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The Magazine for Graffiti Writers, Street Lovers & Other things

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Interview

Spot KMS

La Biennale de Lyon

Barry McGee



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Forward

Bloodwars is a Pdf Magazine. Print it out pass it along. Bloodwars intention is to expose the various forms and styles of Street Bombing and what ever else I find stimulating out in the world.

Submit

If you would like to contribute to Bloodwars (don't send files) first please send an email and I will get back to you. Submit photos of what you would like to see in Bloodwars: graffiti, stencil, sticker, or what jerks your head back for a second look. Social Commentary is welcomed.
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This is a little piece of my world and me thank you for looking. sf*

Text* Found graffiti newspaper articles.

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KEWLIO

PART ONE













READ MORE BOOKS

There's a recent crop of graffiti on Cleveland's West Side that has a worthwhile message -- "Read" and "Read More Books." The signs are on abandoned factories but similar "tags," as graffiti is known as, of "Reader" are on buildings still in use. "This is not a kid with a can of spray paint. I thought maybe the city put it up, like a public service thing," said Ken Gretchko, who works in a business next to one of the buildings.

Neighborhood visitor Tony Hayne says the message is "better than all the gang stuff. I'd rather see this." Cleveland Public Library Director Felton Thomas says, "I love the message. But I don't like how the message is being put out." Thomas says library officials must do a better job of spreading the "Read" message so it's not necessary to get help from a graffiti artist. Cleveland State Associate Professor Evan Lieberman studies culture and media. "I don't think it's someone who hate computers or a technophobe. It's someone with a sense of humor and a socially useful message," he said. And if it's someone trying to connect with young people, Lieberman believes that graffiti is a better medium than a canned campaign of billboards. But many point out that the noble message is still damaging buildings and contributing to neighborhood blight.

Activist Henry Senyak says, "I wish they would work with a business and do this in a way that benefits the community." Building owner Eric Schreiber says, "I'm ashamed. People ask me all the time 'when are you going to paint over your building?' It's my property. They have no business doing this." Similar graffiti has shown up in San Francisco, New York and New Orleans.

There are different opinions if it's the work of one person, a network or copy cats. In graffiti circles, there is much discussion of the "The Reader" or "Mr. Book." Police say this is a crime and they will throw the book at the culprit or culprits if the catch them.



EYESORES IN INDIANAPOLIS

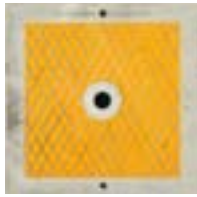


City workers will begin Friday cleaning up what has become one of the biggest eyesores in Indianapolis. Neighbors living around the site of the former Winona Memorial Hospital have been patiently waiting for a clean-up while the building has attracted homeless people, gangs, graffiti and other illegal activity. When the former Winona Hospital went under in 2004, the company left and some employees never got a final paycheck. Environmental hazards have been a safety concern, such as asbestos from the walls and ceilings being ripped up as people stole copper pipes, and possibly medical waste left behind.

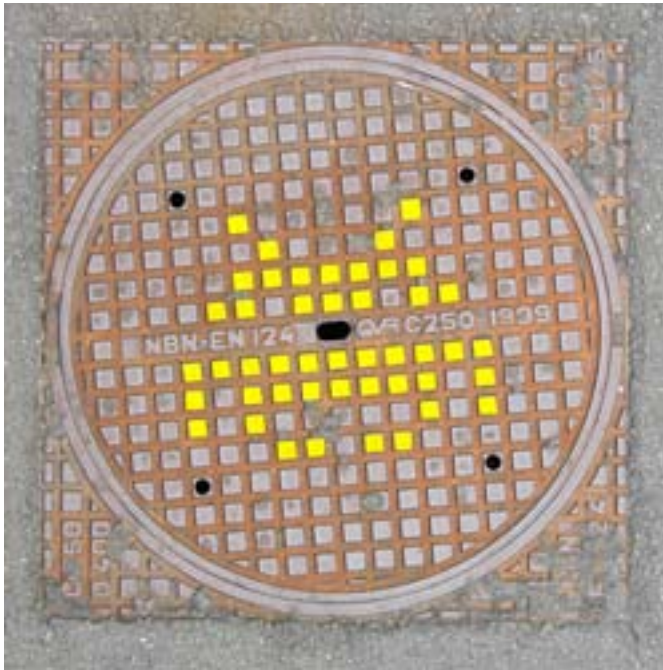
It's going to be a challenge to redevelop. The prime piece of real estate, located on Meridian Street next to the Indianapolis Children's Museum did not sell in the last tax sale and the city took ownership Monday. In just the last few days, the Department of Public Works removed some hospital signs. Friday, they will join Department of Metropolitan Development employees and a community service group to remove weeds and graffiti.

