Presents

Banksy

Live sale on artnet Auctions from October 29 through November 7, 2013

Banksy

*Jack and Jill (Police Kids)*, 2005
Color silkscreen
19.7 x 27.6 in.
50 x 70.1 cm.
Edition of 350
Est. US$7,000–10,000

New York / Berlin, October 29, 2013—artnet Auctions is pleased to announce Banksy, a sale surveying the work of this infamous street artist. Renowned across the globe for his mysterious persona and satirical works critiquing contemporary culture, Banksy recently resurfaced after years of silence with the New York City show, *Better out than in: an artist’s residency on the streets of New York*. In celebration of his highly anticipated return, we have gathered over 20 of our favorite Banksy prints, ranging in value from US$3,000 to 90,000, live for bidding on artnet Auctions until November 7, 2013.
Among the sale’s highlights is the 2005 print *Jack and Jill (Police Kids)*, estimated at US$7,000–10,000. Banksy’s depiction of two children donning police vests while running through water exemplifies the blend of iconic imagery and irreverent humor that only Banksy could achieve. The perfect portrayal of childhood innocence in this idyllic image of frolicking, laughing children is tarnished by the bulletproof vests reading “Police” that Jack and Jill wear for protection. Here, Bansky’s disdain for the police is highlighted as he sheds light on contemporary society, where innocence is all but lost.

Contempt for authority has been a common theme throughout Banksy’s career, and is observed in countless images disparaging the police. For his first commercial print release in 2002, the artist chose the controversial image of a British police officer prominently flashing the middle finger at the viewer. Offered here with an estimate of US$10,000–15,000, *Rude Copper* symbolizes the unique guerrilla-style, anti-establishment sentiment that has made Banksy so popular throughout the world.

Also featured in the sale is Banksy’s 2007 print, *Trolley Hunters*, estimated at US$6,000–8,000. Furthering his critique on society and taking a stance on consumerism, this work comically depicts tribal hunters “hunting” for grocery shopping carts. Here, Banksy questions the impact of Westernization through the juxtaposition of conflicting imagery, thus altering the viewer’s perception of consumer culture through role reversals. Banksy’s sardonic images are often underscored by his actions, and most recently, the artist made a jab at capitalism by selling his canvases, typically worth tens of thousands of dollars, in New York City’s Central Park for just US$60.

While Banksy often flouts economic institutions and authorities, it is clear he has a great appreciation for his predecessors. His last commercial print release, *Choose Your Weapon* (2010), estimated at US$15,000–20,000, is a playful nod to Keith Haring. Banksy pays homage to the street artist pioneer who helped pave the way for the acceptance of graffiti within the art world. The seemingly flat and simplistic style of Keith Haring is contrasted with Banksy’s stencil work, which is rich with detailing and depth. Set on a dark orange background, this screenprint is a clever commentary on the evolution of Street and Graffiti Art.

In an earlier print, *Soup Can* (2005), Banksy references the most famous pop symbol of the 21st century, Warhol’s Campbell’s Soup cans. Banksy substitutes a cheap, "extra value" can of tomato soup from British supermarket, Tesco for Warhol's Campbell’s. This wonderful homage to the Pop-Art icon is presented twice in the sale, once from the signed artist’s proof of 10 (estimated at US$12,000–15,000), and again in the unsigned edition of 250 (estimated at US$5,500–6,500), providing a range of options for all Banksy fans.
The *Banksy* sale will be live on artnet Auctions from October 29 through November 7, 2013, and on view at http://www.artnet.com/auctions/search/?q=keyword-banksy_2013/.

- **View all lots**: http://www.artnet.com/auctions/all-artworks/

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