"THE URGE TO DESTROY IS ALSO A CREATIVE URGE": ON BANKSY'S WORK "THE GIRL WITH BALLOON"*

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ÖZ

Some activists and artists who create protest art have taken on questioning roles against global capital and injustices in today's world. Banksy, one of these artists and world-famous street artists, took remarkable actions in response to the negative effects of globalization by conveying socially important messages. It is important that his art is brave and simple, and that he attracts the audience in the first place. However, the depths behind his art leave permanent traces in the spiritual perception. The most important factor in Banksy's art being different and important is that his art is thought-provoking and he tries to raise awareness in the public.

The condemnation and frequent removal of his street art deemed as vandalism played an active role in the construction process of Banksy's works. Rapidly produced works aimed to deliver effective messages in a very short time.

His famous work, "The Girl with Balloon", which has succeeded in becoming an icon in different geographies, has also been able to show more with its disappearance than the effect it left on society at the time of its emergence with its simple and innocent visuality. This situation took its place in art history by exhibiting a political landscape as a criticism of the commercialization of art in the capitalist world.

Keywords: Banksy, Street Art, Graffiti, Activist, The Girl with Balloon

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Introduction

Banksy is a famous but unknown mysterious artist of the twenty-first century. When we look at the impact of Banksy's works, we see that it doesn't really matter who he is or what his identity is. Because he succeeds in attracting attention with his works. Banksy is an important artist in the shadow of his art. We can say that it's a publicly-owned anonymous identity. The artist, who carries traces from all parts of society, has sometimes become the voice of a princess from an English aristocracy, sometimes the scream of a Palestinian child.

According to Tristan Manco's book named Home Sweet Home, Banksy was born in 1974 in Bristol, England. He began as a freelance graffiti artist for the Bristol DryBreadZ Crew (DBZ) with two other members of the crew, Kato and Tes. His inspiration was local artists. His work consisted of the effects of Bristol underground street art and the hip-hop scene.

An anonymous graffiti artist Banksy is also an activist and film director. We can assume that the artist's anonymity is due to his problem with the police. Although he stated that his actions did not constitute a crime, of course, there was a criminal side to it, and this was important for the continuity of his art. To exist in the graffiti world where men rule, Banksy had to keep his identity secret. The idea of the British government and a certain part of the public, who argued that the artist carries provocative messages that damage public property rather than seeing his works as art, was one of the reasons why Banksy kept his identity secret. We can also say that Banksy's following words are proof that they contradict the existing authority. "The greatest crimes in the world are not committed by people breaking the rules but by people following the rules. It's people who follow orders that drop bombs and massacre villages." (https://www.theartstory.org/artist-banksy-artworks.htm)

The art of graffiti, which emerged being influenced by hip-hop culture, has changed over time and turned into a template technique called stencil painting. Because street art in illegal areas requires rapid actions. Banksy, whose works include simple but striking visual expressions that oppose organizations, wars and capitalism, has expanded the spheres of influence of his art by touching the problems of people in the universal dimension. Although Banksy was in legal conflict with the institutions due to his art, we can say that the institutions did this only because they had to intervene, but they did not want to destroy it completely. Because Banksy's positive contribution to the city cannot be ignored. We can exemplify this with Will Ellsworth Jones's statement:

"In Bristol, the Banksy's effect has turned graffiti into something of a growth industry, with one council officer suggesting the city now has three main tourist attractions: an old boat, a bridge (Brunel's SS Great Britain and his Clifton suspension bridge), and graffiti. The council now sponsors various legal graffiti events. It was an £80,000 event that the council hoped would turn buildings on a dull street downtown into Europe's largest and most permanent street gallery. The irony was that the man heading this project was Inkie, who twenty-two years earlier, during Operation Anderson, had been the key police target in the fight against graffiti." (Jones, 2015, p. 102). Considering all of these, the positive effect of time on art cannot be ignored.

