

MASTERS OF INVENTION

FURTHER REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

WORDS, DEFINITIONS:

Oxford Dictionary: GRAFFITI - Writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place. *'The station was covered in graffiti'*. (Origin Italian, mid -19 Century)

Urban Dictionary: STREET ART - art developed in public spaces or in the streets - though the term can refer to art of an illicit nature (opposed to government or community initiatives, so can include traditional graffiti artwork) - it is more often used to distinguish modern public-space artwork from graffiti and its overtones of vandalism.

TATE.com – 'Graffiti art has its origins in 1970s New York, when young people began to use spray paint and other materials to create images on buildings and on the sides of subway trains. Such graffiti can range from bright graphic images (wildstyle) to the stylised monogram (tag).

Graffiti as such, is rarely seen in galleries and museums, yet its aesthetic has been incorporated into artists' work. Early exponents of graffiti in art included the French artist Jean Dubuffet who incorporated tags and graphic motifs into his paintings, and the New York artists Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring who could be defined as street art pioneers.

More recently, artists such as Barry McGee and Banksy have had their work exhibited in commercial spaces.'

Kelly Wall on Street art:

Kelly Wall, *A Brief History of Graffiti*: "Studying graffiti can allow you to become conscious of what it means to make your mark over time.... we are left with questions about who made the mark, how and why?"

Graffiti presents a view of past from the perspective of rare and lesser known, everyday people."

In Egypt and Turkey, graffiti during times of dissent and revolution, for example the Arab Spring, showed how graffiti memorializes the voices of individuals who resist censorship and persist to have their memories shared publicly, even if the act of graffiti poses a risk to their own health or safety."

Graffiti offers learners an opportunity to discover how and for whom history is remembered."

Kelly Wall, <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/a-brief-history-of-graffiti-kelly-wall>

RELATED AREAS OF STUDY:

Graphic design, graphic novels; Calligraphy, typography and lettering; Engraving; Stonecarving and furniture design; 3-d design; Illustration; Animation; Holographics and pixel art; Printmaking and stencil art; History - sub cultures and underground social protest movements; Archaeology +and world cultures.

BACKGROUND: graffiti and street art

In the beginning ...

It all started in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and in New York in the late 1960's: a time of civil unrest and cultural turbulence. New York City was broke, consequently the transit system was poorly maintained and this enabled the heaviest 'bombing' (to create graffiti at night) in history. Names and nicknames started to appear on buildings, post-boxes, phone boxes, under ground tunnels, buses and finally on subway trains. The early 'tagging' activity - making your mark and writing on walls - then took on very quickly with writers like Cornbread and Cool Earl.

Taki 183, whose name was to be seen all over NY, gave an interview to *The New York Times* in 1971. Taki's real name was Demetrius: 183 was the number of the street where he lived. This young Greek boy wrote his name almost everywhere during his work hours as a messenger. Other well-known writers from that period were Joe 136, Barbara and Eva 62, Eel 159, Yank 135, Julio 204 and Frank 207 and many others. By 1975, the standards had been set. A new school was about to reap the benefits of the artistic foundations established by prior generations in a city in the midst of a financial crisis.

Something like a phenomenon

Writers began to increase the thickness of the letters and would also outline them with an additional colour. Caps from other aerosol products could provide a larger width of spray, leading to the development of the Graffiti masterpiece. It is difficult to say who did the first masterpiece, it is commonly credited to Super Kool 223 of the Bronx, and Wap of Brooklyn. The thicker letters provide the opportunity to decorate the interior of the letters with what are termed 'designs', first with simple dots, later with crosshatches, stars, and checkerboards. Designs are limited only by an artist's imagination. Many different styles could be seen on the subways cars: illustrations and cartoon characters were used to illustrate the letters. Every style has its name: top-to-bottom, block letters, block busters, panel pieces, leaning letters, window down, whole car, throw ups... For example the Bubble style was invented by Phase II. A more complex development of the letter design makes the piece totally unreadable to the average commuter. Writers call it "wildstyle".

Hip-Hop culture in the US and Europe

Hip Hop Culture, already very popular in the United States, started developing in Europe in the early 1980's. The seminal track by Afrika Bambaataa "Planet Rock" became an international hit. Aerosol art was promoted through television and media as graffiti artwork featured more regularly in popular video clips, music (Malcome McLaren's Buffalo Girls) and books. New York graffiti writers began to be invited to show their work in European art galleries. Breakdancers such as the *Rock Steady Crew* started touring. Films such as "Style Wars" by Tony Silver and Henry Chalfant and "Wild Style" by Charlie Ahearn described and promoted aerosol culture, and young artists like Zephyr, Dondi White, Lee, and Seen were now considered to be the rising stars of an emerging Hip Hop European scene.

