

BANKROBBER VALUATION



Valentines Day Mascara

27th April 2023

Dear Julian

Thank you for inviting Bankrobber to provide a market appraisal for the above listed work. As you are aware we are an independent art dealership that has specialised in the marketing of street works by the artist known as Banksy since 2007.

Having carefully studied all the available literature surrounding this work and its removal, along with discussions with your chosen restoration team. I am satisfied that the work currently in the process of being stabilised prior to being resited at its proposed location is a unique and highly desirable piece.

As major auction houses are yet to accept street works due to their contentious nature we can only judge the market value based on past sales and market demand. With this in mind and taking into account composition, size and medium we would comfortably suggest a figure of £6,000,000.

I understand moving forward that the work is to be resited in a public space nearby to its original location but should the work become available at any future date Bankrobber would be more than happy to act as the selling agent.

Yours sincerely

Robin L Barton

VALENTINES DAY MASCARA (2023)

Banksy (b 1974)

Margate Kent, United Kingdom

Stencil & Spraypaint on painted brickwork and found materials

Condition, Authentic

Dimensions 230 x 375 x 30cm approx

This report provides a valuation of Banksy's "Valentines Day Mascara", a spray-painted artwork on brick that depicts a 1950s housewife figure with a black eye and a missing tooth, and a chest freezer with the legs of a man, presumably her husband, sticking out of it. The artwork was created on the side of a privately-owned home in Margate, Kent, and has become a significant piece of public art that has garnered global press coverage.

BACKGROUND

Banksy is an anonymous street artist and political activist who is believed to have been born in Bristol, England, in the early 1970s. He rose to fame in the late 1990s for his distinctive stencil-based graffiti art that often tackles social and political issues. Banksy's identity remains unknown, as he keeps his personal life separate from his public persona.

Banksy has a unique position in the art world, commanding substantial sales at auction and in galleries for both unique and editioned works, alongside his public pieces, which appear unannounced on public walls. Many pieces have become globally famous, with mass appeal beyond the usual art world audience.

Some examples include:

Girl with Balloon: This piece, depicting a young girl reaching for a heart-shaped balloon, is one of Banksy's most recognizable works. It has been reproduced on everything from t-shirts to tote bags, and has been interpreted in a variety of ways, from a commentary on the fleeting nature of happiness to a statement on the refugee crisis.

Kissing Coppers: This piece, which shows two policemen kissing, is located on the side of a pub in Brighton, England. It has been interpreted as a comment on homophobia within the police force, as well as a critique of surveillance culture.

Flower Thrower: This stencil piece, which shows a masked protester throwing a bouquet of flowers, has been replicated on walls around the world. It is often seen as a symbol of peaceful resistance, and has been used by activists to promote nonviolent protest.

CONTEXT

With "Valentines Day Mascara", the implication is that an abused partner has murdered her oppressor and then disposed of him in a chest freezer; as with many of Banksy's works, there is a call to recognise a wider social or political issue, in this case domestic violence. The piece deals with the subject with his typical acerbic humour.

AUTHENTICITY AND CERTIFICATION

As a piece of graffiti, Pest Control has a policy not to authenticate public artworks as this would be to admit illegal activity and could lead to prosecution and the artist revealing his identity. However, since Banksy has posted the piece on his social media and website, this evidence is the best indication of his ownership. The fact that the artwork was created on the side of a privately-owned home (28 Park Place, Margate, CT9 1LE) makes ownership rights less complex and gives it clean provenance going forward. The discovery, security and removal of the piece has been well documented.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INTEREST

The artwork has already become global news and has been featured in various media outlets, including The Guardian, NBC News, Sky News/Sky Arts, BBC News, and more. Margate, where the artwork is located, has a thriving art community, and the artwork has been seen as a “gift” to the town that will benefit local domestic abuse charities. The ongoing press and public interest, along with the proposed fractional community sale of the work, creates increased interest in the work and has a positive effect on its value.

Selected press features so far:

The Guardian	ITV	The Sun	Reuters	France 24
NBC News	The Art	The Independent	CNN	Bloomberg
Sky News/Sky	Newspaper	Global News,	Rolling	The
ArtsBBC News	Arab News	CanadaArt News	StoneThe	Telegraph
The Daily	Evening	Time Out	Times The	The Daily
MailNME	Standard The	Artlyst	Mirror	Star
	Week		The Korea	
	The Metro		Times	

CURRENT CONDITION AND CONSERVATION

As of 19th April 2023 the piece is with Arte Conservation where It is being stabilised and restored by Thomas Organ, a conservator with significant experience with Banksy artwork.