"We couldn't do anything beforehand. We could board the building for public safety reasons, for the environmental problems this building has to keep people safe, but that's all we could do," John Bartholomew, Department of Metropolitan Development, said. "Now that we own it, we're going to take stewardship of this building and we're going to start the battle of the graffiti, and do our best to keep it removed."

What they can't finish Friday because of rain, they will tackle as weather permits.



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Alexander James













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- 3)



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ALTO

a man and a woman



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Part Two









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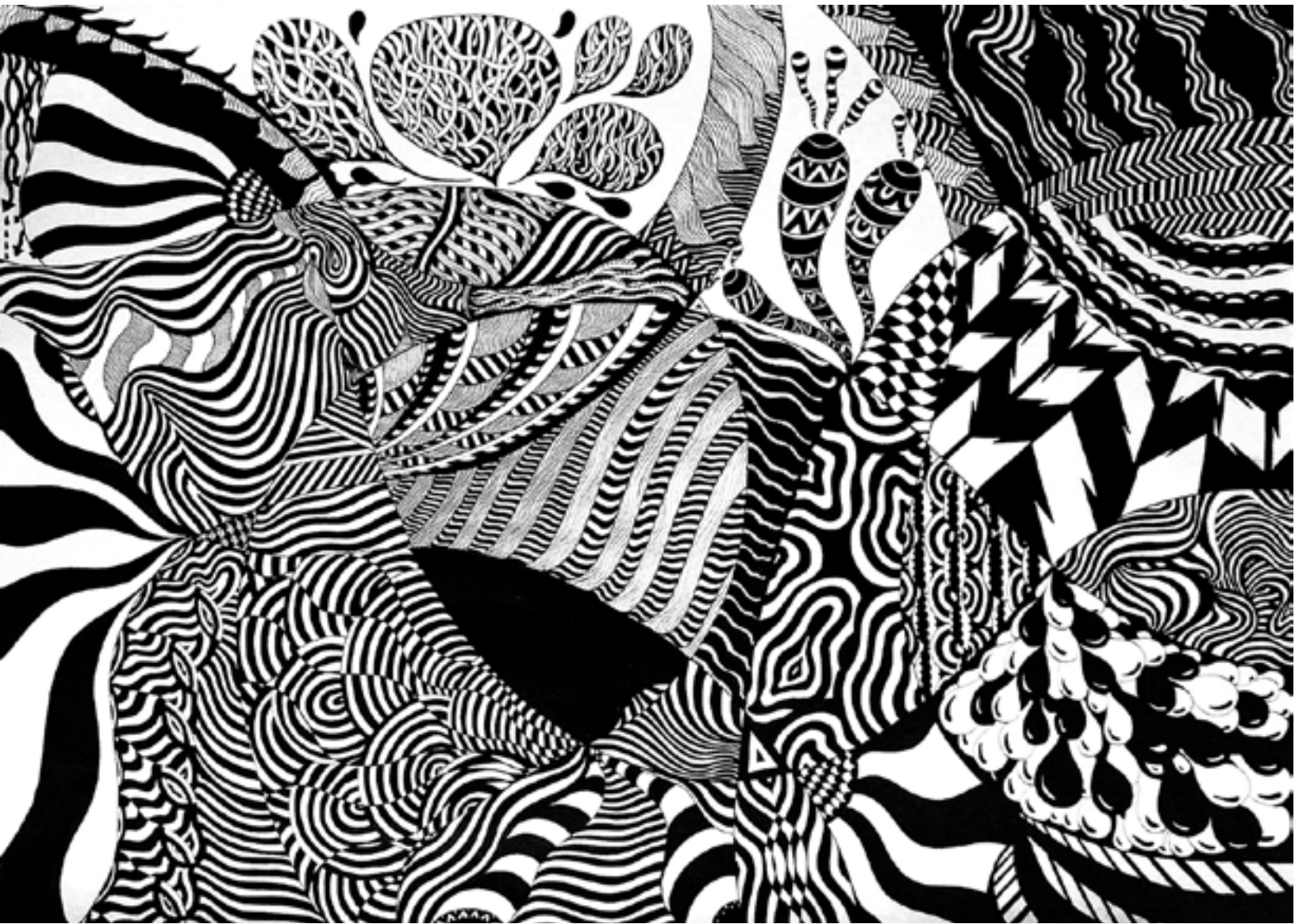












