



**PRESTEL**

MUNICH • LONDON • NEW YORK

# RATS & MONKEYS

ALESSANDRA MATTANZA







# THE ARMY OF THE INVISIBLES

**“NOBODY NEAR ME HERE, BUT RATS,  
AND THEY ARE FINE STEALTHY SECRET  
FELLOWS.”**

**CHARLES DICKENS**



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**BANKSY HAS ALWAYS LOVED RATS. “RATS EXIST WITHOUT PERMISSION. THEY ARE HATED, HUNTED AND PERSECUTED. THEY LIVE IN QUIET DESPERATION AMONGST THE FILTH. AND YET THEY ARE CAPABLE OF BRINGING ENTIRE CIVILISATIONS TO THEIR KNEES,” HE STRESSED. IT’S NO SURPRISE ANYWAY, BECAUSE, IF YOU DIG DEEP ENOUGH, YOU WILL FIND THAT BANKSY AND RATS HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.**

Rats are shy, quiet, alert, and very intelligent. They move at night, while everyone else is sleeping. They hide in the walls, on street corners, underground—they can sneak into the smallest holes, taking advantage of the flexibility of their bodies. They can also blend in perfectly with their surroundings,