Post-graffiti

The interest in showing graffiti on canvas developed as soon as it was sprayed on the city walls. In 1972, Hugo Martinez, sociology major at City College in New York, took note of the legitimate artistic potential of the early generation of graffiti writers. The 'United Graffiti Artists' collective along with Martinez, showed top subway artists from all around the city and began to present work in the formal context of art galleries: UGA provided

opportunities once inaccessible to these artists. The Razor Gallery was also a successful enterprise formed by H. Martinez and the artists he represented: Phase 2, Mico, Coco 144, Pistol, Flint 707, Bama, Snake, and Stitch 1. A 1973 article in *New York Magazine* by Richard Goldstein entitled "The Graffiti Hit Parade" denoted early public recognition of the artistic potential of subway artists.

In the early 1980's in NY, Art galleries like Fashion Moda, Patti Astor's Fun Gallery and a little later on, Sydney Janis all started to show graffiti work on canvas to expand their range. These and subsequent galleries would prove to be important factors in promoting graffiti writing overseas. European art dealers became aware of the movement and were very receptive to this new art form. Many shows featured painting by Dondi White, Lee, Zephyr, Lady Pink, Daze, Futura 2000, Crash, and Rammellzee.

In Holland, the exhibitions of such artworks in the Boymans-van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam (1983) and the Groningen Museum in 1992, "Coming from the Subway" were an unbelievable success. Art critics and collectors talked enthusiastically about their artworks - these events were crucial for the development and promotion of aerosol art in Europe. Today's Old school artists are recognized by the institutions and now contemporary Museums - even own Post Graffiti works in their collections. Pieces by aerosol and street artists - paintings and sculptures are widely sold today, in auction sales and fine art galleries around the world.

TIMELINE: key events and commentaries

1949: Edward Seymour invents spray paint.

1966: Early 'writers' from Philadelphia like CORNBREAD and COOL EARL start scribing their names throughout the city and catch the attention of the media.

1967: The trend spreads from Philadelphia to New York and spreads to local groups of 'writers' who start 'tagging' their aliases with their street number such as JULIO 204, CAY161, TAKI 183 and Top Cat 126.

1971: First tags start appearing on the outside of New York subway trains. Style begins developing as writers try and make their tags more noticeable and unique. 'The Aerosol Autographers - Why They Do It' article by Sandy Padwe appears in *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*, with interviews with CORNBREAD and friends, the first 'graffiti writers' ever. (May 2, 1971). Article: 'TAKI 183 Spawn Pen Pals' by Don Hogan Charles, in *The New York Times*, also mentions Julio and the arrival of TTP (tags / throw-ups/pieces) in New York. (July 21).

1972: Writers start outlining their names and adding dots, clouds and stars. The realisation that nozzles from other household aerosol products have different spray widths improves technique.

1973: An early photo record and essay: *Norman Mailer/Jon Naar/Mervin Kurlansky: The Faith of Graffiti*, by Alskog is published (N.Y. 1973). Also a significant exhibition opens at The Razor Gallery, NY featuring PHASE 2, MICO, COCO 144, PISTOL, FLINT 707, BAMA, SNAKE, and STITCH 1.

1974: Graffiti is seen to work as a *rite de passage* and a system for social support. Cultural commentary proliferates: A seminal film documenting the graffiti subculture is broadcast across the USA: *Wild Style* produced by Charlie Ahearn, is regarded as the first hip hop motion picture. The film included key figures such as Fab Five Freddy, Lady Pink, The Rock Steady Crew, and Grandmaster Flash. The film's protagonist "Zoro" is played by New York graffiti artist "Lee" George Quiñones. *Getting up. Subway Graffiti in New York*. (Craig Castleman: MIT Press, Camb. Mass. 1982) is the first descriptive sociology dissertation on the subway graffiti movement and a milestone in TTP graffiti research with its sign categories and wall writers. *Urban Graffiti as Territorial Markers* (David Ley & Roman Cybrivsky (Association of American Geographers, Vol. 64, no 4) 1974) – is an unusual thesis which among other things, deals with the transition from traditional gang graffiti to graffiti loners, kings and crews.