The artist's concept of extraordinary art, which consists of illegal spaces, which mostly exhibits his art publicly on wall surfaces, has over time turned into artistic activities carried out in London streets and many other parts of the world. When Banksy started using the template, we can say that he created officially his Banksy identity. The artist, who thinks that art is about repetition, efficiency and quality, often used stencil templates to work as fast as possible. He has performed his work throughout Bristol and London. In Banksy's book Wall and Piece, the street artist stated that the idea of using patterns occurred in his head when he was hiding from the police under a garbage truck and the moment he saw a serial number. Since then, Banksy has used patterns to create great street art without getting caught. Ten years after the press began, Banksy began to broaden his horizons to make lithographic prints. Lithography is a technique generally used for the mass production of images. (https://www.theartstory.org/artist-banksy-artworks.htm)

Banksy is an activist known for his works against the system. It is possible to see the traces of Banksy's art by using critical language in many areas of society, from people to politics, from popular culture to everyday life.

The defiance dose of graffiti is lower than the stencil technique. The artist, who played an active role in his art with political scoldings, stated that the templates were better in this regard. Mysterious street artist Banksy has consistently expressed his contradiction with the current system in a unique style. Most of Banksy's work is provocative. He has mysterious works, but since 2004 it has clearly become more and more political. In particular, it has pioneered works that lead people to think critically about social issues. Banksy, who always gave the public access to the core of his work, did not produce works for the showoff. Speaking to Time Out, Lazarides conceded that he hadn't asked the artist for permission to stage the show and admitted that "he probably f******

hates it." But, he added, "I think Banksy genuinely belongs to the general public. He made himself public property. And I haven't taken anything off the street. I've just put a collection of works together for people to enjoy the art of Banksy." (Neuendorf, 2018) Banksy, who produced anti-war works, went to the center of one of the most controversial areas in the world and handled the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Banksy made nine works on the Palestinian side of the West Bank barrier. In a statement about the project, Banksy claimed that the Israeli government is building a wall surrounding the occupied Palestinian territories. He explained that the wall is illegal under international law and essentially turns Palestine into the world's largest open prison (Uyar, 2018). For the Palestinians, the West Bank wall has been transformed into a message board to share information over time, to confirm Palestinian national identity, and to call for resistance and unity. The artist gained international fame in 2005 with his nine paintings on the Palestinian side of the West Bank barrier, emphasizing the oppression of borders. These works are: West Bank Guard, Armored Dove of Peace, Stable Conditions, Window on the West Bank, Unwelcome Intervention, Escapism, Art Attack and Balloon Debate. Among these works, Balloon Debate is one of the works created by the artist in different places by attributing different meanings.



Image 1. Banksy, 2005, Balloon Debate, Wall of Western Bank, Palestine. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.demokrathaber.org/tarih/dunyayi-bolen-utanc-duvarlari-h24529.html

"In this work, which is completely painted black, such as a silhouette or shadow, the artist shows a young girl who gives hope to the other side of the wall. The child here creates an effect that depicts innocence as a reaction to the hostility created in the region. " (Uyar, 2018) Banksy's Girl with Balloon, which can be interpreted in many ways, has become an artistic icon by conveying thought-provoking messages in many parts of the world.

Banksy's "The Girl With Balloon" Work

Banksy's "Girl with Balloon" is one of his most well-known works. In this visually very simple work, the vitality of red vitalizes the work.



Image 2. Banksy, The Girl With Balloon, 2002, London. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: http://blog.artsome.co/five-street-artists-to-look-out-for-today/

"Girl with Balloon" appeared on the edge of a bridge at the South Bank in London in 2002. At first glance, the pattern appears to depict a little girl who sadly watches the red heart-shaped balloon drift. Heart shape, which is the only colored area, represents innocence, dream, hope and love. The red balloon is more than just a child's toy. The image of the young girl dropping her balloon also shows that innocence can be a concept that can be easily lost. Although the balloon has flown away, the sentence "there is always hope" accompanies. Regardless, this is a positive message that there is always hope for better days. Banksy made different versions of the "Girl with Balloon". He made a miniature version of his famous template at a property in Shoreditch, near Liverpool Street station. However, when a shop owner tries to get off the wall and send it to the auction, people get angry at that person. After hiding behind a billboard for 10 years, the Girl with Balloon was removed in February 2014 by Sincura Group, who was responsible for the removal of Banksy's Slave Labor on the wall in North London. The iconic girl was first exhibited on the occasion of "Stying Banksy" and later sold. (https://www.myartbroker.com/artist/banksy/girl-with-ballon Banksy, who produced remarkable works for the universal-size destruction of the war, rearranged his famous template in March 2014 to commemorate the third anniversary of the civil war in Syria. The redesigned image, taking into account the country's cultural values, was used to promote #withsyria, a campaign to raise awareness and support for the victims of the three-year war. This campaign condemns the blood spilled in the civil war in the country, the lives lost and the brutality of the war. The newly designed "The Girl with Balloon" appears with a headscarf to depict a Syrian refugee.



