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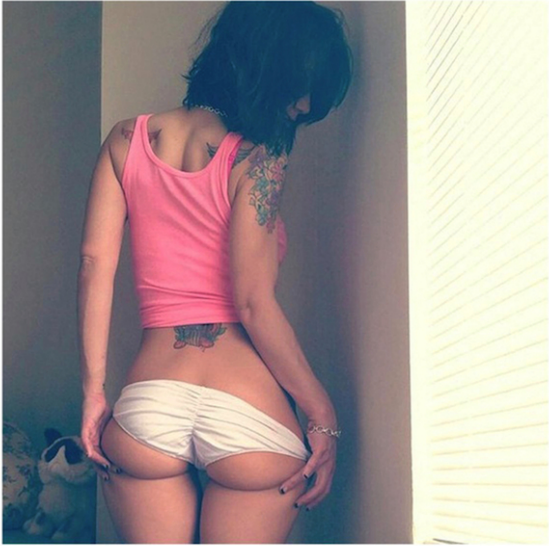
Art Flippers Attempt to Unload Suicide Girls' Version of Richard Prince Work

Ben Davis, Thursday, August 13, 2015

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
The Suicide Girl print on view at Postmasters.
Photo: Courtesy Postmasters.

There's a new twist in the strange saga of [Richard Prince](#) and the [Suicide Girls](#).


To recap: Last year, the blue chip appropriation artist launched a new series of works, shown [at Gagosian gallery](#) and [Frieze New York](#), featuring blown-up versions of sexy pics sourced from Instagram, printed on canvas and priced (according to a rumor [relayed](#) by one of his unwilling subjects, "[Doe Deere](#)") at \$90,000 a pop. Among these, some were taken, sans permission, from the feed of the [well-known alt pin-up community](#), Suicide Girls.

The Suicide Girls then [retaliated](#)—and became Internet heroes—by selling their own versions of Prince's canvasses for \$90.


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
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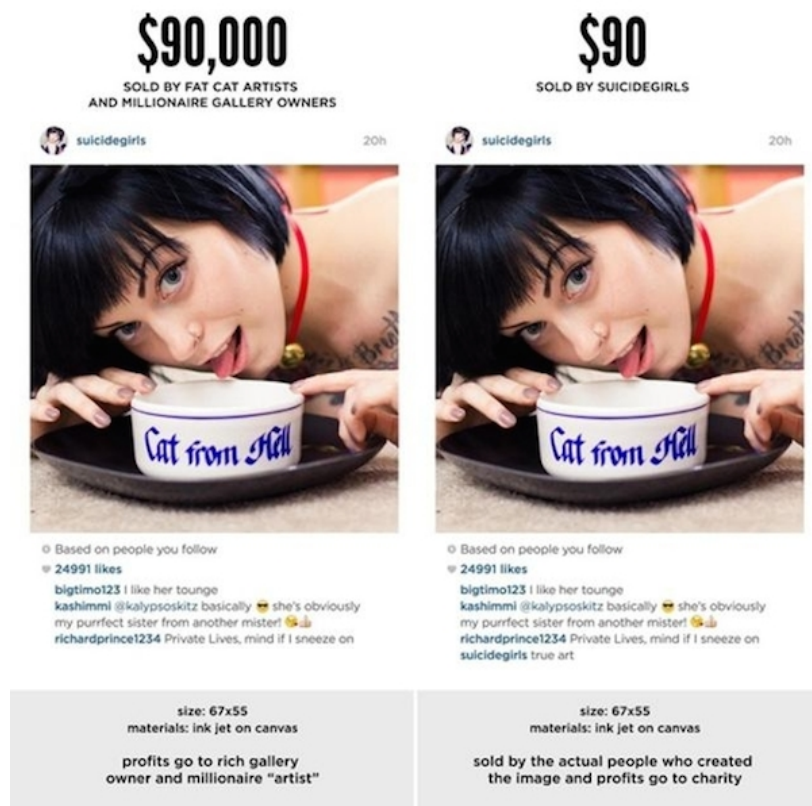


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The gesture was taken as a witty act of table-turning, and a critique of the art market to boot: Using Prince's own logic of appropriation to undercut his market by 99.99 percent. They reportedly sold 250 prints in the first day.



Screen capture from the Suicide Girls website, offering \$90 version of Richard Prince's Instagram painting.
Photo: Courtesy Suicide Girls.

Now, the tale has a new twist: It seems that would-be art "flippers" are already trying to unload the reappropriated appropriations at a profit.

For its summer show, smart Tribeca gallery Postmasters launched "#WCW: @womancrushwednesday." The show is open for a few more days and worth seeing, with works by Molly Crabapple, Steve Mumford, Federico Solmi, Chris Verene, and a host of other worthies, all focusing on images of women. The works in the show are mostly priced for a few thousand dollars.

But it was the group show's inclusion of one of the Suicide Girls prints that drew most attention.

"My son bought it for himself and since it was a perfect fit I borrowed it from him," dealer Magda Sawon told artnet News. "It is not for sale. I was hoping to drive some sales their way." (The Suicide Girls had been selling the Prince-appropriated prints via their website to benefit the Electronic Frontier Foundation, though the sale ended a few days into the run of "#WCW.")

Shortly after the show got some favorable press on AnimalNY mentioning the print, Sawon says, she started receiving feelers from owners of the Suicide Girls reappropriations, looking to unload them at a markup.

Lamentably, the exact terms would-be flippers were angling

for shall remain unclear, as the art dealer told them to scram: "It was two separate people and since I was not sympathetic to the offer the convo did not get any further," Sawon said, declining to give further details.



Installation view of Suicide Girl canvas in "#WomanCrushWednesday" at Postmasters, with works by Monica Cook and Holly Zausner
Photo: Ben Davis

It seems that what some saw as a cheeky way to stick a thumb in the eyes of "a rich gallery owner and millionaire 'artist'" (per the [Suicide Girls posting](#)), an entirely different group of people saw as a great short-term investment opportunity.

Sawon, for her part, is pretty unequivocal on what she thinks it all means: "The art market is a disgrace to humanity."

Related stories:

[Who Are The Suicide Girls?](#)

[Payback for Richard Prince as Models Re-appropriate Stolen Instagram Images and Sell Them for \\$90](#)

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