By 1979 street artist Jean-Michel Basquiat had appeared on a US talk show and in 1980 he featured in *The Times Square Show* multi-artist exhibition.

1980: Graffiti becomes associated with the burgeoning youth culture of Hip-Hop, as adults begin to document the culture more and more. Street writers who exhibit in galleries achieve celebrity status, start attending high-society parties and befriend rock stars! Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five release numerous singles.

1981: With international exhibitions and media coverage, graffiti goes worldwide as countries like England, France, Australia and Japan also acknowledge the movement.

1982: *Style Wars*, Tony Silver's video documentary, comments on the worldwide phenomenon. Grandmaster Flash release 'The Message' - a hit track.

1983: *Train as Book, Letter as Tank, Character as Dimension* (Edith deAk: Art Forum, May, 1983) contains a vitally important interview with Rammellzee on graffiti theory. He talks about the underground revolution in letterform, and the individualities and symbolic function of graffiti fonts.

1984: Henry Chalfant's seminal book, *Subway Art* is published. The movie *Breakin* (director: Joel Silberg) becomes internationally successful.

1987: Hip-Hop and graffiti art are now increasing in popularity across Western Europe and also emerging in South American cities, which have their own tradition of political mural painting.

FURTHER READING:

[The Faith Of Graffiti](#) Norman Mailer and Jon Naar, 1973

[Getting Up](#), Craig Castleman, 1982

[Subway Art](#), Martha Cooper and Henry Chalfant, 1984

[Spraycan Art](#), Henry Chalfant and James Pijoff, 1987

[The Art Of Getting Over](#), Steve Powers, 1999

[The Graffiti Subculture](#), Nancy MacDonald, 2001

[Dondi White: Style Master General](#), Andrew Witten and Michael White, 2001

[Graffiti World](#), Nicholas Ganz, 2004

[Fuzz One](#), Vincent Fedorchak, 2005

[The Birth Of Graffiti](#), Sacha Jenkins [Forward] and Jon Naar, 2007

[All City Writers](#), Andrea Caputo, 2012

[Wall Writers – Graffiti in Its Innocence](#), Edited by Roger Gastman, 2016

[8697](#), Boris Tellegen, 2016

[This Is Not a T-Shirt: A Brand, a Culture, a Community](#), Bobby Hundreds, 2019

MASTERS OF INVENTION exhibitors' films:

WARNING: *Some of these contain EXPLICIT language and images!*

Errol Donald /PRIDE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCwMJbC5t48>

<https://www.designweek.co.uk/issues/january-2014/four-corners-an-interview-with-errol-donald-aka-pride/>

<https://www.errol-donald.com/the-chrome-angelz.php>

<http://www.nielsshoemeulman.com/calligraffiti/>

Boris Tellegen/ DELTA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXPD47kdyM>

<http://www.beautifuldecay.com/2012/01/19/delta-from-graffiti-to-architecture/>

MODE 2: <https://vimeo.com/198246722>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYr3HDD3ox0>

[The Rise of Graffiti Writing – From New York To Europe \(8/10\) Crime Time Kings | 1985 – 1987](#)

Keith Hopewell/Part 2 –ism, MYTH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCwMJbC5t48>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzy8om6R6BI>

Elk O' Sullivan: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNtKct_CBw8

OTHER KEY FILMS:

Wild Style (1982) - Charlie Ahearn 1983 Charlie Ahearn (trailer) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hee38-NV11E>

Style Wars (1983 – Tony Silvers Graffiti Documentary) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB3Js2tKA5Y>

BEAUTIFUL LOSERS (1990s subculture street art documentary Amina Zeghar IDA):

<https://www.documentary.org/online-feature/make-something-beautiful-losers-celebrates-subculture>

Jean Michel Basquiat Documentary film (2017) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omqwxClSXXc>

Piece by piece: San Francisco (documentary 2005) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ub8uRFzUCQ>

Infamy - documentary (2005) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_3O3cy6vE4

Bomb it - Graffiti documentary (2007) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2ith63Hcf4>

Exit through the Gift Shop, BANKSY (2010) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG8iaAFAM58>

Kelly Wall: *TED-Ed: Is Graffiti Art? Or Vandalism* (2016) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GNoUYZhrT0>

KAWS (Graffiti/Street Artist) Blueprint films, 2017 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMH8b-lp5uM>

Wall Writers, Graffiti in its innocence by Roger Gastman, book and film 2016 (trailer)

