

Laugh now, but one day we'll be in charge. Being so politically correct today, one wonders if the lunatics are running the asylum. You do not have to be grounded to be politically correct in today's world.

Laugh now, but one day we ll be in charge

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66 Monkey Queen: Just who runs the country: the monarchy or the civil service?

67 Another version of Go Flock Yourself, with the monkey creating beautiful artwork, just as enough monkeys typing randomly would eventually produce Shakespeare.







It is interesting that these two pictures clearly depict American uniformed police, one with a Doberman and one with a police baton.



For Banksy, anarchist thinking is always at the forefront. The letter "A" for anarchy is one of his recurring symbols, and he has often had his rats write it on protest signs. One of his most interesting works is that of a caring mother who arranges a red gag for her son, a punk protester; on it is an inscription that speaks for itself: "DON'T FORGET TO EAT YOUR LUNCH AND MAKE SOME TROUBLE." The revolutionary icon of Che Guevara could not be left out, either. Under the railway bridge of Portobello Road, London, Banksy has painted him on a red background, with a pair of black glasses, on which a dollar sign appears. As numerous similar stencils follow one another, the color gradually slips away, dissolving the image. A market is usually held in this location, where T-shirts and other souvenirs bearing the image of Che are sold. Banksy was keen to highlight the negativity of the infinite recycling of an icon for commercial purposes.

Are maids also symbols of the revolution? Or, rather, of redemption and revenge, as if they were spies who are sent "undercover" to a world they know well, but which basically remains inaccessible to them? Even though they may be considered insignificant, they see everything. They know the secrets of anonymous hotel rooms; they are "invisible" and silent. They observe the most intimate moments of human existence.

One of Banksy's most beloved stencils is precisely that of a maid who, with a dustpan in her hand, lifts the corner of a carpet or the edge of a white sheet, under which you can see nothing but a wall. It seems that she was inspired by a certain Leanne, "a quite feisty lady," as Banksy himself said, who once cleaned the room of a motel where he had slept.

This work, called *Sweep It Under the Carpet*, appeared for the first time on a wall of the White Cube Gallery, in East London, in 2007, from which, however, it mysteriously disappeared, but the artist repeated it in several other situations and different locations.

Sweep It Under the Carpet. *The first rule of politics, politicians, and news agencies.*



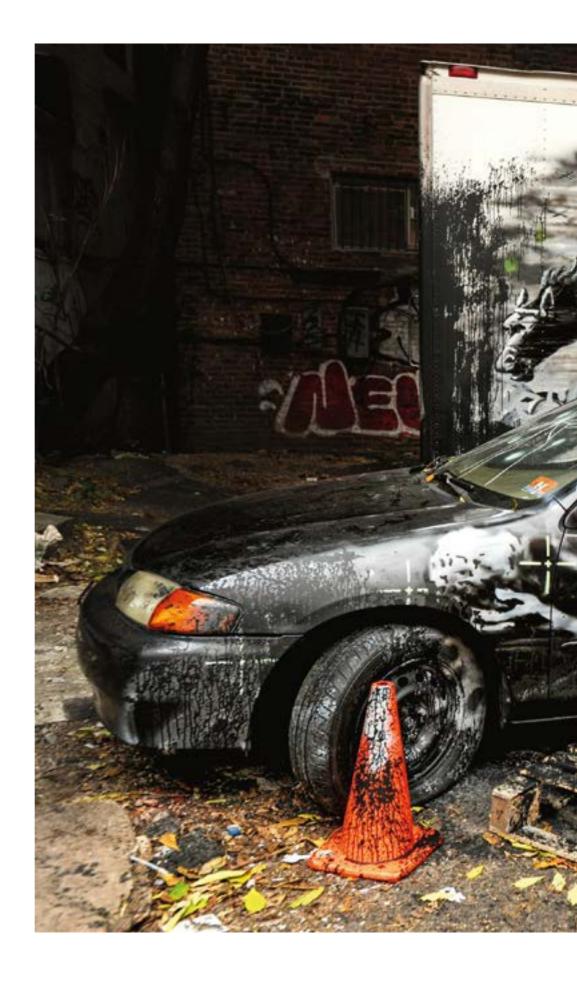




152 Death is inevitable; enjoy your life.

153 Death marches on and comes to everyone, so enjoy life while you can.





One of a number of cars Banksy has improved by altering the paintwork, here at the East Village, New York, in 2013.





Banksy's collaboration with the Brazilian brothers Os Gemeos was extraordinary. Together, they produced two canvases that appeared in Chelsea, under the High Line, inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement that was born in New York in 2011, as a protest against the abuses of financial capitalism and social inequalities. In the first canvas, a tight formation of policemen in black uniforms, created by Banksy, surrounds a red figure, the work of Os Gemeos; his face is hidden by a sort of balaclava or a keffiyeh. On the other canvas, on the contrary, an orderly crowd of people dressed in red, and with covered faces, surrounds a policeman, who, like the others, wears a black uniform.



This pair of pictures of the Chelsea works shows you can be correctly dressed but in the wrong place.