

## A Banksy holiday crowd-puller

Street art maestro on show; drawings fair for London; Old Master 'Obi-Wan' joins Sotheby's; female collectors on the rise



Banksy's 'Show Me the Monet' (2005) © Lazinc

Melanie Gerlis 5 HOURS AGO



Expect queues around the block in London's Mayfair this week as gallerist Steve Lazarides and his Lazinc co-founder Wissam Al Mana open their "greatest hits" show of 23 works by Banksy, made between 2002 and 2008 (July 12-August 25). Works include "Girl and Balloon" (2006), an image that topped a poll of Britain's favourite artworks last year, "Show Me the Monet" (2005) and "Media" (2006), which shows a film crew delaying medical attention for a wounded child and featured in the artist's landmark 2006 *Barely Legal* show in Los Angeles.

The London works have come from a dozen collectors, with many for sale, from £250,000 to £1.75m for the haunting "Guantanamo Bay" (2006) painting. Works that aren't officially for sale are open to offers, according to Lazarides, but, he says, "it would take several million pounds to lever them out of people's hands".

Banksy's market has grown steadily these past 16 years but there are still some surprises. On June 27, his "Keep it Real" (2002) stencil painting sold at Sotheby's for £340,000 (£418,000 with fees) against an estimate of £50,000-£70,000. The work sold in 2011 for £46,850 (with fees) and such canvases were selling for about £250 back in the early 2000s, Lazarides says.

Exhibitions by the anonymous artist are few and far between, and Lazarides wants to attract the public during the summer holidays. "Museums and institutions don't own work by Banksy. They are terrified of populism, but sometimes things are popular because they're good," he says.