<https://vimeo.com/39232569>

Yarn Art and Guerrilla Knitted Street Art, overview, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjaaC2yM4Pc>

PichiAvo street artist installation intervention, 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2ith63Hcf4>

ONLINE ARTICLES/INFORMATION PAGES:

From Graffiti to Gallery: <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/08/03/living/ireport-street-art-public-art/index.html>

Victoria and Albert Museum article: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/s/street-art/>

Review and overview of contemporary street artists 2014: <https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/gallery/global-street-art-concrete-canvas-book>

AZ Media Report on US legal Battles – Graffiti and Street Artists (2018): <https://azbigmedia.com/4-tips-for-property-owners-when-graffiti-artists-paint-building/>

Brazilian Street Artist, Panmela Castro documentary: <https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/her-panmela-castro/index.html>

Graffiti research and timeline: <https://anarchyisorder.wordpress.com/2012/11/28/graffiti-research-history/>

Do Female Graffiti Artists Have it Harder? <https://www.format.com/magazine/features/art/female-graffiti-artists>

News article on criminality and street art/graffiti, 2018 - <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/art/features/graffiti-street-art-ndash-or-crime-868736.html>

Graffiti: street art or vandalism?, London Evening Standard (2019)
<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/esmagazine/graffiti-art-or-vandalism-london-a4119231.html>

Design blog overview of 3-D graffiti styles: <https://www.printexpress.co.uk/design/3d-graffiti-a-showcase/> -

TWITTER FEEDS:

@jhookedblog @globalstreetart @streetartnews @widewalls1 @hifruuctosemag @streetartmagic

KEY INSTAGRAM FEEDS:

@phlegm_art @kaws @malarko @obeygiant (Shepard Fairey, OBEY) @basquiatart
@cope2_art_life @keith_haring @keo_xmen @mrdoodle @kennyscharf @upfest
@graffiti_n_wallart @urbanvibescommunity @beyondthestreetsart @graffiti_legendz

HASHTAGS TO USE:

#3dgraffiti #GlobalStreetArt #StreetArt #graffitiart #bombingscience #streetartandgraffiti #wallart #mural
#graffitistyle #lettering #graffitiletters #graffonetics #graffiti #spraypaint #urbanart #artwork #graffitiart
#graffitiart #graff #graffhead #streetartistry #streetshots #streetarteverywhere #streetartglobe #spraydaily
#streetartandgraffiti #graffitiworld

PINTEREST BOARDS:

<https://pin.it/aclzqqkh5lvck6> <https://pin.it/gwulnbpbt4j7j> <https://pin.it/ckdc6o4tqomsaz>
<https://pin.it/hryojojo2nwt2h>

KEY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS TO RESEARCH:

Coming from the Subway, group exhibition, Groningen, NL, 1999

Miss Van, (French Street Artist), **Still a Little Magic** at Upper Playground, San Francisco, US, 2008

Banksy, solo exhibition, Bristol City Museum, 2009

The Architects, group show, The Atom Rooms, 2010

Phlegm: The Bestiary (Sheffield street artist), Howard Griffin Gallery, London, 2014

Dismaland, temporary art project with 58 artists, organised by street artist Banksy, Weston Super Mare, 2015

Beyond the Streets, 2018, (LA) – a multi-media exhibition curated by Roger Gastman, graffiti historian, urban anthropologist and collector and a dynamic follow-up to his Art in the Streets show, the U.S.' first-ever graffiti and street art retrospective' at MoCA in LA.

KAWS: GONE, Skarstedt Gallery, New York 2018

Drawing the Line – retrospective of graffiti art, Unfamous Gallery, Queens' Univ, NY, 2019

Swiss Dream: Nadib Bandi exhibition at iDroom, Art Hotel Windsor 2019

OTHER COOL REFERENCE DESIGN PTES AND BLOGS:

UpFest (Bristol annual street art festival) <https://www.upfest.co.uk/>

Biographies of numerous worldwide street artists - <http://www.streetartbio.com/>

Bound book project of graffiti artists' work - <http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/getty-voices-graffiti-black-book/>

GraffCity: UK information portal and shop - <https://www.graff-city.com/blog/2017/06/the-history-of-graffiti-graffiti-comes-to-the-uk/>

One of the many graffiti typography/font sites:

<https://www.urbanfonts.com/fonts/graffiti-fonts.htm>

ALSO: <http://www.graffitifonts.com/>

Bios of Street artists of the world: <https://www.spraydaily.com/t/mode2/>

Colossal magazine - <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/category/design/Colossal>

