

## Welcome to the colourful art of Pegasus

The worlds of Street and Fine Art are not natural flatmates. In fact, purists commonly look down their noses in a disparaging manner at the new breed of artists who call the streets their canvases often siting their works as amateurish vandalism.

Recent years have seen a fusion of techniques being adopted by those creating street works increasingly driven by a strong desire from collectors and art devotees alike to mix the styles and schools of work under their patronage. Let's get one thing straight, just because you paint on the street doesn't necessarily mean you possess artistic talent although that's a whole other debate but the modern era of street art is far from amateurish, often highly refined and increasingly used to transform previously derelict and bland spaces to much public applause.

Taking a classical definition of 'fine art' as works created for their aesthetic with an intellectual or meaningful purpose, 'street art' surely blurs any traditional definition of these firm lines with an increasing number of artists using their painted surroundings to make political or social statements.

One street artist who is helping blur these established lines is London-based Pegasus. Originating from the other side of the pond, self-taught Pegasus produces uber-collectable works that say something as well as being purely aesthetically delightful. With a strong A-list following from the likes of Johnny Depp, Lindsay Lohan and Simon Cowell through to a growing number of private collectors and art lovers, he's never far away from the lime-light for his often controversial subject matters which vary from a super-sassy Queen bearing her derriere which hit the international media when originally unveiled through to an cheeky homage to David and Victoria Beckham off London's Brick Lane which came with an 'explicit material' warning. His sensitive tribute to Prince was described by NME as one of the finest out there and his now famous 'Fallen Angel' depiction of Amy Winehouse in Camden has become a shrine for fans and an image even used by the Foundation set up after Amy's tragic death to assist with fund raising activity.

Having contributed to a number of weighty publications including KET's much heralded 'Planet Banksy' book, Pegasus has firmly positioning himself in this new breed of artists whose artistic endeavours are as much destined for the living room as the back streets. He takes his work very very seriously often spending days meticulously hand preparing stencils to combine in his finished pieces. For some street artists a few layers of detail will suffice however that's simply not good enough for Pegasus who will often combine more than ten exquisitely-created colour layers in a single piece before further embellishing his work with diamond dust, glitter, resin and colourful acrylics to bring a piece to life before it is beautifully cocooned in its handmade frame by the man who made frames for the one and only Andy Warhol back in the day.

Blood, sweat and literally tears as well as considerable intellectual turmoil go into creating unique and very special works and boy do these efforts show in the end results of those destined for the terraced rows, city pads, boardrooms or country retreats for which they are eventually destined.

Whilst still a prolific street artist [nowadays he seeks approval for his publically viewable pieces] his latest collection of works entitled 'Gods and Monsters' is about to embark on a global tour having just completed its much heralded show at London's Faith Inc. gallery. Not afraid to embrace controversial topics, this vibrant London show featured a much talked about striking image of Donald Trump portrayed as a dictator which Pegasus originally created on the streets of Bristol as well as a portrait of the soon-to-be-beatified Mother Teresa for whom Pegasus was fascinated in exploring some of the little known and some say less-saintly practices that went on in some of her establishments.

One of the undeniable 'Gods' in the exhibition, or maybe that should read 'Goddesses', was a stunning larger than life work featuring our very own Princess Diana which attracted considerable interest from the exhibition visitors not least for the hand painted script of Diana's own beautiful words reading "carry out a random act of kindness without reward."

Before heading for Germany, South Africa and Asia in 2017, the next two destinations for the 'Gods and Monsters' show are 'The Artist's Corner' on LA's Sunset Boulevard on 1<sup>st</sup> October and Attitude Gallery Cheshire's leading contemporary art gallery on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

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