

Exit Through the Gift Shop

USA/UK 2010, 87 minutes

Directed by Banksy

Academy Award Nomination - Best Documentary 2010

TUESDAY JUNE 21 @ 7PM



Reviewed by Robert Louis Chianese – Ventura Film Society

This comic documentary employs all sorts of subtle trickery. Like the life and work of Banksy, the infamous street artist who directed it, “Exit Through The Gift Shop” is never quite what it seems. Video nut and used clothing entrepreneur Thierry Guetta films anything and everything that appears in front of his camera. When he meets his hero, Banksy, and begins filming him making his illegal street art, the subject turns the tables on the filmmaker and decides to make a film about Guetta. When Guetta finally becomes a street artist himself, subject and object get thoroughly confused. Perhaps the whole exercise is Banksy’s postmodern point about art in the 21st century—it’s now public, on the street, anybody can do it, and the artist can remain anonymous. Banksy takes us on a trip through a hall of mirrors in his cinematic fun house. In the process he shows that art can still create an aura of fame and arouse the obsessive curiosity of fans, a word derived from “fanatics”. Exit through the Gift Shop is funny, full of tension, weird, and a treat to ponder.