



# I AM RICH SIMMONS

*Rich Simmons is a Contemporary Urban Pop Artist who has exhibited all over the world. Simmons work explores the intersections of visual culture, spanning pop art, comic books, the Renaissance, contemporary fashion, sexuality and beyond.*

*London-based Rich Simmons has a global reach and celebrity following, having exhibited in some of the world's most prestigious galleries in London, New York, LA, Tampa, Miami, Toronto, Montreal, Seoul, Cincinnati and Geneva.*

*Simmons work has now made it into Museum collections with the Men Of Steel, Women Of Wonder exhibition debuting at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in 2019.*

*Last year saw one of his works sell for £52,000 at a Christie's charity auction.*

*Simmons bold use of colour, intricately detailed hand-cut stencils, sense of humour and thought-provoking narratives running through his work are proving Rich is both an innovator and highly collectible artist. Simmons work transcends galleries and his street art murals can be seen around the world with the latest 3,400 sq ft mural being completed in Rogers Arkansas.*

*Simmons is also the creator and founder of Art Is The Cure, a Vinspired award-winning organisation promoting art therapy and has run workshops and talks around the world.*





*"Rich Simmons makes art that will make you blush."*  
**INKED Magazine**

**2021** VW Contemporary Gallery, Greenwich Connecticut – Permenant Collection  
**2021** Taglialatella Gallery, New York – Permenant Collection  
**2021** Hampton Gallery, Montreal – Group Show  
**2021** Effusion Gallery, Miami – Permenant Collection  
**2020** Old Bank Vault Gallery, London – Group Show  
**2020** Pop Up Gallery, Seoul – Group Show  
**2020** Miller Gallery, Cincinnati Ohio – Permenant Collection  
**2019** Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Arkansas – Group Show  
**2019** San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas – Group Show  
**2019** Addison Gallery of American Art, Massachusetts – Group Show  
**2019** Art Angels, Los Angeles – Group Show  
**2019** Box Galleries, London – Solo Show – Imaginarium  
**2018** Imitate Modern, London – Group Show – Pop Rocks  
**2017** Box Galleries, London – Solo Show – Pop Provocateur  
**2016** Self Promoted, London – Solo Show – Reflections  
**2016** Oliver Cole Gallery, Miami – Group Show  
**2015** Soho Contemporary Art, New York – Solo Show – Misfits  
**2015** CASS Contemporary Art, Tampa – Group Show – Corrosively Bright  
**2015** Artveras Gallery, Geneva – Group Show  
**2014** Soho Contemporary Art, New York – Solo Show  
**2014** Soho Contemporary Art, New York – Solo Show – London Calling  
**2014** Imitate Modern, London – Solo Show – Kryptonite  
**2013** Imitate Modern, London – Solo Show – The Inner Outsider  
**2013** Baku Restaurant, London – Solo Show – Pop up Showcase  
**2012** Imitate Modern, London – Solo Show – Just be You Tiful  
**2012** Imitate Modern, London – Group Show – Proud to be British  
**2012** Baku Museum of Modern Art, Azerbaijan – Group Show  
**2012** Opera Gallery, London – Group Show  
**2011** Opera Gallery Pop Up Show, London – Solo Show  
**2011** Opera Gallery, London – The Street Art Show  
**2011** Opera Gallery, London – Group Show  
**2010** Gallery Rouge, St Albans – Solo Show

**2018** Christies, London – Charity Art Auction  
 (achieved an auction valuation of £52,000)  
**2011** Bonhams, London – Urban Art Show  
 (achieved an auction valuation of £8,000)





*"His style and aesthetic are truly impressive. Stencil street art beyond the stencil and the street. Watch out for this dude!"*

**MARK HOPPUS, Blink-182**



*"A bird and a boy. The reason I want to write about Rich is really simple and personal. Rich's work speaks to me. He speaks to me. I admire his art and he has this personality that touches people. He is very grounded and down to earth. He is this boy who believes in hard work and that you will always reap what you sow. So he is always working. At the same time, he has the spirit of a bird, uncaged by social dogma and untouched by the storms that he's experienced. Free, and has no fear."*

**ALEXANDRA LUELA, Blogger**





*"Rich Simmons is part of a new wave of street artists emerging from the UK. As a self-taught artist, he uses an intricately detailed stencil style to convey his irreverent sense of humour."*

**1883 Magazine**



***“SIMMONS  
PAINTS  
LIKE A  
PUNK  
ROCKER.”***

**PROHBTD  
MAGAZINE**



# POP PROVOCATEUR

By implementing modern mentality to throwback imagery Rich Simmons makes art that will make you blush.

