

- 1- Course title - Mural painting (Practice minor)
- 2- Course Code – BMNR-402
- 3- Program name – BS Fine Arts
- 4- Session – 2017-2021
- 5- Semester – 6th
- 6- Instructor – Shumaila Islam
- 7- Total students – 28

## **Graffiti Art**

## Definition, Meaning

One of the most radical contemporary art movements, "graffiti art" (also called "Street Art", "Subway Art" or "Aerosol Art")

Commonly refers to decorative imagery applied by paint or other means to buildings, public transport or other property.



# Background

It said to be driven from  
Classical Antiquity or  
even Prehistoric times.



## Time Period

The term essentially describes the post-1960s craze for decorating/defacing the urban environment through the use of aerosol spray paint and markers, which emerged in New York and Philadelphia.



# Contemporary Development

The B-boys, the first exemplars of hip-hop, reportedly used graffiti art as a means of expressing their frustration with life. Using marker pens, aerosol spray cans, industrial spray paint, acrylics and stencils on all types of surfaces, their 'canvases' included subway trains, walls, industrial wastelands, subways and billboards.



## Spread in Europe

Graffiti art was (and is) common throughout Europe and Japan, its historical center has been New York City. One should note that in most countries, this form of public art is regarded as **vandalism**, and is punishable as a criminal offence.

**Action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property.**



## 3 Main Genre/Styles

1. Street Gang Art
2. Anarchist Street Art
3. Political Protest Art

## Street Gang Art

**In the early days, graffiti art was used by gangs in LA, Philadelphia, and New York - like the Savage Nomads, La Familia, and Savage Skulls - to mark their territory.**



# Anarchist Street Art

- Personal graffiti art - by far the largest category - is often described as the work of political or social activists, with complex cultural agendas, while disbelievers maintain it is no more than anarchistic self-expression.
- It embraces pioneer artists such as Cornbread, Topcat 126, Cool Earl, TAKI 183, Tracy 168, and hip-hop sprayers like the celebrated Jean Dubuffet-style New York artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, as well as the work of the famous UK graffiti artist known as Banksy.



# Political Protest Art

This category, embracing authentic political protest, is exemplified by urban murals painted in Belfast and Derry by Protestant and Catholic protesters during the Northern Ireland Troubles, and by similar works painted on the Berlin Wall before the collapse of Soviet East Germany.



# Techniques of Graffiti Art

"Tagging" refers to the simple act of applying a "tag" or signature to a surface, although these tags can be highly complex in content and calligraphic in appearance. Jean-Michel Basquiat used the tag SAMO.

A "throw-up" is larger than a "tag" and is usually painted very rapidly in no more than two or three colours.



A "piece" (masterpiece) is a far more elaborate "tag", with greater intricacy and a wider range of colours. Although these "pieces" are often highly impressive as works of visual art, they can be obliterated in a matter of minutes by a rival graffiti artist with a simple "throw up"



A "blockbuster" or "roller", is a large block-shaped work often performed with a paint-roller and executed simply to cover a large area in order to stop other graffiti sprayers from painting on the same wall.



**Top-to-bottoms" are works of graffiti art that cover an entire subway car. These became popular among New York subway graffiti artists during the 1970s.**



**"Stencil graffiti", using cut-outs for the rapid creation of complex shapes, first appeared during the early 1980s, courtesy of the Parisian graffiti artist Blek le Rat and, later, Banksy.**



**Wild style" is a more elaborate form of graffiti art, typically marked by interlocking letters and connecting points, creating a more complex, occasionally indecipherable "tag" or image.**



# Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5tollaAXfU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHg7twHeIrw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB-NhQ0qqV4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eds1xcrnmUs>

# Next Lecture

History & Artists

# Assignment

Prepare two sketches for stencil graffiti and wild style graffiti

Medium: Available markers/ pencils/charcoal

Size: Maximum A3

Surface: Drawing sheet/ sketchbook paper

- Thank you