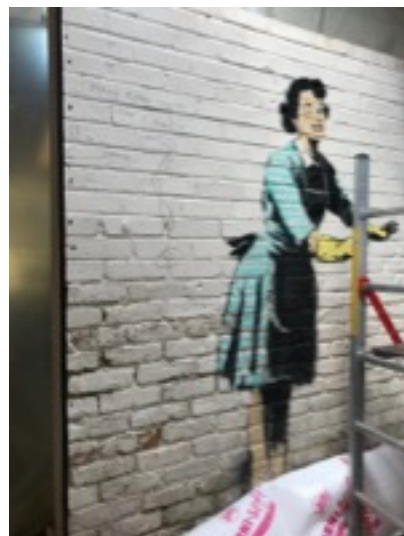
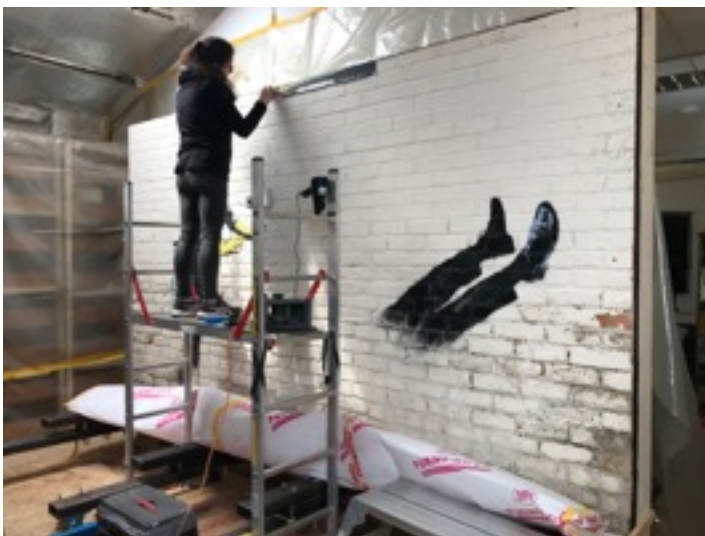
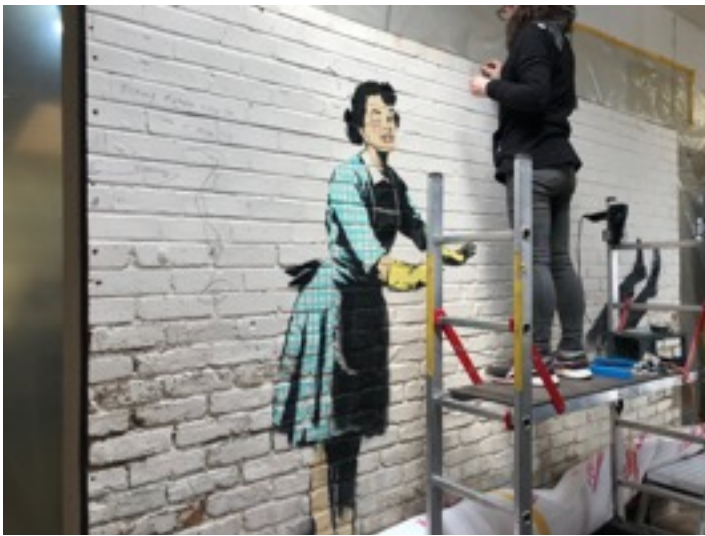
Banksy’s work has increased significantly over the past few years, and public works due to their rarity and spectacle, are particularly sought after.

The work being done at Arte Conservation will help in assessing the value, as they will produce an exhaustive report that will be invaluable as part of its documented history.

SUMMARY

Banksy's "Valentines Day Mascara" is a significant piece of public art that has garnered global press coverage. The ongoing press and public interest, along with the proposed fractional community sale of the work, creates increased interest in the work and has a positive effect on its value.

The work and its associated props will be sympathetically presented to the highest standard, recreating the artists initial intention whilst protecting the works integrity in an environment that encourages and promotes its public visibility.



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