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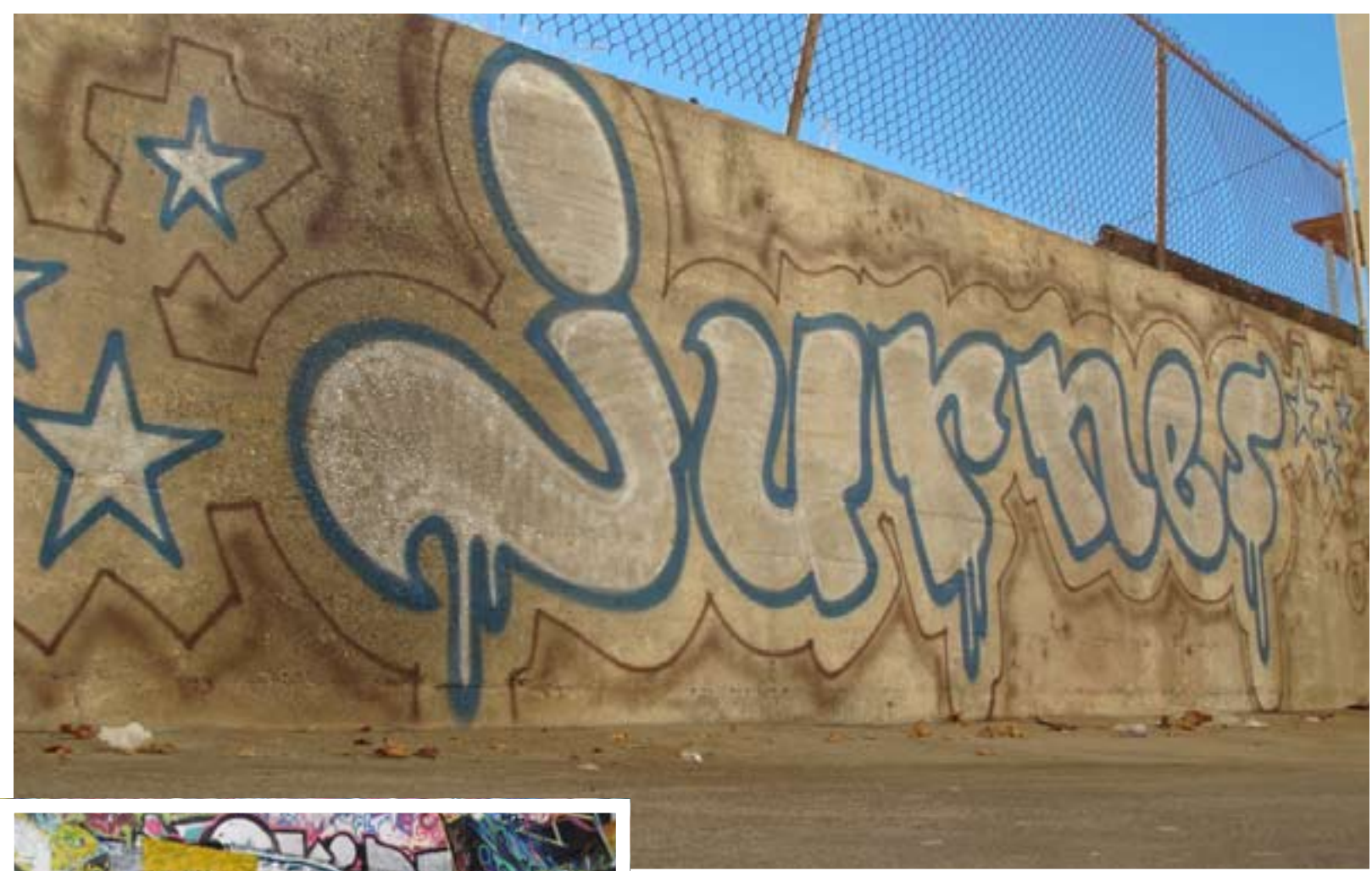
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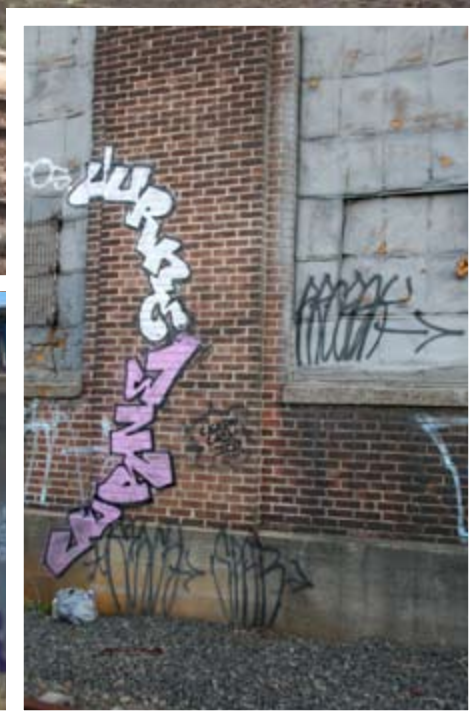