Image 3. Banksy, The Girl With Balloon, 2014. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://news.artnet.com/art-world/old-banksy-works-resurface-in-syria-and-detroit-5385

As well as Banksy, other celebrities have joined forces to raise awareness. Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Edith Bowman, Peter Gabriel and David Milliband posted photos of a red balloon on their Twitter or Instagram accounts. Images of Syrian children holding red balloons in the style of Banksy's famous template have also become viral on the internet. Actor Idris Elba also voiced an animated video calling on people to support Syrian refugees and encourage the end of the war. On March 13, the Balloon Girl was projected on the Nelson's Column and the Eiffel Tower. (Banksy, in his statement on his website, stated that; "We are with millions of people who have to leave their homes due to the violence in Syria.") (https://www.myartbroker.com/artist/banksy/girl-with-balloon). Banksy, who took part in this joint project that reflected the cold side of the war, was able to reach large masses with his video work "Some Children Cannot Be Happy When an Aircraft Is Trespassing".



Image 4. Some Children Cannot Be Happy When an Aircraft Is Trespassing, 2014. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.pinterest.de/pin/14144186309120691/

Banksy also met with alternative rock band Elbow and actor Idris Elba in a joint video for the third anniversary of the civil war in Syria. In this video, in which Banksy's famous "Girl with Balloon" comes to life, a call for solidarity is made with Syrian war victims. (https://www.myartbroker.com/artist/banksy/girl-with-balloon). In a video playing 'The Blanket of Night' from Elbow's latest album 'The Take Off and Landing of Everything' in the background, British actor Idris Elba asks questions: "Are we going to let Syrian people die killing each other for another year? Will we not stand by the Syrians? The social responsibility project, announced with the #WithSyria label, was shown in about 35 countries on March 15, 2014, due to the third anniversary of the war. (https://www.myartbroker.com/artist/banksy/girl-with-balloon).

The Healing Role Of Banksy's Works

Does Banksy play a role in organizing society by using only critical language in his work? Of course not. Many of the artist's work also undertakes promising, healing, motivating tasks for society. For example, for his work on the West Bank Barrier, many people stated that suicide attacks and violence have decreased in this region since 2002 when Banksy's work started to be seen on the wall. The influence of art here is really impressive. When we look back at the past, we can give Albert Lamorisse's 1956 film "The Red Balloon" as an example. We will discuss the content in general with short sections from the film, which lasts about 35 minutes.



Image 5. Albert Lamorisse, 1956, "The Red Balloon" movie. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: http://www.5harfliler.com/kirmizi-balon-ve-iyilesme-ihtimali/

The Red Balloon is a film starring French director Albert Lamorisse as his own son. A boy in one of the Paris' neighborhoods notices a red balloon as he walks down a stairwell with his bag. It is a very red and very attractive balloon. By climbing up a bit, the child can grab the rope of the flying balloon. And their togetherness, their stories, that's how the movie starts (Akın, 2015). Throughout the film, we witness the friendship of the child with the balloon.



Image 6. Albert Lamorisse, 1956, A scene from "The Red Balloon" movie. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: http://www.5harfliler.com/kirmizi-balon-ve-iyilesme-ihtimali/

The boy shelter under the umbrellas of people he doesn't know to protect the balloon from the rain. On a bridge, he watches the train passing underneath, gets on the tram, walks around, goes to school. Once he realizes he can't take the tram with the balloon, he runs to school. When he can't get into school with a balloon, he entrusts it to an old man (Akın, 2015). The film, which operates a small, simple but powerful idea, takes another turn when the balloon is wanted to be owned by everyone. The desire of the children in the school, on the street, to hold the balloon is getting more intense. Then a big chase scene appears. The child tries to protect the balloon from the others by passing through narrow passages, climbing the stairs, and being expelled from the houses he/she wants to hide. But the sad thing is, the desire to destroy it just because he/she can't own it settles into him/her when he/she is very young. The balloon is being stoned, pulled and beaten. It's finally starting to lose its air. The balloon disappears. The free balloon, pursuing its own decisions, turns into simple plastic garbage (Akın, 2015). The film has three strong themes. The first is the need for a real friend that we seek as children; the second is the tendency to destroy the beautiful; and the third is the possibility of recovery that we all have to eventually take shelter in. (Akın, 2015).

