

BANKSY

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A GRAPHIC NOVEL

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PRESTEL

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ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL





LONDON



THERE'S SOMEONE WORKING BACK THERE.

PERHAPS IT'S HIM.

MAYBE IT'S OUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHO HE REALLY IS.



... I GOT A TIP THAT ONE OF THESE DAYS HE WAS GOING TO PAINT SOMETHING AROUND HERE... YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW EXCITED I AM RIGHT NOW.





STOP!

YEAH,
RIGHT!



I SAID
STOP!

TUMP

WHAT
THE...?



CRAASHHH



OH DAMN!



WHAT?
C'MON!







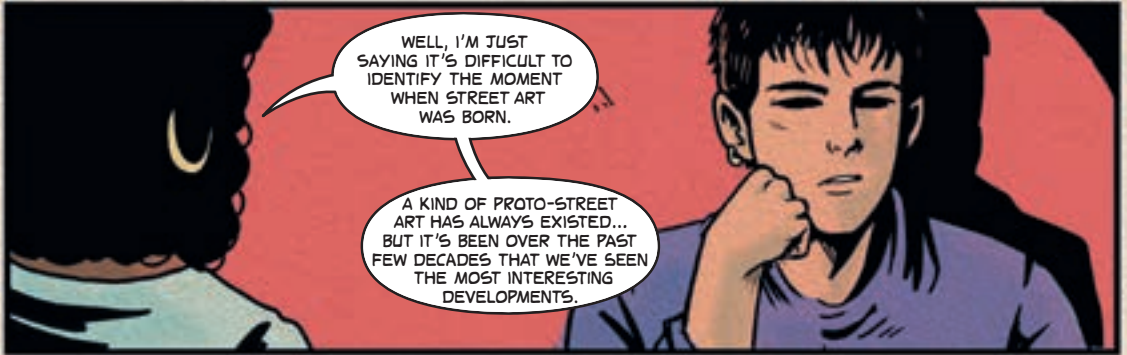


IT DIALOGUES WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS.

THAT IS, IT'S OFTEN DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PLACE IT IS DISPLAYED.



OH, THAT... OF COURSE.



WELL, I'M JUST SAYING IT'S DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THE MOMENT WHEN STREET ART WAS BORN.

A KIND OF PROTO-STREET ART HAS ALWAYS EXISTED... BUT IT'S BEEN OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES THAT WE'VE SEEN THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS.



AND NOT ONLY THAT: IT'S ALSO THE ART FORM MOST CONNECTED TO REAL LIFE.

YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO GO TO A MUSEUM OR A GALLERY TO SEE IT, RIGHT?

YOU JUST WALK THE STREETS AND "BAM!", YOU ARE IN FRONT OF A WORK OF ART!



AND SINCE, AS YOU SAID, IT IS ILLEGAL, THE SPEED OF EXECUTION IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

SO MUCH SO THAT IN MANY CASES ARTISTS HANG PRE-
PREPARED POSTERS OR USE
STENCILS, WHICH ALLOWS THEM
TO MAKE THE DRAWING VERY
QUICKLY.

THE PRE-PRODUCTION,
ON THE OTHER HAND,
CAN TAKE A LONG
TIME.



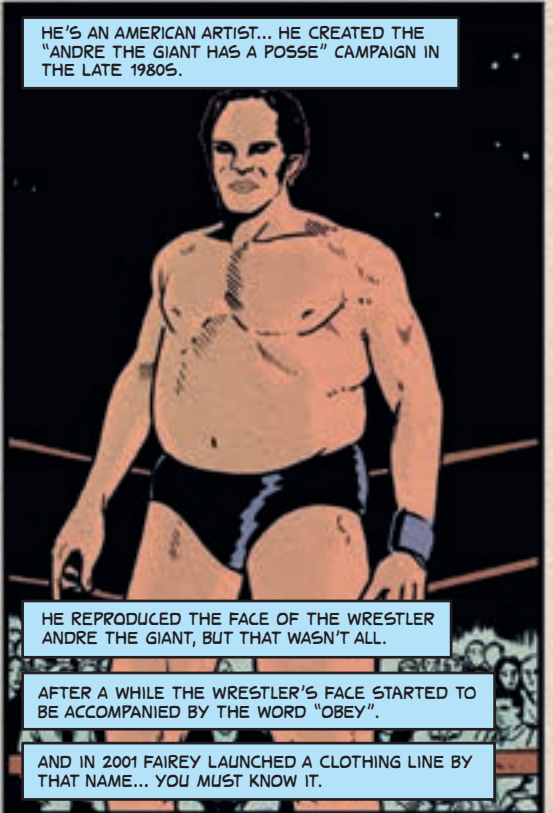
SOME PEOPLE HAVE EVEN MANAGED TO
TURN THEIR STREET ART INTO A BUSINESS.

REALLY?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF SHEPARD
FAIREY?

WHO?

OH MY GOD, YOU'RE HOPELESS.