"Street art has this rebellious punk rock attitude that I love," Rich Simmons sprays it loud. When he isn't painting images of superheroes and other familiar figures on walls and the sides of buildings, he's using reclaimed billboards to bring the experience of the street into the gallery. "It's a case of doing it for the love of painting, giving people something on a wall to enjoy who wouldn't normally experience art or go to galleries or museums," he explains. "There is also a huge adrenaline rush painting out on the street, whether it's doing it on a legally commissioned wall or running around at 6 AM with a spray can and some stencils or a bucket of paste and some posters."

Simmons approaches sexuality in a way that deviates from the cultural norm. Where people usually see sexy Victoria's Secret ads, he paints '50s pin-up girls. "I enjoy the aesthetic of '50s pin up girls and old advertising. There is a boldness to it, a simplicity and an innocence," he says. "Everything is so hyper sexualised nowadays and you see pop stars rolling around on stage in nothing more than a thong and it takes all of the mystery out of it. Pin up girls can use a flash of stockings to achieve that tease and it makes you use your imagination more."

These seductive images aren't the only reason why people are drawn to his work. Much of his art features culturally relevant figures—whether they're superheroes or Will and Kate depicted as Sid and Nancy—and the use of these iconic images immediately involves the audience. "Using an iconic character like Batman who people instantly recognize forms the emotional engagement instantly and you don't have to spend time introducing a new character and telling their story before the viewer can then delve deeper into the piece's meaning and story." He understands the power behind rooting his work in popular culture. "You can also use this familiarity to add the shock value by putting them in a situation you'd never expect to see, like when I painted Batman kissing Superman," he says, of one of his most well known street art pieces that caused controversy by making a pro-gay statement with icons from our childhood. "The fact that it was those characters and not just two random guys gave the piece that shock value and engages with more people."

Simmons acknowledges the political nature of his work and of street art in general. "With the public element of street art and how large an audience can be who see it, I feel there is a responsibility on the artist to create something that has a message and the power to stop people and make them look. If people just ignore it and walk past then I haven't done my job properly." —Nora Goodbody





**SIMMONS**

**RICH SIMMONS IS PART OF A NEW WAVE OF STREET ARTISTS EMERGING FROM THE UK. AS A SELF-TAUGHT ARTIST, HE USES AN INTRICATELY DETAILED STENCIL STYLE TO CONVEY HIS IRREVERENT SENSE OF HUMOUR.**

His self-imposed mission to change people's views on different subject matters has stemmed from an autistic background in which Simmons had to communicate his thoughts on the world through visual channels. He became a global name after creating a piece of work depicting Prince William and Kate Middleton as Sid and Nancy from the Sex Pistols. This "Future \*\*\*King" piece created a worldwide media stir and made people aware of the Simmons' style of work and ability to create iconic imagery.

*What motivates you to create art?* I would much rather use my hands to create a stencil or pick up a spray can than verbalise how I feel so my motivation to create is really just a natural instinct that I've always had.

