Jean Michel Basquiat was an American artist born in December 22nd, 1960. He initially started out in a street art duo known as SAMO, their work reflected the culture of the lower east side of Manhattan of the late 1970s. By the 80s he had starting painting. His neo-expressionist works often incorporated social commentary and themes of dualities of class, racism, and inner and outer thought. His works critiqued colonialism, systems of oppression, and racism. They often had a clash between figuration and abstraction, and he would appropriate of forms of media such as poetry into his works. Many of his pieces depicted African American musicians and folklore. He had befriends other artists such as Andy Warhol, who sometimes featured Basquiat in his works, and Keith Haring. He died at the young age of 27 in 1988 in his studio.