Street Art 360, news information site - <https://streetart360.net>

Juxtapoz magazine based on urban street art, design and culture -

<https://www.juxtapoz.com/>

<https://graffitilife.co.uk/> - a creative collective based in Shoreditch, London

<http://truly-design.com/> - mural art and graffiti based design collective, London

IDEAS AND PROJECTS:

Think about ... *and answer these questions*

- Have you seen any graffiti before?
- Have you seen any street art ('legal' such as murals or outdoor sculptures)?
- Why do some people do graffiti in public areas?
- Do you think illegal graffiti should be removed?
- Do you think all graffiti is the same? Why / Why not?
- Do you know of any work by Banksy? Which ones?
- Do you think street artists like Banksy have a message?
- Can you have street art in a gallery exhibition?
- Why / why not?
- What kind of exhibitions have you seen before?
- Which did you like the most?

Ideas - find out about ...

- When do you think *street-art* becomes 'legal'? and when does it become 'art'?

FACT: *Brad Pitt recently spent over 2 million dollars on a Banksy original!*

- FIND OUT the early roots of the word 'graffiti'? Find an example of very early graffiti.
- DO YOU THINK writing on walls as a form of protest is important, and why?
- Why was graffiti historically important to places such as i. Prague or ii. Berlin. RESEARCH how an area of design has gone from 'street' style to mainstream, and the process (eg. The Hundreds or skate-wear as a style).

FACT: *Banksy is a mystery UK street-artist who remains anonymous. Nobody knows much about his life or his background, but he is known for spray painting on live sheep and political graffiti appearing overnight on important locations like the wall separating Palestine and Israel.*

- Is it important that street artists remain anonymous (e.g. Bonom, Invader) - and why?
- RESEARCH other media, such as hip hop and breakdance music which was part of street art culture. How did these forms have an influence and develop during the 1970s-90s and who were their most important figures?
- Can street art and graffiti be ecological? If so, how?

- If you had the chance to do a large scale street-art piece or outdoor mural, what would you do?
- ROLEPLAY: You are Banksy, the world’s most famous street artist. You are a very private person who hardly ever gives interviews. Prepare to answer the journalist’s questions (draft some questions and think about how you’d give the interview!)

Things to DO!

1. Design your own graffiti style lettering font. There are lots of guides online ...
2. Find out how to make moss graffiti... make some!
3. Learn how to make simple stencils and how to use them to make a simple art piece on a surface of your choice
4. Make a mini-outdoor mural (get permission) using suitable materials (chalk, or washable) and a subject that is important to you, or for the location in which it will be seen
5. Experiment with drawing graffiti style lettering – e.g. of your name or a good word. You can animate the process into a mini-film to make the letters move and come to life.

PS. Remember, it's illegal to paint on somebody else's property - better find somewhere that's legal if you want to try it!

GALLERY QUIZ - hunt down the answers!

‘Wildstyle is a type of graffiti lettering. Name two 2 places in the gallery where this can be found?

.....

Which artist’s ‘wildstyle’ artwork is made from a continuous line?

.....

Which exhibit in this gallery has the word ‘LIFE’ hidden in it?

.....

Once you find it – can you write one of the words that describes the techniques used in his artwork?

