

# ARTCURIAL

Press Release



## OBHEY - SHEPARD FAIREY

### *The Art of Rebellion*

Auction  
15<sup>th</sup> april 2023, 15h - Paris

Shepard Fairey returns to Artcurial!

On 15<sup>th</sup> April, the auction house will hold its first monographic sale devoted to this American artist, better known in the urban world as Obey Giant, at its **OBHEY - Shepard Fairey/*The Art of Rebellion*** sale. His works focus on the different themes that he has developed over the last 30 years on various media and using a range of techniques such as silk-screening, stencilling and collage. Among the works presented at the sale, there are two iconic, large and impressive creations by the artist: an 11-metre canvas and a 6-metre work.

This year, Artcurial's Urban Art department will become *Urban Projects*. To mark the occasion, on 15th April, Artcurial will be holding its first monographical sale devoted to the world-famous American artist Shepard Fairey (Obey Giant).

The sale will include a range that is representative of the artist's signature themes and techniques : *Big Brother is Watching You*, *Angela Davis and Black Power*, as well as *Duality of Humanity*. *Earth Crisis*, a project denouncing ecological and environmental disruption, will also be auctioned.

One of Shepard Fairey's most significant and monumental works will be featured *Middle East Mural*, created in 2009. Estimated €150,000 - 200,000 this work includes important images from left to right: *Female Muslim*, *M16 vs. AK-47*, *Israel/ Palestine* and also *Peace Fingers*.

« *Middle East Mural is a key and impressive work by Shepard Fairey. It draws our attention to Shepard's impactful and committed images of the world and its geopolitical failings.* »

- Arnaud Oliveux,  
Auctioneer & Associate Director, Artcurial

Shepard FAIREY (OBEY GIANT)  
*Middle East Mural* - 2009  
Mixed technique on canvas  
465 x 1120 cm  
Estimate : € 150,000 - 200,000



© Simon d'Exéa



Shepard FAIREY (OBEY GIANT)  
 Mural - 2006  
 Mixed technique  
 on 15 assembled panels  
 330 x 600 cm  
 Estimate : € 35,000 - 45,000

## THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE

Shepard Fairey's name began to be known in the late 1980s through the André the Giant has a Posse sticker campaign. Coming from the underground skate scene, Shepard Fairey understood the power of images in society, conveying information and manipulating ideas, awareness and thoughts. He took up the precept that the medium is the message and, at the end of the 1990s made the face of the French wrestler André the Giant the symbol of his work, a recurring logotype that he accompanied with the word OBEY, an elliptical message taken from John Carpenter's 1988 cult film *They Live* (Invasion Los Angeles). Since then, his interest in authoritarianism has been one of the main themes of his work for exhibitions in galleries and institutions.

Shepard Fairey understands the evolution of contemporary society; the essential and fundamental impact of the image. Using the same aesthetic as the totalitarian regimes of the USSR, Cuba or China, he creates works with a striking visual impact that are quite self-sufficient. The meaning is direct. The «Obey» logo is transformed in parallel into a complex star-shaped motif.

Over the years, Shepard Fairey has addressed sensitive subjects that reflect current events and his own concerns: ecology, disastrous environmental damage, media and state manipulation encapsulated in the figure of Big Brother (a reference to George Orwell's 1984), data misuse, the liberation of Black Power through its major figures (Angela Davis, Bobby Seale), and also the origins of his own culture, skateboarding and punk rock culture.

Shepard Fairey is a true commentator on this society which he portrays in embodied works of art that are very popular with collectors.

The sale on 15th April will provide an opportunity to explore this work in a curated exhibition with a document catalogue. The themes raised will be presented through the techniques that the artist has used over the years.

It is representative of how Shepard drew on the power of the image and his use of all possible techniques: silk-screening in large numbers, HPM (Hand Painted Multiple), silk-screening on wood and metal, canvas, collage and cutting (Rubyolith®).

## USEFUL INFORMATION

Auction in Paris :  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - 15h

Exhibitions :  
From Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
11h - 18h

Artcurial  
7 Rond-Point  
des Champs-Élysées  
75008 Paris

## PRESS MATERIAL

High resolution images available  
on request

Full catalogue available to view on  
[artcurial.com](http://artcurial.com)

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### *About Artcurial*

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house Artcurial confirmed its leading position on the international art market scene in 2022.

With three sale venues in Paris, Monaco and Marrakech, the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 216,5 million euros in 2022. Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields including Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Jewellery, Watches, Fine Wines and Spirits...

With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich, Vienna and Spain. In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

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