Banksy: "There Is Always Hope..."



Image 7. Banksy, 2002, There Is Always Hope, London. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.itsnicethat.com/news/banksy-uk-favourite-artwork-260717

When we look at this universal work of the artist, we can interpret many meanings. In this work, as well as the image on the surface, the text on the wall has a clear meaning. The expression "There Is Always Hope" states clarity about the interpretation of the work. In many of Banksy's works, the message to be given is very simple and clear. However, in some of his works, the expression to be conveyed was left to the background of the image. This work, in addition to its clarity, is supported by a one-sentence text. The association between image and word in graffiti is reflected differently in this template technique. Despite the expression "There is always hope", we can say that it is a work open to interpretation. A little innocent girl who loses hope, a little girl who pursues dreams, a person who loses her childhood… And why is it a heart-shaped balloon instead of a classic form? When we look at the work as a whole, we can see a little girl and her red balloon flying away from her hand. However, we can think that the fact that the balloon there is in the form of a heart extends the limits of the lost hopes even more and covers all individuals. In other words, the image on the wall tells a lot more than it seems. So this work, which is expressed in such a simple and monochrome color, has succeeded in attracting the audience repeatedly and becoming an icon? As Banksy said, it's important for people to quickly understand when looking at work. Being able to appeal to all segments of the society, being simple, understandable, appealing to a section from the public and being in the monopoly of the public are the features that make Banksy's work important and attractive.

Understanding Banksy's Art



Image 8. Banksy, The Girl With Balloon. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.urdesignmag.com/art/2018/10/07/banksy-artwork-self-destructs-sotheby-girl-with-balloon

Banksy's The Girl With Balloon has been one of the most iconic images of the twenty-first century since 2003. Banksy's lasting success, which can be noticed instantly, is thanks to its spread and reproduction by a new and tech-savvy generation of art lovers. Despite this, the earliest interpretations on the streets of London no longer survived, and a series of films and subsequent editions, available since 2003, were published the following year. (https://mocomuseum.com/stories/story-girl-with-balloon-beeld-girl-with-balloon). This work, which is very popular as a work of art, was named Britain's favorite work of art last year, beating historic success such as John Constable's Hay Wain and William Turner's The Fighting Temeraire. As in many works of the artist, in this work, black and red colors are processed on a white canvas and create a strong effect in simplicity. The image has visual proximity, which is the key to its popularity. (https://mocomuseum.com/stories/story-girl-with-balloon-beeld-girl-with-balloon). We can say that street art actually serves as a bridge between himself and the lower class for Banksy. According to the artist who sees himself as one of the people, street art reflects the courage of the lower class against the privileged class. It is the representative language of riot, rebellion and resistance. In this work, which was created in the past on a bridge in London, there is actually a hope that resists despair. Despite all the negativities, it is emphasized that life should always be looked at with hope.

"The Urge To Destroy Is Also A Creative Urge"

Banksy, of course, continues to create critical works that follow the up-to-dateness of the era. Unlike his works, which he usually expressed with street paintings, this time he performed his art in an auction house. Unprecedentedly in history, he made himself heard in the world press for weeks and wrote his name in art history books. World-renowned muralist Banksy's 'The Girl with Red Balloon' self-shredded immediately after the name and artist of the painting were announced at the auction at Sotheby's auction house in London on October 5, 2018. The buyer, who paid a million pounds for the work, witnessed the disappearance of the painting in front of her eyes. Although people thought that the person who bought the work would return from her decision eventually, the situation did not end as they expected. The collector, whose identity was kept secret, explained that after a few days she did not give up taking the painting even in its new form. Sotheby's also announced that the European collector decided to carry out the purchase because she thought that the work was now marking the history of art (Wang, 2018). The unnamed collector was stated that "At first I was shocked, but then I understood that I would have my own art history work," (Wang, 2018)

