



## **BANKSY - FRAUD OR GENIUS?**

### **PEPE MARTINEZ**

**The Arts Society Fylde**

**Lowther Pavilion Theatre**

**6 November 2024 at 2.00pm**

Now, street art can be seen in a very positive light, or as vandalism - perhaps depending on your point of view, the skill, wit and humour that may be on display and, of course, the context. The New York graffiti sub-culture of the 1980s was the background to the career of Keith Haring (1958-1990) who moved rapidly from informal street and subway art to large-scale commissioned works. Haring is seen as a creative visionary - and the same can certainly be said about Banksy who is arguably the most celebrated living street artist. Writing in *The Sunday Times* in August 2024, the Director of Sir John Soane's Museum, Will Gompertz outlined his view that Banksy is "not just a self-publicist [but is] one of our great artists" with "a talent that will echo down the ages". As the curator of a collection of William Hogarth's famous satirical masterpieces, Gompertz is well placed to argue his view that "Banksy is an important artist who will become canonical in due course. He is the latest in a long line of British social satirists, such as Hogarth, the great Georgian chronicler."

On his first visit to The Arts Society Fylde, Pepe Martinez will help us to know more about the elusive Banksy by tracing the story from his humble beginnings as a tagger on the streets of Bristol in the 1980s to one of the most recognisable names in the art world. Mr Martinez will guide through an examination of the reasons behind his incredible rise, looking at some of his famous stunts and discussing what his influence has been on the art market today and look afresh at what his legacy - if any - might be.

### **PEPE MARTINEZ**

Our lecturer has been qualified as a Blue Badge London guide since 2011 when he received recognition as Best Overall Practical Guide. He specialises in the graffiti and street art of East London. Born and bred in London, Pepe Martinez was a tour manager before becoming a Blue Badge guide and for 15 years, travelled extensively all over the world. He now organises and arranges lecture facilities in central London. He offers to combine lectures with a walk of street art and graffiti in the East End and - to add to the experience - will organise a practical spray session to give the groups he is leading a chance to create their own works.



### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

*Wall and Piece*, Banksy, Century, 2006

*Banksy, the Man behind the Wall*, Will Ellsworth-Jones, Frances Lincoln, 2021

*Exit through the Gift Shop*, documentary directed by Banksy (Apple TV, Amazon, YouTube)

*The Flower Thrower (Love is in the air)*, Banksy, 2003, West Bank