

File 8 p. 87 • Why putting £1m through the shredder is Banksy's greatest work

The art world will never be the same again.

For once, an artist has genuinely mocked the system that reduces art to nothing but a commodity¹. What happened at Sotheby's is Banksy's greatest work. He has said something that needed to be said: art is being choked² to death by money. The only real rebellion left is for works of art to destroy themselves the moment they are sold. [...]

When the auctioneer's hammer³ came down at Sotheby's and a "modern masterpiece" began to eat itself, the stage was set perfectly. Here was the art world's moment of truth – however theatrical and multifaceted it may prove to be. Of course, this revolt will be assimilated. Of course, the market will smile and the cash tills⁴ will go on ringing. Yet for once the commodity bit back. Art turned on the hands that feed it.

Abridged from *www.theguardian.com*, 2018

1. *marchandise* **2.** *étouffé* **3.** *marteau* **4.** *caisses*