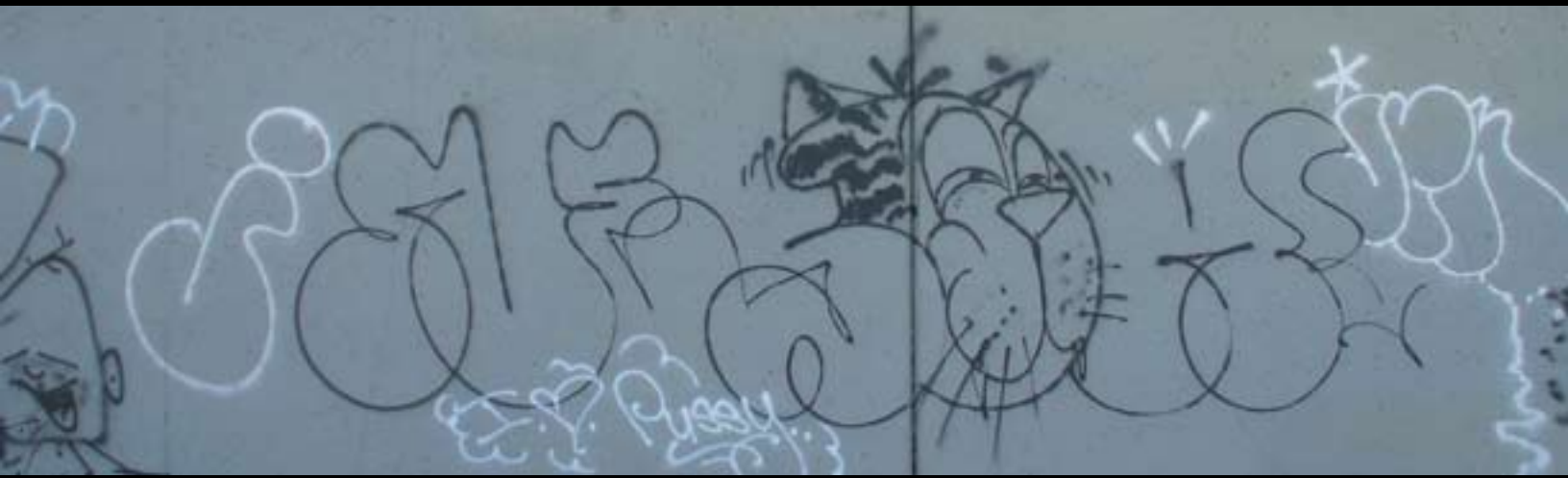
















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GRAFFITI LOVE

My editorial theme is based in the story of Andrea and Cesar. A young couple who comes from different social backgrounds and who meet in the streets. Andrea is rich and Cesar is poor, she is sophisticated and attractive, flirty and adventurous. He is the boy of the hood, a fighter and a rebel who is looking for the chance to love. Andrea and Cesar meet in the streets and an intense passion develops between them. This passion turns into a strong connection that cannot be broken; something that is, but shouldn't be.

Their connection links with the urban environment in which graffiti art develops. Graffiti art has been seen as a rebellious act for decades and has been banned in many countries. Graffiti traditionally has been used to communicate disagreement for social or political views. Also graffiti has a reputation to be a part of a subculture that rebels against authority. In the same way, Andrea and Cesar are going against the expectations of society, breaking the rules and giving themselves a chance to be different.

