Men Holding a Heart
Keith Haring, 1982

Gentle jazz music plays

This is Redstart Radio, the station that brings you all the hottest art news and stories by Chard's finest art detectives.

In this episode, agents investigated a print by the American artist Keith Haring. You'll hear what they uncovered very soon. But first, a little about the picture.

It is called Men Holding a Heart, and Keith Haring first designed and printed it in 1982. It features two cartoon-style figures, drawn in thick black lines with their arms above their heads, holding up a large red heart. The heart is a bit like the one in the logo on the charity shop, which is why you're listening to this here.

Now it's time for you to hear some stories, written and performed by the agents who investigated this artwork.

Sound of disco funk music with drum-kit and funk organ

On this fine sunny day, two boys are dancing in the town centre.

The funk music continues.

I don't think I can hold this much longer, Felix!

It’s really heavy, isn’t it Russell?
I think I might need to put the dragon heart down now.
Let’s turn this into a statue now, to show we slayed the dragon that ate our villagers and burnt the crops!
Yeah, let’s do it!

Sounds of grunting and heavy stone being pushed along, scraping against a stone path.

So these two young boys made the statue and danced all through the night, celebrating their victory of defeating the dragon.

The funk music swells one more time, then fades to be replaced by the sound of heavy stone being dragged along a stone path.

This statue is so heavy.
Sister, how long do we have to carry this?
It’s going to be three hours.
Are you kidding me?
No, I’m not even joking.
Aw, man! My legs will fall off by then. I wish the heart could just fly us there.

Oh look, there’s a cave over there. Let’s go in!

Sounds of creaking, like a sheet of ice under pressure about to crack.

Why do I hear cracking?

Sounds of a rock fall, yelling as people fall, then a splash as they fall into fast-moving water.

We’re going down a waterfall!
We still have the heart!

Sounds of footsteps on a shingle shore.

We made it!
Yay, I’m so proud of us!

After that, the heart looked so good that next to the heart they build statues of each other.

Sounds of stone being chiselled and scraped in an echoey cave. Followed by slow, dream-like music on a synthesised organ, then the sound of a yawn.

I thought we were sculptors.
And it was the dream all along!

Short electronic beep, a mobile phone notification

Wait, I got a text! We have to carry a heart!

More slow, dream-like music on a synthesised organ

Mum, I've no friends.
You have that Mike down the road. I heard that he has been accepted to a wizard school. You should go round his house.
For the last time, I'm not interested in magic since dad died and...
(interrupting) Go outside now!

Sound of a door slam.

Daisy went outside in a huff. She didn't like magic, and she was born in Abracadabra Land, which was the most magical place in the universe.

More slow, dream-like music on a synthesised organ, combined with a gurgling sound like a drain, and a hissing, sizzling sound. Next come running footsteps and someone beating on a door.

What's up, Daisy?
I need your help. I found a dragon's egg.
What? Why is it heart-shaped?
I don't know. Let's look after it.

Mysterious, ominous organ music.
They looked after it over the months in secret. Their friendship got stronger and stronger and the dragon egg got bigger and bigger.

Sounds of expansion like a balloon being inflated

Until it hatched.
Sound of an egg shell cracking.

The friendly dragon loved them.

A low bellowing, roaring sound

But he loved them even more when they were in his mouth.

Sounds of large jaws munching on something squishy and breathing hard.

Gentle jazz music plays.
You're listening to Redstart Radio. Remember, there's 10 episodes to find, all around Chard. Where will you go next?

If you enjoyed these stories inspired by paintings, why not create a new story yourself? Investigate a painting, fire up your imagination and let the story flow!