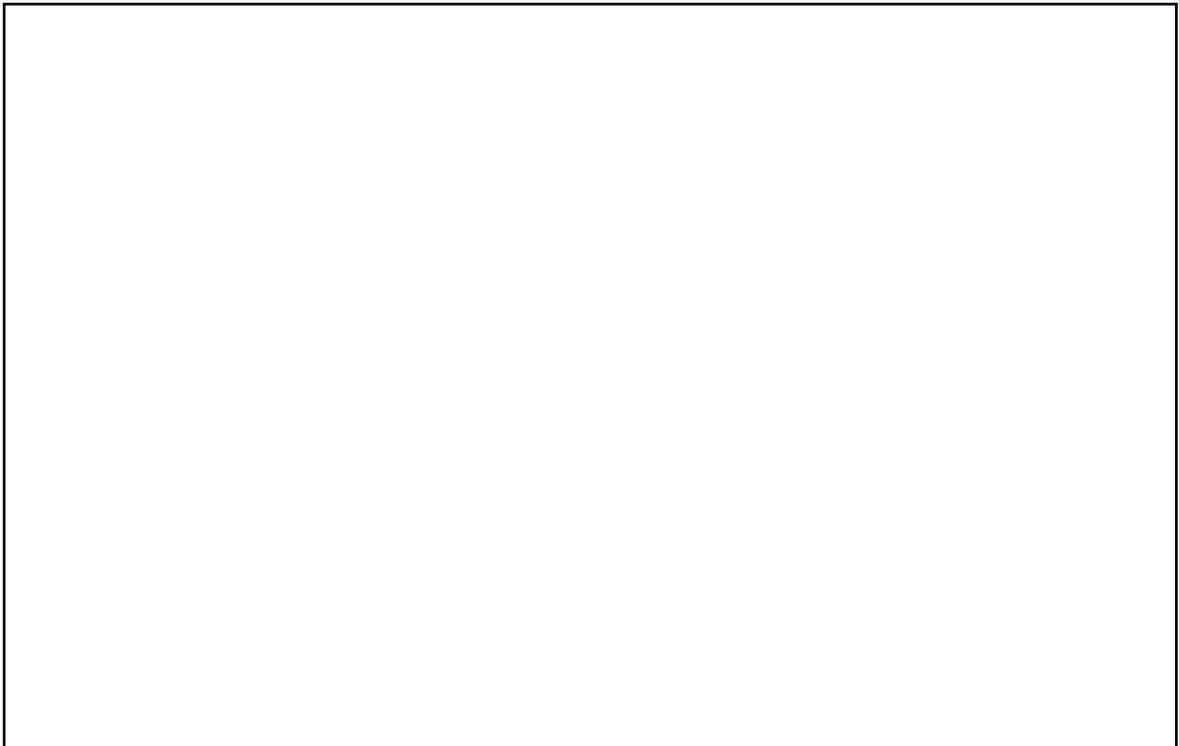
.....

Find the piece in here where you can see your face in a STAR. Who is the artist?

.....

DRAW it HERE:

FILL in with your DESIGN!



Visit our website for more information about our exhibitions, education offer, craft events and FREEHAND education programme for schools, colleges and community groups.

www.crafts.org.uk

MASTERS OF INVENTION

GLOSSARY of graffiti and street art related keywords

Angels - Famous or respected graffiti artists who have died. The people who admire them tag their names on a wall with halos above them or make tribute pieces with their faces or tag with the dates of their birth to death.

Back to back - Graffiti that covers a wall from end to end, as seen on some parts of the West-Berlin side of the Berlin Wall. Similarly, trains sometimes receive end to end painting when a carriage has been painted along its entire length. This is often abbreviated as e2e. End to ends used to be called window-downs but this is an older expression that is falling from popularity.

Black book - A graffiti artist's sketchbook. Also known as a "piece book." It is often used to sketch out and plan potential graffiti, and to collect tags from other writers. It is a writer's most valuable property, containing all or a majority of the person's sketches and pieces. A writer's sketchbook is carefully guarded from the police and other authorities, as it can be used as material evidence in a graffiti vandalism case and link a writer to previous illicit works.

Bite - To steal another artist's ideas, name, lettering or colour schemes. Seasoned artists will often complain about 'toys that bite their work'.

Bomb - To bomb or hit is to paint many surfaces in an area. Bombers often choose to paint throw-ups or tags instead of complex pieces, as they can be executed more quickly.

Burner - 1. A large, more elaborate type of piece. The piece could be said to be "burning" out of the wall, billboard, or train-side. Because they take so much time and effort, burners in downtown areas are more likely to be legal pieces, painted with the consent of the property owner. The early writers of New York City also did burners illegally on trains, and adventurous modern writers sometimes still do large-scale illegal pieces in heavily trafficked areas.

2. More recently, any quick chrome bombing or throwup.

Cannon(s) - a slang term for spray paint cans. This term is thought to originate in Brooklyn, New York.

Cap (I) - The nozzle for the aerosol paint can, also referred to as Tips. Different kinds are used for different styles. New York Thins, Rustos, and New York Fats are the most commonly used caps.

cap (II) - To cross out or in any other way ruin a piece made by others. Derives from a writer named "Cap" who was infamous for making throw-ups over others' pieces.

Crew - A crew, krew, or cru is a group of associated writers or graffiti artists that often work together. Crews are differentiated from gangs in that their main objective is to paint graffiti, although gang-like activity can occur. Any group of friends can quickly and informally form a crew if they are interested in graffiti and want to start collaborating. Often crews will recruit new members over time in order to maintain their relevance. There is a smaller risk of being held responsible for crew works if a single member gets arrested. From a legal point of view, the name could have been painted by anyone in the group.

