

Banksy

Greatest Hits: 2002-2008

12 July – 25 August 2018

“Banksy has made himself the artist of the people. He belongs to the people – his popularity is because of them. It’s our mission to show all elements of his work externally and give the public the opportunity to experience it, when museums and galleries won’t. Banksy has always been able to transform a very complicated subject matter into its lowest common denominator, democratising the art world and making it accessible to all”

– Steve Lazarides, 2018



This July, Banksy’s original gallerist Steve Lazarides and his Lazinc co-founder Wissam Al Mana, will showcase an influential collection of Banksy’s most iconic images. The exhibition is curated from a number of high-profile private collections to build a ‘Greatest Hits’ body of secondary market works, including stencilled canvases, unique paintings, sculptures and limited-edition prints, a number of which have not been exhibited in public previously.

This unique collection of works will take some of anonymous artist Banksy’s most well-known artworks, reaffirming how his subversive political and social comments are as powerful and relevant as ever. It will be the only place in the UK to offer the public a chance to view Banksy’s work in one place, across the entire Lazinc townhouse in Mayfair. Despite the artist’s growing popularity, international acclaim and premise that his work is designed for the people, no public museums and institutions in the UK currently include Banksy’s work within permanent collections.

Notable pieces in the Lazinc show will include: *Love Is In The Air* (2006), which was the front cover of Banksy’s personal manifesto *Wall and Piece* which sold 1.5 million copies; *Girl and Balloon* (2006), voted as the nation’s favourite art work in 2017; and *Show Me the Monet* (2005), a subversive take on Claude Monet’s *Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies* (1899). There are no literal street pieces in the collection and all works were commercially acquired by their owners.

Steve Lazarides, originally a photographer, first met Banksy in 1997 when he took his portrait for *Sleaze Nation* magazine. For the next 11 years, until 2008, Lazarides acted as Banksy’s official photographer and gallerist, staging some of the artist’s most high-profile sales, exhibition productions and making national headlines. Banksy prints were valued from £49.99 and by 2008 had sold at £100,000. Since then, the highest value for a Banksy ever achieved at auction is \$1.87 million for *Keep It Spotless* (2007), a defacement of a Damien Hirst canvas, sold at Sothebys New York in February 2008.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Banksy

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist from Bristol, who uses subversive epigrams and dark humour to provide political and social commentary on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world. Banksy's work grew out of the Bristol underground scene, which involved collaborations between artists and musicians. Banksy authentication and artist enquiries should be directed to Pest Control: www.pestcontroloffice.com

About Lazinc

Lazinc is a joint partnership between contemporary art specialist, Steve Lazarides, who founded the existing Lazarides business in 2006, alongside eminent art collector and global retail expert, Wissam Al Mana. Lazinc incorporates the existing Lazarides business, which has already produced internationally acclaimed projects in New York and Los Angeles as well as solo exhibitions, art fairs and museum collaborations across London and Europe.

Lazinc now comprises a flagship gallery in Mayfair, Lazinc Banksy Print Gallery on London's Southbank and Lazinc Editions, an e-commerce print sales business based in Greenwich. Alongside a rich roster of primary artists including JR, Invader, Todd James, Mark Jenkins and Vhils, the gallery looks to acquire dynamic estates and undiscovered bodies of work by artists and historic movements reminiscent of the Lazinc ethos to be uninhabited, expressive and disruptive.

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