FRANCES MACDONALD







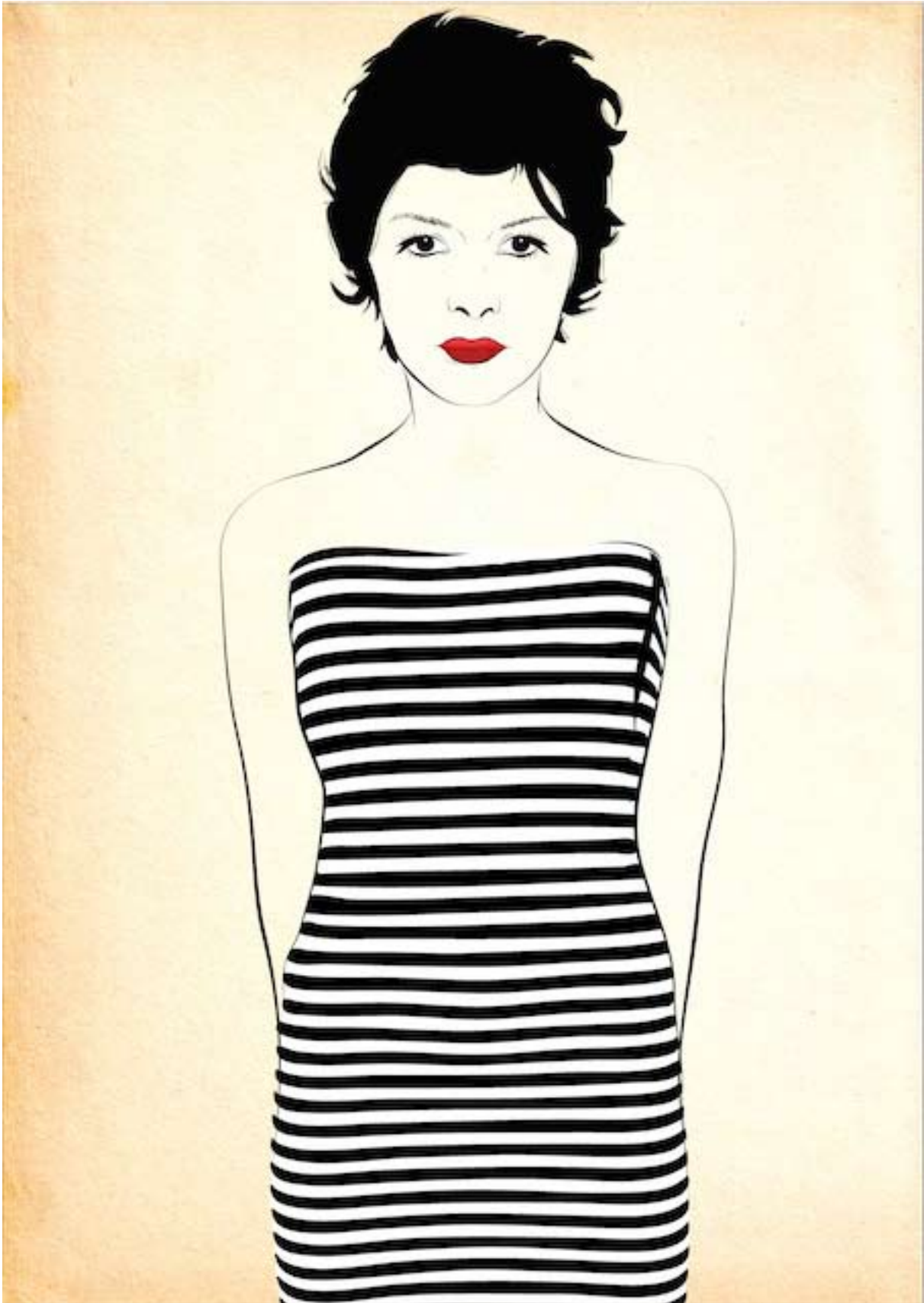




KNOWN
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Jeffrey Herrero





Interview with

SPOT/ KMS



Name and crew? How did you get your name.

Spot. Kms... Killing mad shit,krazy mad styles,know my self,konstantly maintaining strong... Theres alotta meanins for it...

Where do you consider home and when/ where did you get started doing graffiti?

Brooklyn...Est.1990

Who did you look up to then and how has your perception of graffiti changed once you started rocking it hard?

Web.One kaos.Inc, Stak fua. A poison limbo piece that "sane" rip did was so incredible!!! Only the strong survive...

What misconceptions do you think most people have about graffiti and about you?

that its a crime and cities across the span spending excessive amounts of money trying to clean it up, give cops excessive amounts of overtime money to try and catch these people who do it. when theres a billionnnnn times more worst crimes going on in this world then some kid writting his name on a gate or a wall...ridiculous...

What has graffiti taught you?

Alotttt... To much to get into here...

How do you feel about the NYC graffiti scene in 2009

dying... very few have any idea of a simple neat dope handstyle let alone a throw up....its sad...

How do you feel about out of towners?

at this point just bomb!!! but do it with style and respect... i dont really care... keep it alive thats how i see it...

What is your favorite tool to get up with?

paint!!!

Who has been some of your bombing partners?

Skuf, naisha, kez5, veefer, ja, a few friends...

Do you think graffiti has changed much since you started?

Hell yea.... Graff was 10 times more out there.... This is the last year of this decade and if you truely look in the streets of nyc its almost gone....

How has graffiti influenced your life both negatively and positively?