Although this may sound crazy to some, Banksy is actually a very intelligent artist. Not only did he create this work, but he also transformed his sales into a work of art. In addition, by bringing it to the auction, we can say that he transformed his art he made on the street into performance art. We can say that the work, which was sold for 8 million Turkish Liras in its original form, reached at least twelve million in its semi-shattered form, justifying the decision of the buyer. "The Girl with Balloon" has taken place in art history with the title of the first work created alive during an auction. This newly created work is called 'Love is in the Bin'. Alex Branczik, director of contemporary art at Sotheby's auction house, said: "I am pleased to inform you that the artist's newly-named work 'Love is in the Bin' has been sold. This work is the first artwork in history to be created alive during an auction". Most people thought that the auction that made the sale created such an event. Banksy made the following statement on his Instagram account to clarify the discourses about who created this event shortly after the sale of the work: In this way, the artist, who clarified the issue with Picasso's words "The urge to destroy is also a creative urge", answered the questions in people's minds by making himself solely responsible for the incident. (https://www.instagram.com/p/BomXijJhArX/...).

A video posted by Banksy on social media said that a shredder mechanism was secretly placed in the picture a few years ago "in case it was ever put up for auction". In other words, it is thought that this mechanism was placed by Banksy when the work was sent to Pest Control Office. The Pest Control Office is an organizational service used to prove whether the work that can be done using simple templates and reproduced in ease belongs to Banksy. Banksy has thousands of works. Which of these works belong to the artist is sent to Banksy before going on sale and controlled by this service. We can say that this situation is a clue that the assembly placed inside "The Girl with Balloon" may have been made in this process. In addition, this situation is also applied to books bearing the name of Banksy. By the way, it's not Banksy who's selling the work. Although he keeps his identity secret, the artist's close friends have said that he is a wealthy person who does not need money. The person who sold the work is said to have seized the work in an exhibition in 2006. Sotheby said, "He has previously pulled stunts in some of the world's most respected museums and galleries such as the Louvre, Tate Britain, the British Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art Sotheby is currently joining this long and distinguished list. Banksy has cleverly nestled himself in the pages of art history." (Wang, 2018).

"Shredding increased the value of the work"



Image 9. Banksy, The Girl With Balloon. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.urdesignmag.com/art/2018/10/07/banksy-artwork-self-destructs-sotheby-girl-with-balloon/

Many speculations have been put forward after the work self-shredded. Experts have suggested that the auction house must be aware of such a situation. However, Banksy added the following notes from his Instagram account, sharing a video of how he placed a shredder assembly on the back of his work: "A few years ago I secretly built a shredder into a painting in case it was ever put up for auction." (https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-45832228). Many different opinions, positive or negative, have been put forward against shredding the work itself. Mikael Fanjour, an expert from the French art magazine Artension, said, "Banksy might think that by destroying his art he's undermining capitalists who buy it, but he's wrong." "The leftovers from this destruction will acquire a new prestige and additional monetary worth." (https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-45832228). When we look at the half-shredded work, we see that the little innocent girl, who is still standing, has lost her heart-shaped balloon. Perhaps this is a metaphor for the fact that art has lost its innocence. So, how can we evaluate this situation? We can say that the act of self-shredding of the work is actually an expected action from Banksy. In his unique and creative style, he presented what he wanted to convey most strikingly. In this work, which has become the art of performance, we can perhaps remove the following; art is unique, cannot be sold, reproduced, cannot be imprisoned in a museum or gallery. Therefore, it would not be right to think otherwise for an artist who performs his art on the streets. Because Banksy's The Girl with Balloon is a work that has become public knowledge without discriminating against children, adults, rich, poor, language, religion and race. This applies not only to this work of the artist but also to all other works. Therefore, how can a work that has come out of street culture and embrace the street be the property of only a certain class? It would also be contrary to the contemporary art that exited from the nobleman's era.

