

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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LYMAN ALLYN EXHIBITION SURVEYS THE BOLD WORKS OF STREET ARTIST SHEPARD FAIREY

New London – The Lyman Allyn Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of *SHEPARD FAIREY: FACING THE GIANT, Three Decades of Dissent*, on view from Jun. 6 through Sept. 6. The exhibition surveys three decades of work by renowned American street artist Shepard Fairey, tracing the evolution of his visual language and social commentary from the late 1980s to the present.

Among the most recognizable figures in contemporary street art, Fairey is widely regarded as a pioneer of the modern urban art scene. Drawn from works created between 1989 through 2019, the exhibition features a curated selection of 30 hand-painted multiples – prints on unique collaged backgrounds with additional stenciling and embellishments – as well as two additional Fairey prints from the Lyman Allyn’s own collection. The selections span Fairey’s early imagery inspired by punk rock and skate culture to later works addressing social justice, environmental sustainability, and political engagement.

The show’s title, *FACING THE GIANT*, references the iconic figure at the center of Fairey’s long-running *Obey Giant* campaign. In 1989, while a student at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Fairey ran a sticker art campaign called “Andre the Giant Has a Posse.” The project evolved into his trademark *Obey Giant* series, artistic manifesto and a global phenomenon.

Fairey’s work is included in the collections at the Smithsonian Institution, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, as well as BEYOND STREETS Los Angeles, New York and London.

Best known to many for creating the iconic “Hope” poster during Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign, Fairey continues to use art as a platform for civic engagement, activism, and cultural dialogue. *SHEPARD FAIREY: FACING THE GIANT, Three Decades of Dissent* offers visitors an opportunity to explore the breadth of his artistic practice and the enduring relevance of his message.



Shepard Fairey, *Defend Dignity*, (2017) 2019, screenprint and mixed media collage on paper, 30 x 41 in.

The opening reception is Friday, June 5, from 5 - 7 p.m. Museum members are free, and non-members are \$10. To register, call 860.443.2545 ext. 2129 or email us at info@lymanallyn.org.

In conjunction with *FACING THE GIANT*, Lyman Allyn is pleased to host a special installation of sticker art, partnering with [The Annex](#) as part of their annual **Sticker Art Show**. Sticker Art is a popular form of street art that involves using stickers to display images or messages on public surfaces. Curated by WORMO and MIAB, *Sticker Art* can be found at The Annex, Dutch Tavern and Oasis Pub in downtown New London from May 30 to July 12. The Annex is a modern concept of a collective artist space and is located at 140 State Street, New London. It is open Thursday through Saturday 12 - 7 pm, Sunday 12 - 5pm.

Join us for a special screening of the 2017 documentary *Obey Giant* on Wednesday, July 22 from 5 - 7 pm. The film takes an in-depth look at Fairey's life and work. Free to the public. RSVP to 860.443.2545 ext. 2129 or info@lymanallyn.org

Facing the Giant: 3 Decade of Dissent was curated by Pedro Alonzo, an independent contemporary art curator who worked closely with Fairey in selecting the artworks. This exhibition was organized by the Landau Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA, in association with OBERY GIANT ART. This, and all exhibitions at the Lyman Allyn, have been made possible with support from an anonymous foundation, and by the Connecticut State Legislature, administered by the DECD, Office of the Arts.

About Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 20,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open **Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.**, and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit www.lymanallyn.org.