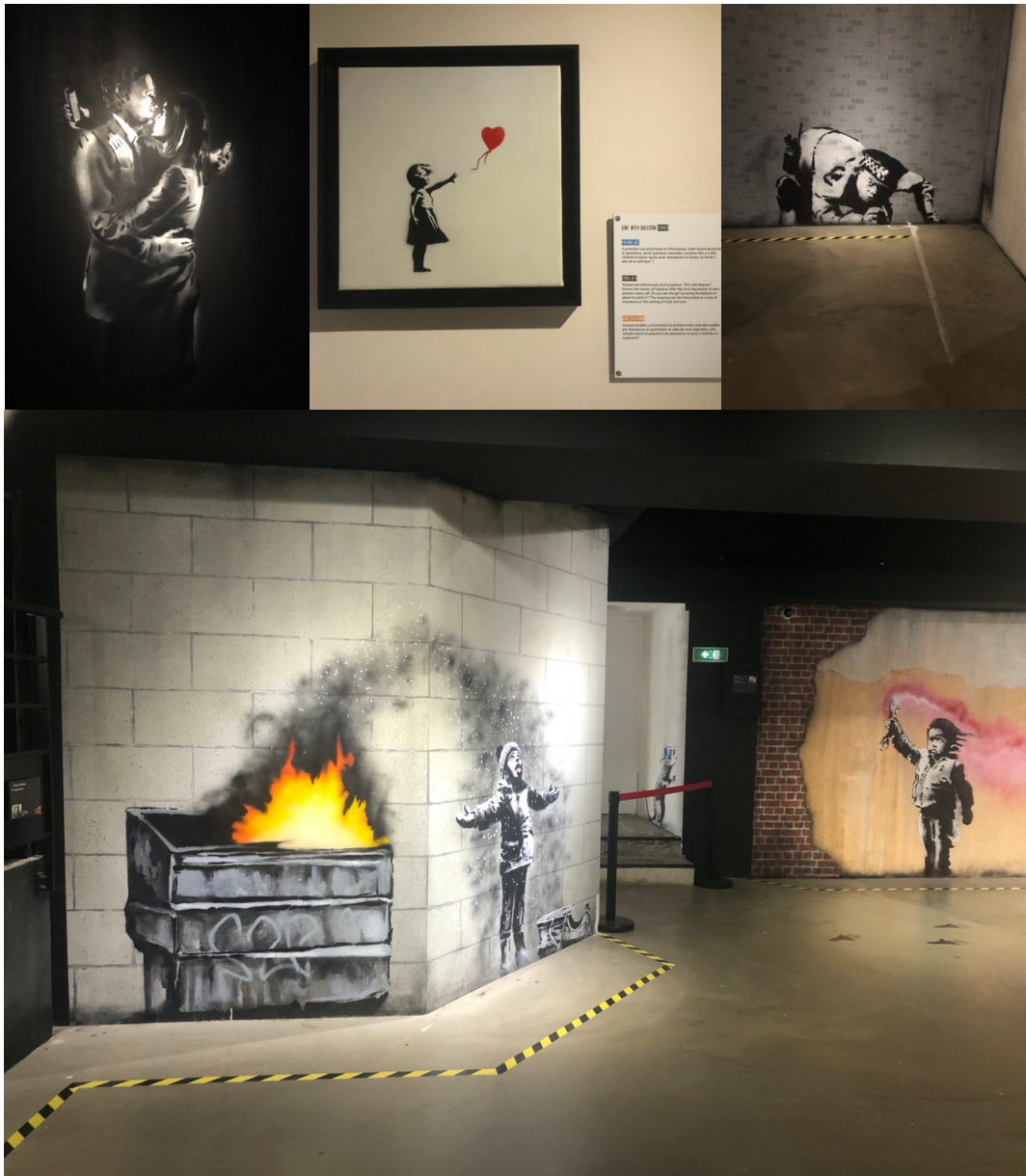


## « THE WORLD OF BANKSY » EXHIBITION – A REVIEW

Albane CHOEUR, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Our magnificent day in Paris started at noon, when we arrived after four hours on the bus, at “The World of Banksy” exhibition. It exhibited over a hundred works of art by Banksy, a street artist who works under a pseudonym. He is said to be from the UK, and more specifically Bristol, where he was born in 1974. He uses stencil painting to convey his messages, which often combine politics, humor and poetry. His works are humorous images, sometimes combined with slogans. The message is generally anarchist, anti-militarist, anti-capitalist or anti-system. Banksy is a citizen of the world, a humanist, a defender of humanitarian causes, an activist. The permanent exhibition takes you right to the heart of Banksy's work, it's immersive. It's a chance to discover or rediscover Banksy's murals, some of which have disappeared over time, some of which have been inadvertently covered by human hands, some of which have been stolen from public view by commercial interests. The exhibition takes us into the milieu of street art, which will take you from town to town, to discover the iconic and sometimes lesser-known works of this anonymous street artist and to understand his world.

Here are some examples:



The exhibition highlights the artist's irony and provocative nature. We can sense the irony and provocation in his creations but we are also touched by his sensitivity when he tackles difficult subjects such as childhood victims of war, migrants, poverty, like his art piece *Love is in the air*. It is painted on the concrete barrier that separates Israel from Palestine in the middle of Jerusalem, and depicts a young man throwing flowers instead of a missile, in the same way as during a violent intifada, when demonstrators throw stones at the armed forces with their faces hooded. Banksy seems to be saying "let's throw flowers" instead of stones.



*Love is in the air, Banksy*

Finally, "The World of Banksy" is the most immersive, interesting exhibition. The only negative point is that the works of art sometimes lack explanation, but this allows visitors to find their own interpretation. I strongly recommend it!