Banksy, who is opposed to monopolization in art, draws on the streets so that his works are not bought and sold, that they are not owned by anyone, and that they appeal to all humanity. Because the streets are free and no one owns them. When he started selling the framed works at priceless levels, this would have made Banksy uncomfortable, and he had to react in some way to this situation. An artist who challenged injustices, inequity, capitalism, excessive consumptionism with his art could not, of course, allow his art to become a commodity and an instrument for them. Banksy not only did not allow it, but he also managed to give the strongest answer to be given by creating a new work of art from the work he shredded. However, there are situations where Banksy also contradicts himself. Will Ellsworth-Jones explained this with the following statements: "Banksy accuses others of being capitalist but, despite giving away some pictures for charity, funding events for other graffiti artists, trying to sell prints at a reasonable price only to see them more than double in value on eBay, he too is a capitalist - albeit a reluctant one. With all the compromises and fudges that this entails, this is the side of life that he mast uneasy in dealing with." (Ellsworth-Jones, 2015). In fact, Banksy is a character who suffers between art and business. His works, which he gave to the streets, benefit the bourgeois class with golden digits at famous auctions. Maybe this situation has become something that Banksy couldn't resist. Contrary to the capitalist validity of the artist, contrary to what the artist may desire, the value of his work is increasing exponentially. (http://www.mudec.it/eng/the-art-of-banksy-a-visual-protest)

There are, of course, those who oppose the sale of Banksy's works at such high prices. For The Girl with Balloon, Keszler thinks that the $1 million is already an inflated figure and added that "it is a very, very, very high price,". He said: "This work should have sold for £200,000. if he hadn't shredded it no one would be talking about it." Keszler sold Banksy art that appeared on buildings for as much as $1.2 million. "Now they're saying it's going to be $2 million or $3 million or $4 million, which is totally crazy." (https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-06/banksy-artwork-self-destructs-after-going-under-hammer/10346556). The critic Jonathan Jones, who wrote art for The Guardian, stated that the fact that Britain's best-loved artwork is a Banksy, "That's proof of our stupidity."

According to Jones, "Banksy's Girl with Balloon comes top in a popular vote, despite its oversimplification of human emotion. Real art is ambiguous and difficult. (http://banksyworld.blogspot.com/2012/10/banksy-graffiti-in-palestine.html). In his book Modern Painters, Victorian-era art critic John Ruskin said that "the average intelligence and emotion of the majority of the public" gave them the adjective of "distinguishing what is really excellent", and that "only a critic with superior sensitivity and knowledge like himself can judge what is really great in art." (http://banksyworld.blogspot.com/2012/10/banksy-graffiti-in-palestine.html)

Earlier in the newspaper columns, Charlie Brooker (Editor of the series named "Black Mirror") wrote about Banksy's art and criticized: "His work looks dazzlingly clever to only idiots". However, art cannot be evaluated by criteria such as real or not, difficult or easy. When we look at Banksy's works perhaps many of his works may have simple, plain and clear images. But behind these simple and clear images is the thought-provoking and public awareness of his art. We can say that Banksy has been extremely successful in revealing injustices, anti-democracy, wars, excessive consumptionism, and problems in the universal dimension with a uniquely critical and cynical style. Banksy is not the first artist to disrupt the structure of his own work. We can give different examples from history. In the years after World War II, German-born artist Gustav Metzger pioneered the formation of the "Auto-Destructive Art" movement in 1959 and the writing and dissemination of its manifesto. The artist, who took many actions against anti-capitalist and excessive consumerism, especially opposed making art a commodity. Metzger, which was united at the same point with Banksy, influenced large masses through his art, both legitimizing the movement he started and attracting great attention.



Image 10. Gustav Metzger is practicing to the declaration of automatic destructive art to the public by using acid in nylon, National Portrait Gallery, 1960. Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw205051/Gustav-Metzger-practicing-for-a-public-demonstration-of-Auto-destructive-art-using-acid-on-nylon

According to Andrew Wilson, the famous Curator of Tate Art Gallery, the greatest contribution of the German-born British artist Gustav Metzger, who revealed the will of modern society to destroy human beings and objects, to the history of art was to reveal the Auto-Destructive Art movement, which means artists dismantle and demolish objects as a form of protest. Metzger tried to explain the movement briefly by stating in a manifesto dated 1950 that "elf-destructive painting, sculpture, construction, idea, space, form, color, method and time form a whole sum". (http://www.salom.com.tr/arsiv/haber-105931-sanatin_modern_aktivisti_gustav__metzger.html). Again, Marcel Duchamp from the Dadaist movement, who destroys art in another way, is an important artist who turned a urinal upside down and exhibited it as a fountain by destroying all the beauty of art and destroying the features that constitute art.



Image 11. Marcel Duchamp, 1917, "The Fountain", Dadaism era. Accessed: 25.01.2019 Source: http://birgunbiryerde.blogspot.com/2013/04/bir-dada-klasigi-cesme-ve-marcel-duchamp.html

Gianni Motti can be given as another example. In the example where he exhibits two empty paintings, we can see the disappearance of art in another way.