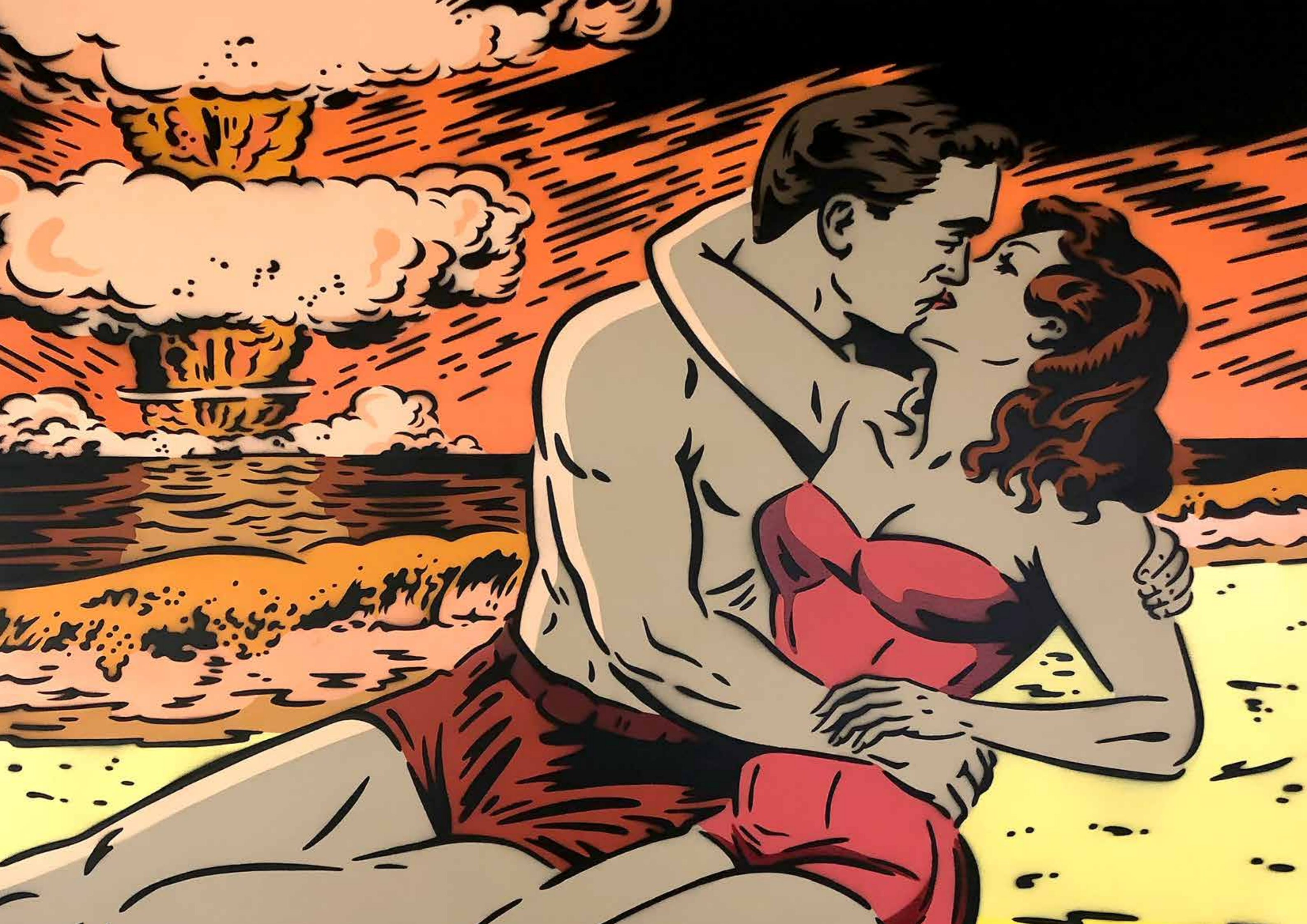
*Tell me about your work?* I started by learning on the streets, creating stencils that I could go out and paint on walls. My stencils take a long time to create so I am in my studio a lot and then the piece that gets painted on the

street or a canvas is the end of the process. I spend 99% of the time drawing, imagining how the finished work will look and hoping the hours spent creating a piece will come together in the final image when I spray it somewhere.

*What moves you most either to inspire you? Inspiring others is what is most inspirational to me most in my life. Going to schools, running workshops, travelling to new places and this alternative use of seeing how it helps and people is what keeps me motivated.*

*Do you try out new materials/subjects that are uncomfortable at first?* I am pushing myself to experiment with new ideas and new subjects. I have worked on wood and I have experimented with backgrounds, different colours, stainings and ways of using backdrops for my stencils.