Domming - A colour-mixing technique done by spraying one colour over another while it is still wet, then rubbing the two together. Sometimes an abrasive like sand is used to create different effects.

Dress-up - To completely write all over a specific area like a door-way, wall or window that is untouched.

Dubs - London/UK style of graffiti executed in silver or chrome paint. Usually on railway walls or street locations, it is done quickly by a crew or group of writers.

Fills - Also referred to as "bombs" "throw ups" or "throwies". Fills describe a piece of graffiti that is either filled in a rush or a solid fill. A fill is also the interior base colour of the piece of graffiti.

Gallery - Locations such as overpasses and walls facing train tracks that are secluded from the general public but are popular with writers. Since anything that is written is likely to stay for a while, an accumulation of styles and skills can be viewed.

German Montana - Specialty paint brand company designed for graffiti. Due to a dispute in name branding, it is unrelated to Spanish Montana, a company selling the same products which capitalized on the idea first.

Going over - To "go over" a piece of graffiti simply means to paint on top of it. While most writers respect one another's artwork, to intentionally and disrespectfully paint on top of another's work is akin to a graffiti declaration of war. However (due partially to the limited amount of desirable wall-space) most graffiti writers maintain a hierarchy of sorts; a tag can legitimately be covered by a throw-up, and a throw-up by a piece, and this is commonly done without incident. If a piece has previously been slashed (or "dissed"), it is also acceptable for another writer to go over it. To violate these guidelines, or to simply paint lower-quality graffiti on top of a higher-quality artist's work will quickly characterize a writer as an annoyance, or "toy." This is dangerous as most crews and writers will react with physical violence and/or by repeatedly going over writers not respecting their self-claimed rank in the hierarchy. also: hot 110

Heaven spots (or 'heavens') - Pieces that are painted in hard-to-reach places such as rooftops and freeway signs, thus making them hard to remove. Such pieces, by the nature of the spot, often pose dangerous challenges to execute, but may increase

an artist's notoriety. This term also encompasses a double-meaning as the locations are often very dangerous to paint there and it may lead to death, thus, going to heaven (also known as "hitting up the heavens").

Hollow - also referred to as "outlines" and "shells". A hollow is a piece of graffiti that contains no fill.

Insides - Graffiti done inside trains, trams, or buses. In 1970s New York, there was as much graffiti inside the subway trains as outside, and the same is true of some cities today (like Rome, Italy and Melbourne, Australia). While still very common, insides are often perceived as being less artistic.

King - The opposite of toys. Kings or queens (feminine) are writers especially respected among other writers. This is sometimes separated into "inside" and "outside" kings. To be a king of the inside means you have most tags inside trains (to "own the inside"), and to "own the outside" means having most pieces on the train surface. One should note that there are kings of style among a variety of other categories and the term is regionally subjective. For example, in Los Angeles a king would be someone who has achieved status by longevity, style, ups, and originality. Self-declared kings will often incorporate crowns into their pieces; a commonly used element of style. However the people must be very self-confident when doing it, since other great writers tend to slash out self-proclaimed kings who have not gained that rank yet in their eyes. Typically a writer can only become a king if another king with that status already has declared them so.

Krylon - A paint brand that was one of the most popular with writers. It is virtually synonymous with graffiti, due to its general quality and availability. Heavily used during the hey-day of the New York City Subway graffiti era in the early 1970s to late 1980s, it has a nostalgic status. Starting in mid-2008, the brand introduced a generation of paint can design with an irremovable cap system that sprays a rectangular coverage instead of the circular coverage preferred by writers. The paint quality is runnier and translucent in comparison to graffiti specialty brands.

Legal - A graffiti piece or production that is made with permission. Writers normally have to have gained experience writing illegal graffiti in the streets for a considerable amount of time to be respected for legal graffiti.

Lock on - Sculpture art in a public space, typically chained to public furniture with an old bike lock. The Lock On style is a "non destructive" form of underground art.

Mural - see "piece"

One-liner - A tag, throwie, or bomb written in one constant motion. These may be done with any writing utensil. The tip or nozzle of the writing implement does not lift from the canvas until the tag is complete.