Taught me to never give up,adapt n over come, taught me the fullest meaning of pride. Taught me dedication....Going on 20 years straight no breaks at all of dedication...Very few accomplish that....



Is there a philosophy or motto you try to live by, if so what is it?

Just do the best you can in whatever u do in life and never give up. Keep trying to push the bar up higher...

What style of graffiti do you prefer (Tagging, Bombing, Piecing or trains)? Please explain.

I like to master it all... Altho honestly im not a train bomber... But handstyles, throwups, pieces, simples styles whatever i got it. Not best but shit a contender!!!

How has NYC graffiti changed in the last 10yrs?

For the worst...

What direction do you see graffiti going in the next ten years?

Thats up in the air...

Do you ever think the MTA will ever be hit like the 1970s 80s

Nopeeeeeee!!!!!!!

Where did you get your throw up "T" from?

Sorta like batman/wutang...

Beef, good or bad?

Both, its fun sometimes. A good fight is always kool too, then its wak when some toy goes over you just for fame when he's havent even done half the shit youve done. Thats wakkk.. Or when they cant even write better then you but hating lol... Yea in grafff???? Theres maddddddd haters. Like if somehow it breeds haters lol...Its sad!!!! Just do you...

Have you traveled? Whats your favorite city.

Yes...Not much but chicago!!! Iit reminds me of nyc in the 80's...

Any last words?

Peace to my kms fams... Skuf,trea,ozser,naisha,ja,,veefer,dink,m ane,smir,kode,drag,jakob n justin... Its a kold world out there, keep working on developing yourself and youll be remembered n and gain all that you want in life...R.I.P...Pgism,fk. One,asp,lc,telk,bez,xist,oro...And the many other writers out there fallen...





James Kuhn









PHOTOS BY
KEWLIO
PART TWO





KR

HOOT
SIX







SLOPPY JAMES





Photos by **Kid Deuce**





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WINDXULANAN
DOLXOVULXENING





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La Biennale de Lyon

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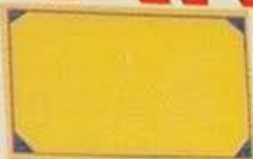
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TIT FMR























Has it come to jail time to wipe out graffiti?

Like the city of San Francisco, North Beach resident Micki Jones is fighting a losing battle against graffiti. "I paint it over and it is usually tagged again in 48 hours," said Jones, who covers up graffiti on her home and other buildings on her block. "It used to be weeks, but now those guys are out there every night." When it comes to symbolic statements about a city, nothing speaks louder than the painted scrawls on walls. They say a neighborhood is either unwilling, or unable, to stop vandalism. Graffiti infuriates homeowners, degrades streets and undercuts civil pride. And yet it happens over and over in San Francisco and has for years. How is that possible? The answers range from the economic downturn (less enforcement), to a lack of consequences (offenders aren't taken seriously in the courts), to simple fatigue (why paint over the tags when they are back the next day?) This isn't a minor problem. The "broken window" theory continues to prove to be true.

The theory says each broken window or graffiti tag is a test to see if anyone cares enough to fix it. San Francisco is failing the test. "As soon as the first tag goes up all bets are off," said Christopher Putz, the city's graffiti abatement officer. "It's like a dog lifting its leg. After the first one does it, every other dog has to tinkle there, too." Mohammed Nuru, deputy director of operations for the Department of Public Works, often hears from angry residents at community meetings, but it's those who have given up on fighting graffiti that he remembers best. "It is very hard to see some 75- or 80-year-old lady almost in tears because someone has vandalized her house and she can't do anything about it," Nuru said. Public frustration has grown since a 2004 law made property owners responsible for cleaning up graffiti in 30 days or face a fine that could reach \$500. Owners complained that it made the victims pay for the crime. Others said that the city ran out of money to pay attorneys to enforce the ordinance. That's not to say nothing is being done. Putz said that arrests are up this year and