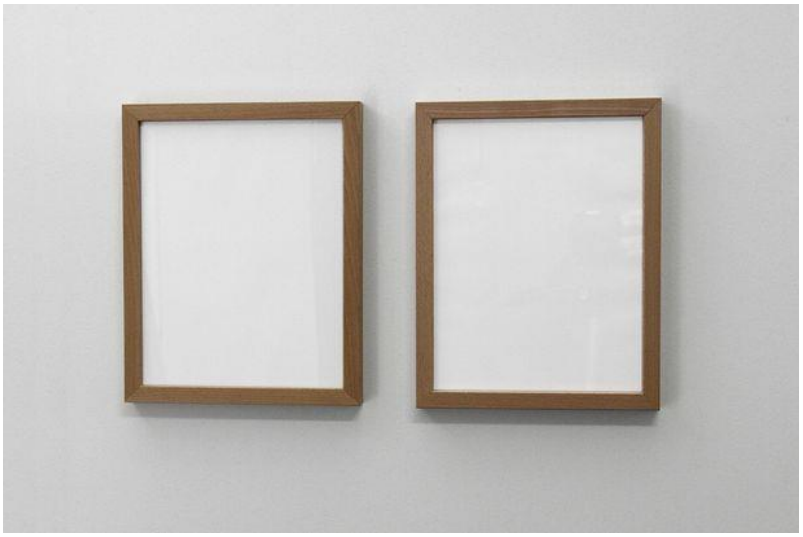


Image 12. Gianni Motti, "Magic Ink". Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/news/blank-canvas-london-gallery-unveils-invisible-art-exhibition-7767057.html

To problematize the subject of space in art, in the 1960s, the artist Arman filled a gallery completely and made it impossible for the audience to enter the space and destroyed his art.

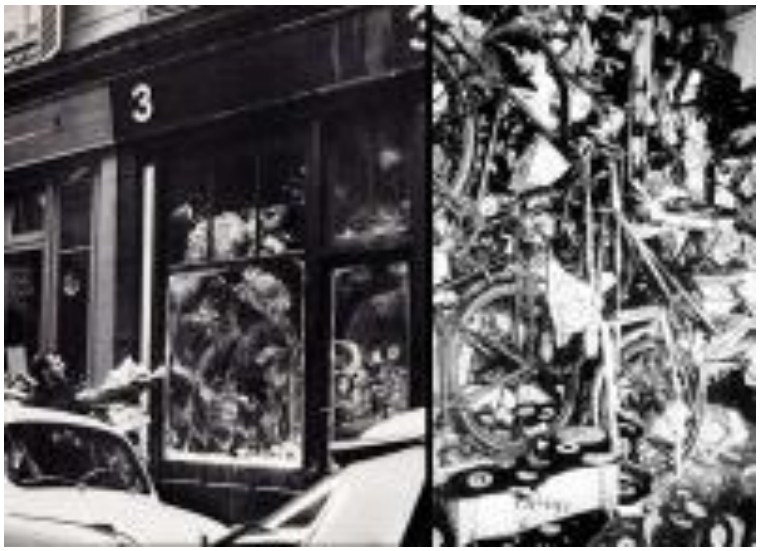


Image 13. Arman, 1960, "Full Up", Galerie Iris Clert, Paris. Accessed25.01.2019 Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_Clert_Gallery

Another artist who performed a similar action in 1969 was Robert Barry. Although he invited many people to his exhibition, when people reached the gallery, they encountered the words "During the exhibition the gallery will be closed." on the door.



Image 14. Robert Barry, 1969, "Closed Gallery". Accessed: 24.01.2019 Source: https://www.wikiart.org/en/robert-barry/closed-gallery-1969

Based on all this, when we look at the history of art, we can actually see that the basis of creation is nothingness, extinction, or a wreck. Just as every new beginning is created from an absolute end. In fact, when we look at the whole of Banksy's art, we can see the pieces of this self-destructive artwork "The Girl with Balloon". Because he usually uses the stencil technique to make drawings on the walls quickly and not get caught by the police. (Stencil is a technique to use spray paint on already-made templates.)