Words by Jean-David Malat



*"This Future \*\*\*King piece created a worldwide media stir and made people aware of the Simmons style of work and ability to create iconic imagery"*

**1883 Magazine**



**БРИТАНСКИЙ ХУДОЖНИК РИЧ СИММОНС, НОВАЯ ЗВЕЗДА СТРИТ-АРТА, – ИЗ ТЕХ, КТО ОДНАЖДЫ ПРОСНУЛСЯ ЗНАМЕНЫТЫМ. ВИЗИТ В БАКУ СТАЛ ЕГО ПЕРВЫМ ПУТЕШЕСТВИЕМ В СТАТУСЕ ЗВЕЗДЫ.**

ТЕКСТ: ED CAESAR ФОТО: KIM LENG HILLS  
ГРАФИКА: СЕРГЕЙ ШУРИН

НА ШЕСТИ  
ХОЛСТАХ



**В**от уже полтора часа Рич Симмонс ведет мастер-класс по стрит-арту для студентов-подавателей Азербайджанской государственной академии изобразительного искусства. Он рассказывает о том, что такое уличное искусство и как оно появилось. Также вспоминает, как сам стал художником.


Подобные выступления пока даются Симмонсу нелегко. 25 лет, и до своей поездки в Баку он выезжал за пределы Великобритании лишь раз, когда подростком отдыхал на Тенесси. В 18 лет у него диагностировали синдром Аспергера, и, несмотря на то что он душа любой маленькой компании, ему трудно говорить перед большой незнакомой аудиторией. Периодически он сбрасывает напряжение резкой фразой или остроумной шуткой. В такие моменты он очень обаятелен, но на этот раз его откровенность не вызывает должной реакции.

Слетка обескураженный, Симмонс продолжает практическую демонстрацию. Он собирается при помощи трафарета на холст краской из баллончика изображение мужчины с длинными усами, который тоже держит баллончик с краской. Трафарет скопирован с рекламы ремонта обуви, взятой из американского журнала 1950-х годов. Человек на картинке очень похож на Сталина.

Студенты тихо переговариваются, наблюдая, как Симмонс крепит трафарет к холсту и вооружается баллончиком белой краской. Пять минут – и картина готова. «Если бы она продавалась за несколько тысяч фунтов, – говорит Симмонс, очень тщательно выговаривая слова, как преподаватель английского языка для иностранцев. – Я нанес бы за две минуты. Как видите, быть уличным художником просто».

«Итак, что думаете?» – внезапно обращается он к студентам. Повисает пауза. Одна девушка, брюнетка лет двадцати, хонько говорит: «Не знаю... это все так ново...»

Похоже, присутствующие постепенно пытаются оценить иронию ситуации: перед ними копия американской рекламы середины XX века, навевающая воспоминания об СССР, которую только что создал британский художник, родившийся десятилетиями позже создания оригинала. И тут история вдруг оживает. Студенты и преподаватели обсуждают работу Симмонса. К концу мастер-класса художник окружен людьми.



*"Simmons's bold and beautiful work certainly stands out from street art crowd, despite employing many of its conventions. Somehow, in his hands, the use of montage and slogans feels fresh and new."*

**HUFFINGTON  
POST**





*"The art itself could very well be described as a successful fusion. His representations of familiar figures, both real and fictional, allow Simmons to construct narratives, sometimes in only a single frame. What Rich Simmons produces is definitely art, from the street to the gallery enthusiasts of all stripes respond to his work. Simmons is proving that passion, dedication and a wide variety of influences can create engaging cross-cultural art."*

**DECOMPOZ Magazine**

*In 2009, Rich was awarded a Vinspired Award as the most inspirational young volunteer in the UK for his work with Art Is The Cure and The Princes Trust.*

Art  
is the  
Cure





*"I started Art Is The Cure in 2008 with a simple idea, inspire other people who were struggling to find creativity as a release. Art was a natural release for me, I had always been creative growing up. When I talked to my friends about the things I was going through at the time, I realised what I was doing was a form of art therapy. Instead of self harming or turning to negative releases when I was struggling at home, I would draw or paint and thats how I escaped the pain. Art was my cure. I realised that art therapy wasn't well known enough for other people like me to find that natural release and I made it my goal to create something that would raise awareness and inspire others to find their creative cure. Over a decade later, Art Is The Cure has inspired countless people to discover creative therapy and find a cure through art."*

**[www.artisthecure.org](http://www.artisthecure.org)**  
**@artisthecureorg**





*"Being an artist requires you to tap into dark places to create beauty."*  
**ART IS THE CURE, Award Winning Short Film**



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**RICH SIMMONS**  
**ART**