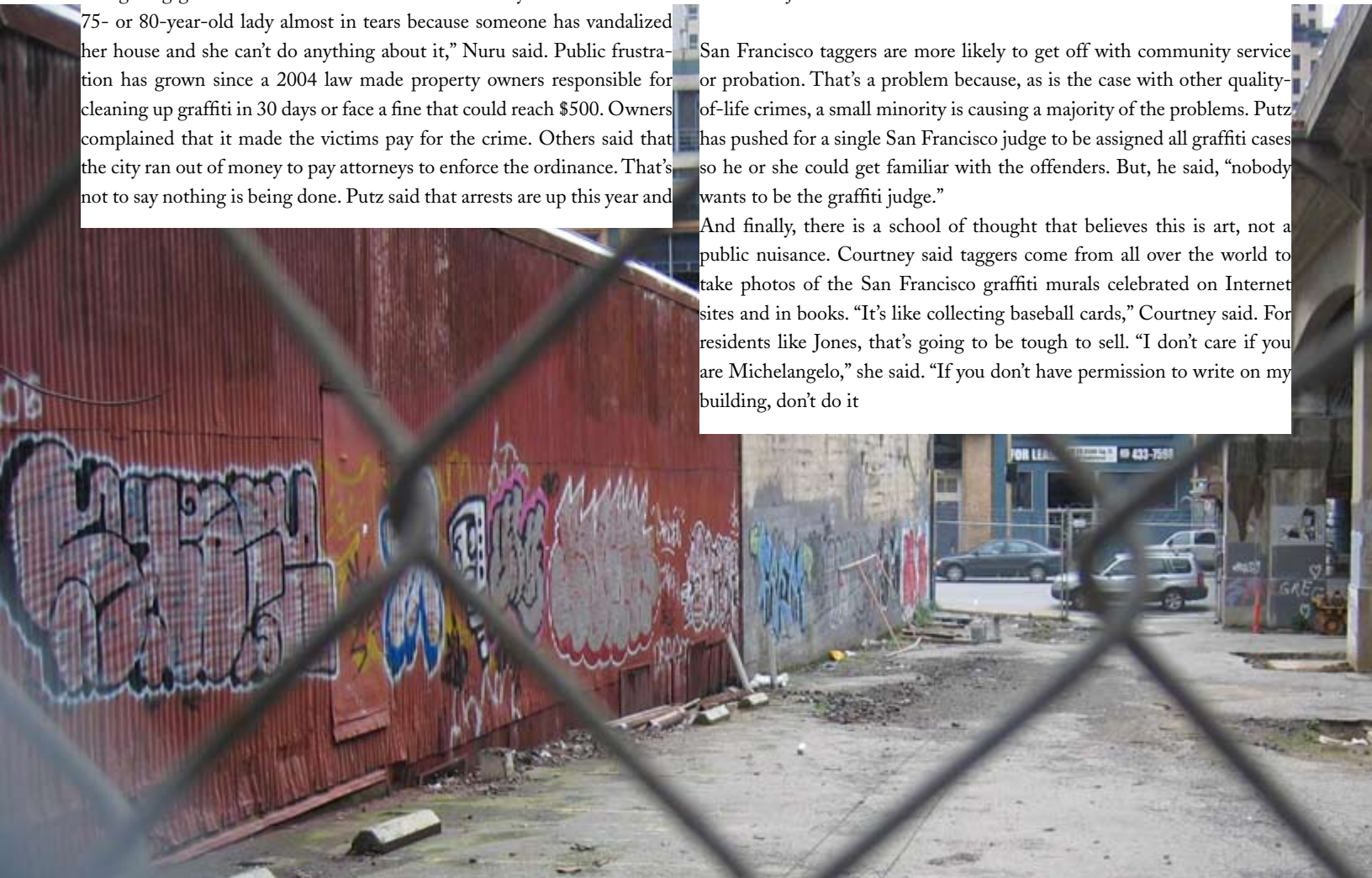
are likely to surpass 2008's record total of 234. Complaints to the city's 311 hot line have increased dramatically. And on April 23 the Graffiti Advisory Board - a 25-member group that includes residents, business leaders and city officials - will host a community meeting at the Hilton on Kearny Street to discuss new ways to fight the problem. Still, it's hard to disagree with Jones, who has been painting over graffiti in North Beach for 19 years. "This is a beautiful city," Jones said, "and it is getting trashed."

Nuru, who lives in Bayview-Hunters Point, was incensed last week when a freeway sign near the entrance to his neighborhood was rendered unreadable by taggers. "I totally lost it," he said. "What I am suspecting is that the vandals are moving more in groups now. We have seen patterns of taggers going in groups to deface property." Putz, who has worked with graffiti abatement for over five years, doesn't necessarily think there are more taggers nowadays. But he is frustrated with the lack of consequences for those who are caught literally red-handed.

"I've had kids tell me that they wouldn't try it in Daly City because that's San Mateo County and they are treated pretty harshly by the courts," Putz said. That's seconded by Officer Troy Courtney, who was the city's graffiti expert for seven years. Asked why some other cities, like Seattle, don't seem to have much tagging, Courtney is blunt. "You know why?" he asked. "Because in Seattle the first time you get caught you spend six months in jail."

San Francisco taggers are more likely to get off with community service or probation. That's a problem because, as is the case with other quality-of-life crimes, a small minority is causing a majority of the problems. Putz has pushed for a single San Francisco judge to be assigned all graffiti cases so he or she could get familiar with the offenders. But, he said, "nobody wants to be the graffiti judge."