Paste-up - A drawing, stencil etc. on paper fixed to a wall or other surface using wheat paste or wallpaper paste

Piece (short form of masterpiece) - A large, complex, and labour-intensive graffiti painting. Pieces often incorporate 3-D effects, arrows, and many colours and colour-transitions, as well as various other effects. These will usually be done by writers with more experience. Originally shorthand for masterpiece, considered the full and most beautiful work of graffiti). A piece requires more time to paint than a throw-up. If placed in a difficult location and well executed it will earn the writer more respect. Piece can also be used as a verb that means: "to write".

Roller - An enormous piece done with a paint roller instead of aerosol. These are usually completed in very simplified letter forms that resemble font, but can occasionally be very intricate and complex.

Run - The length of time graffiti remains up before being covered or removed. If a piece has been up for a year, it is said to have "run for a year".

Scribe - Also called "scratchitti," scribing creates hard-to-remove graffiti by scratching or incising a tag into an object, generally using a key, knife, stone, sand paper, ceramic drill bit, or diamond tipped Dremel bit. The Mohs scale of mineral hardness determines which stones or other objects will scratch what surfaces.

Slam - To paint an extremely conspicuous or dangerous location.

Slash - To put a line through, or tag over, another's graffiti. This is considered a deep insult. It is also known as "marking", "dissing" and "capping" (because of an infamous writer called CAP going over almost every piece on every car of the New York transit system in the early 70s and has become sort of a criticized legend because of that). Also referred to as "crossing out", "hating" or "going over".

Sticker - Also referred to as "labels" or "slaps". A sticker (often obtained from shipping companies and name greeting labels) with the writer's tag on it. A sticker can be deployed more quickly than other forms of graffiti, making it a favourite in any public place such as street crossing signs, newspaper dispensers, stop signs, phone booths etc. A popular sticker that was used originally was the "Hello my name is" red stickers in which a writer would write their graffiti name in the blank space. Reflector sticker, found at hardware stores are sometimes assembled to form a crew meaning, or individual writer's moniker.

Straight letter - Also referred to as "straights", "blockbusters" and sometimes "simples" are a direct, blocky, more readable and simpler style of graffiti. Straight letters can be read by anyone and usually contain only two colours and are most commonly completed in arrangements of silver, black, and/or white.

Tag (scribble) - A stylized signature, normally done in one colour. The simplest and most prevalent type of graffiti, a tag is often done in a colour that contrasts sharply with its background. Tag can also be used as a verb meaning "to sign". Writers often tag on or beside their pieces, following the practice of traditional artists who sign their

artwork. A less common type of tag is a "dust tag", done by smudging the dirt of a wall with the fingers. Writers use this technique to get up without technically vandalizing. The verb tagging has even become a popular verb today in other types of occasions that are non-graffiti-related. Tagging first appeared in Philadelphia, with spraypainted messages of "Bobby Beck In '59" on freeways surrounding the city. Since then, individual graffiti scenes have displayed very different forms of tagging that are unique to specific regions. For example, a Los Angeles tag will look very different from a Philadelphia tag, etc. The first "king" was also crowned in Philly: Cornbread (graffiti), a student who began marking his nickname around the city to attract the attentions of a girl. In New York City, TAKI 183 inspired a newspaper article about his exploits, leading to an explosion of tagging in the early seventies.

Throw-up - A throw-up or 'throwie' sits between a tag and a bomb in terms of complexity and time investment. It generally consists of a one colour outline and one layer of fill-colour. Easy-to-paint bubble shapes often form the letters. A throw-up is designed for quick execution, to avoid attracting attention to the writer. Throw-ups are often utilized by writers who wish to achieve a large number of tags while competing with rival artists. Most artists have both a tag and a throw-up that are essentially fixed compared to pieces. It is mostly so because they need to have a recognizable logo for others to identify them and their own individual styles.

Toy - Used as an adjective to describe poor work, or as a noun meaning an inexperienced or unskilled writer. Graffiti writers usually use this as a derogatory term for new writers in the scene, or writers who are old to the scene and still do not have any skill or reputation. The act of "toying" someone else's graffiti is to disrespect it by means of going over it (see "slash"/"going over").

Wildstyle - Graffiti with text so stylized as to be difficult to read, often with interlocking, three-dimensional type.

Woodblock graffiti - Artwork painted on a small portion of plywood or similar inexpensive material and attached to street sign posts with bolts. Often the bolts are bent at the back to prevent removal.

Writer - A practitioner of writing, a graffiti artist.

[Source: Wikipedia]