

Banksy versus Los Angeles

Banksy is Britain's most renowned graffiti artist. His wryly subversive and often humorous work has graced the walls of London, Paris, Japan and Australia. In September Banksy is bringing his unique brand of public art to the streets of California climaxing with a three day long exhibition in a giant warehouse.

His original street art form, which combines graffiti with a very distinctive stenciling technique, has achieved underground notoriety and widespread press coverage in the mainstream media. Despite all this attention, at the time of writing Banksy has still managed to evade prolonged periods of imprisonment.



In 2004 Banksy felt it was time for established gallery recognition, a feat he achieved almost overnight by adopting a series of disguises and gluing his own paintings onto the walls of the MOMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Tate and The Louvre. Some of his pieces remaining undetected for weeks.



Last year Banksy rented a shop in a prestigious part of West London and exhibited a series of vandalised and re-worked classic paintings including Monet's 'Waterlilies with shopping trolleys' alongside two hundred free-roaming live brown rats.

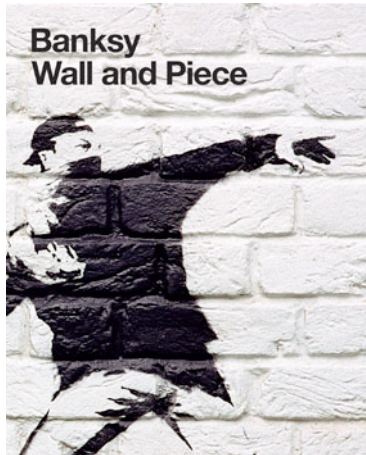
Banksy has claimed responsibility for a number of high profile actions that include:

- Climbing into the penguin enclosure in London Zoo and painting "We're bored of this - lets go home" in animal handwriting.
- Re-branding cattle in the style of New York City subway cars.
- Hanging a fake Stone Age relic depicting a caveman pushing a shopping trolley in the British Museum.
- Painting nine large murals on the Palestinian side of the Israeli West Bank barrier, including an image of children digging their way through it.

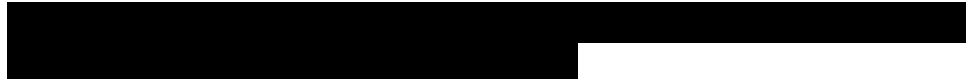


Bibliography

Banksy has self-published three books detailing his exploits alongside photos of his work. His first book, *Banging Your Head Against A Brick Wall* followed by the full colour *Existencilism*. In 2004 he published his third book, *Cut it Out*. In 2005 Random House published the 250 page compendium *Wall and Piece* which has become the best selling art book in Britain for over five years. *Wall and Piece* is now available in the US.



Banksy will be staging his first major solo show both on the streets of California and at an undisclosed location in central Los Angeles September 2006. To request an interview or images please contact



Useful links and related stories.

www.banksy.co.uk

www.metro.co.uk/weird/article.html?in_article_id=15924&in_page_id=2

news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/4563751.stm

www.bbc.co.uk/dna/collective/A6209057

www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1746792,00.html