You may not think of your pocket change or coin collection as an art exhibit, but each miniature “canvas” bears the work of an artist, some identifiable by their initials.

It was not always common practice to indicate the creators of U.S. coin designs. When Victor David Brenner put his initials V.D.B. on the reverse of the new Lincoln cent in 1909, it created an uproar. Many Americans felt it was improper for him to claim a work that belonged to the nation, and Brenner’s initials were removed. By 1918, however, attitudes had changed, and his initials were placed on the obverse, where they still can be found today, at the base of Lincoln’s shoulder.

Test your knowledge of other U.S. coin designers and their “signature” initials or monograms by identifying the dozen coins pictured at left and the artists who created them.

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