These murals are usually very short-lived. Most of the paintings drawn at night are scratched or dislocated without even seeing the sun of the next day. There also have been occasions when it's been stolen. Although this is an unpleasant situation for the residents and the artist, no criminal complaint has been filed against the person or persons who stole the streets with the logic that they belong to everyone. Such a request would not have yielded any results for a situation that was not already legal. This means, sometimes these works don't even have a day to live. When we look at all this, we can say that Banksy already produces works that destroy itself by nature. That's why an artist's work doesn't just stay stationary in one place. Sometimes we can see various versions of the same work in different places at different times. Banksy's art has a structure that challenges anti-institutions with its structure and intrusion. Therefore, Banksy and his works, which are contained the free spirit of the streets, can maintain their originality with this feature. How much art can express itself behind closed doors anyway... If we look at the social function of art, we can say that art, which is imprisoned in museums or galleries, does not fulfill this social task sufficiently. Street art is free and cannot be imprisoned.

Conclusion

One of the main reasons why Banksy's art stands out amongst others graffiti is because his art is telling us something. The influence of his art is, in fact, the mystery behind his simplicity. Just like "The Girl with Balloon". When the audience first looks at the work, they see a cute girl and her toy, whereas this work, which has much more meaning than the visual perception, contains much deeper meanings. When we dive into the semantic depth of the work, different questions arise in our minds. Is the work just about this cute girl and her balloon? Does the balloon fly out of the girl's hand, or does the girl set the balloon free? Will she easily lose her innocence and hope? Questions like this can be a variety of questions that need to be managed. From this point of view, there is no doubt that Banksy has left much more intellectual influences behind his seemingly simple and easy works. Of course, for the answers to all these questions, the artist lets alone his audience. So, what did Banksy mean by the fact that "The Girl with Balloon" destroyed itself but doubled its value and all these developments? Was that an interpretation of capitalism? The dull nature of the art world? As we know, the true meaninglessness of life? The meaningless ambition to own, the madness dimension of consumption? So, he actually conveyed a lot of open-ended messages. We cannot say that all these theories have a precise and realistic dimension. It's all just an assumption. Of course, it would be wrong to talk about a specific certainty in art. Because thinking, criticizing, and questioning are the cornerstones of art. We need to piece it together and interpret them. It is necessary to break down and distribute all the preconceptions in the heads and to sail to new ideas and new formations by breaking down these preconceptions as in The Girl with Balloon. As Picasso said: "Every Act of Creation is First an Act of Destruction".

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"YOK ETME DÜRTÜSÜ DE YARATICI BİR EYLEMDİR": BANKSY'NİN "BALONLU KIZ" ESERİ ÜZERİNE

Saime UYAR

Bazı aktivistler ve protest sanat yapan sanatçılar küresel sermayeye karşı, adaletsizliklere karşı günümüz dünyasında bunu sorgulayıcı roller üstlenmişlerdir. Bunlar arasında dünyaca ünlü sokak sanatçısı Banksy, sosyal açıdan önemli mesajları ileterek küreselleşmenin olumsuz etkilerine tepki olarak dikkat çekici eylemlerde bulunmuştur. Sanatının cesur ve basit olması, izleyiciyi ilk etapta kendisine çekmesinde önemlidir. Ancak sanatının ardındaki derinlikler ruhsal algıda kalıcı izler bırakır. Banksy'in sanatının farklı ve önemli olmasındaki en önemli etken, sanatının düşündürücü olması ve kamuoyunda bir farkındalık yaratma çabasıdır. Sokak sanatının yasadışı vandalizm olarak kınanması ve sıkça kaldırılması Banksy'nin çalışmalarının yapım sürecinde etkin bir rol oynamıştır. Seri şekilde üretilen eserler oldukça kısa sürede, etkili mesajlar vermeyi hedeflemiştir. Farklı coğrafyalarda ikon haline gelmeyi başaran ünlü çalışması "Balonlu Kız", sade ve masum görselliğiyle ortaya çıktığı tarihte toplumda bıraktığı etkiden daha fazlasını yok oluşuyla da gösterebilmiştir. Bu durum, kapitalist dünyada sanatın ticarileşmesinin bir eleştirisi olarak politik bir peyzaj sergileyerek sanat tarihinde yerini almıştır.

Anahtar sözcükler: Banksy, Sokak Sanatı, Grafiti, Aktivist, Balonlu Kız