About That $615,000 Banksy?

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You probably recall that during a “residency” in New York City last fall, British street artist Banksy took a $50 landscape painting by K. Sager that was on sale at a Housing Works thrift shop, added a Nazi figure to it and then gave it back to the organization to auction—and that the winning bid was $615,000. But did you know that the bid fell through? Housing Works, which fights the dual epidemics of homelessness and HIV/AIDS, says it is reviewing its options and taking legal advice, but luckily, it sold the painting to one of the qualified underbidders and then arranged to have the artwork delivered to the purchaser’s New York home (the price tag and owner remain confidential info). Through its thrift shops and regular online auction business, Housing Works raises nearly $16 million annually for its lifesaving services.

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