And finally, there is a school of thought that believes this is art, not a public nuisance. Courtney said taggers come from all over the world to take photos of the San Francisco graffiti murals celebrated on Internet sites and in books. "It's like collecting baseball cards," Courtney said. For residents like Jones, that's going to be tough to sell. "I don't care if you are Michelangelo," she said. "If you don't have permission to write on my building, don't do it



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Los Altos police focus on San Jose graffiti crew.

Los Altos police continue to search for four vandals who scratched graffiti into the windows of about 70 downtown businesses a week and a half ago, focusing on a tagging crew from San Jose.

At about 2 a.m. on June 20, police said, two men and two women spent 45 minutes going from business to business along Main Street, etching the tags "CLOPS NLT," "TWON" and swastikas into doors and windows of businesses.

Police have been collecting surveillance video from the stores, and one video from a florist's shop clearly shows at least one man with dark hair, who spends about 30 seconds tagging a window. Other people move around in the background. The video is posted on the Police Department's Web site (www.ci.los-altos.ca.us/police/).

The "CLOPS" and "NLT" monikers are known tags of a group that normally works in San Jose, said Los Altos Sgt. John Korges, and Los Altos has been working with San Jose graffiti officers to find the suspects. The taggers could face dozens of felony vandalism counts. "They're looking at, even in restitution, thousands of dollars," Korges said.

In the meantime, business owners are starting to repair or replace their windows, he said.



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Steve Rotman & Chris Brennan

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 Price: \$45.00
 ISBN: 978-0-9799666-0-6



★★★★★

Fabled as a region that embraces freedom of expression in all of its guises, the San Francisco Bay Area has long been a world-renowned cultural hotbed. Bay Area Graffiti is the first comprehensive retrospective of the area's vibrant contemporary street-art scene. Documented by the distinctive photographic eye of Steve Rotman, his images showcase the innovative art made all over the Bay Area, as well as how it blends into the stunning landscapes. Rotman's photographs are accompanied by dozens of artist interviews – with the likes of JENKS, ABNO, CHUBS, HARSH, NESTA, REYES, CYMES, APEX and many, many more – which reveal personal stories, insights into inspiration and harrowing tales of agility, all in the name of getting up.

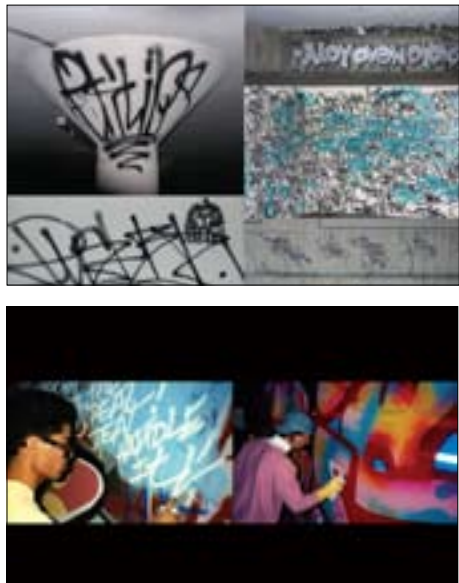
This chunky, landscape formatted, 208-page book is for fans of street art and photography the world over!



LOS ANGELES GRAFFITI

Roger Gastman & Sonja Teri

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 Format: Paperback
 Price: \$27.95
 ISBN: 978-0-9790486-1-6



★★★★

Graffiti makes us think of cities. Urban denizens are used to seeing ink and paint scrawled and plastered on trains, buses and alleyways, and in heavily trafficked city centers, where structures of steel and glass tower. With its lack of a central point, of all major American cities, the sprawling megalopolis of Los Angeles does not conform to typical urban planning laws.

In the land of Hollywood, gang wars and beach bums, Los Angeles graffiti teems with the city's myriad cultural influences. From intricately tagged walls that seem to grow out of blooming roadside flower beds to spray-painted palm trees, Los Angeles Graffiti illustrates how the landscape of America's anti-city has fomented a distinct brand of graffiti, recognized the world over. Compiled by Roger Gastman, author of Freight Train Graffiti and co-founder (with Shepard Fairey) of Swindle magazine, this colorful book benefits from Gastman's long-term, intimate involvement with L.A. graffiti writers. Recruiting friends and graffiti legends, like SABER and RETNA, Los Angeles Graffiti documents the history of the unique, world-class graffiti scene that thrives in Los Angeles. In particular, the interview with L.A. graffiti luminary POWER breathes history into these photographs of work created by the famous, infamous, and anonymous.



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