools in California, like “A Bigger Splash” (<http://davidhockney.online.fr/abiggersplash.htm>).

Over the years, he has created a huge amount of images using computers, iphones or ipads: <http://www.hockney.com/works/digital/computer-drawings>

Now that he is locked down in Normandy he is continuing his work, observing spring.



To people now confined at home he suggests, “people could draw at this time... Question everything and do not think about photography... I would suggest [people] **really look hard at something** and think about what they are really seeing... We need art, and I do think it can **relieve stress**... What is stress? It’s worrying about something in the future. Art is now”.<sup>1</sup>

His work is certainly not provocative, nor political; it does not **challenge an unjust world**. But it is pleasant, calming and captivating, like much traditional English landscape painting.

See also a video of Hockney painting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVBYfTr8BRQ>

**Vocabulary:** lockdown = enfermé, confiné / bloom = fleurir / vivid = vif / bright = lumineux / landscape = paysage / to turn to = se tourner vers / really look hard at something = vraiment bien regarder quelque chose / relieve stress = soulager le stress / to challenge an unjust world = mettre en cause un monde injuste

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<sup>11</sup> Jonathan Jones, “David Hockney urges us to escape lockdown through a pencil”, *The Guardian*, 4 April 2020: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/apr/04/david-hockney-urges-us-to-escape-lockdown-through-a-pencil>