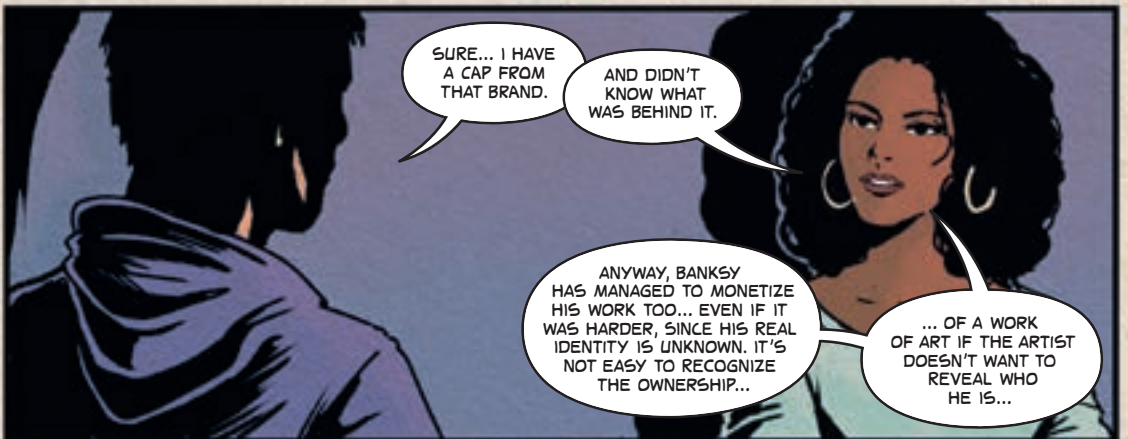


HE'S AN AMERICAN ARTIST... HE CREATED THE
"ANDRE THE GIANT HAS A POSSE" CAMPAIGN IN
THE LATE 1980S.

HE REPRODUCED THE FACE OF THE WRESTLER
ANDRE THE GIANT, BUT THAT WASN'T ALL.

AFTER A WHILE THE WRESTLER'S FACE STARTED TO
BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE WORD "OBEY".

AND IN 2001 FAIREY LAUNCHED A CLOTHING LINE BY
THAT NAME... YOU MUST KNOW IT.



SURE... I HAVE
A CAP FROM
THAT BRAND.

AND DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
WAS BEHIND IT.

ANYWAY, BANKSY
HAS MANAGED TO MONETIZE
HIS WORK TOO... EVEN IF IT
WAS HARDER, SINCE HIS REAL
IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN, IT'S
NOT EASY TO RECOGNIZE
THE OWNERSHIP...

... OF A WORK
OF ART IF THE ARTIST
DOESN'T WANT TO
REVEAL WHO
HE IS...



WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT HIM.

HE WAS PROBABLY BORN IN BRISTOL IN 1974... AND IT WAS THERE IN BRISTOL, IN 1999, WHERE HE BEGAN SIGNING HIS WORK WITH THE NAME BANKSY.

I BET YOU WEREN'T EVEN BORN YET, HUH?



BUT APART FROM THAT, WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM.

MEANING IT MIGHT NOT BE A HIM... IT MIGHT BE A HER...

... OR MAYBE IN REALITY IT'S A COLLECTIVE OF ARTISTS.



CLANG



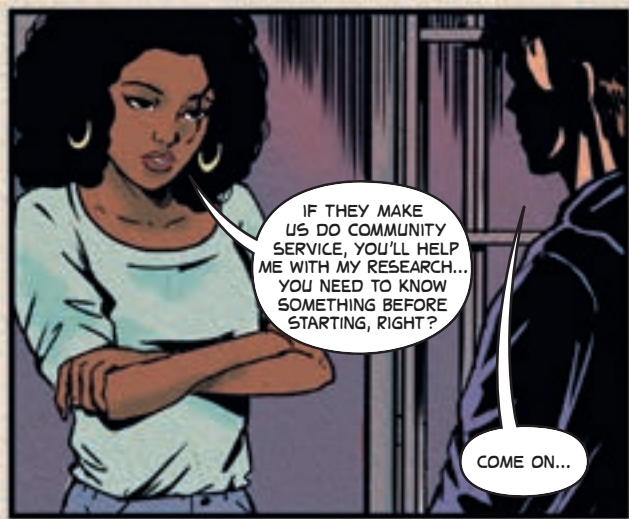
ADAM AND CLAIRE, THAT'S YOU TWO, RIGHT? COME ON, YOU'RE NEXT.



C'MON, WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE SOON.

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW OUR DEAL.

OUR DEAL? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



IF THEY MAKE US DO COMMUNITY SERVICE, YOU'LL HELP ME WITH MY RESEARCH... YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING BEFORE STARTING, RIGHT?

COME ON...

... THEY'LL NEVER MAKE US CLEAN THE STREETS.





ADAM!



WHAT?

NOTHING,
NEVER
MIND.



I'M A GOOD GIRL...

... AND GOOD GIRLS DON'T CURSE.