

# The History of Graffiti

The history of graffiti is complicated in many different ways as it is not just artwork but it did have a purpose and was in ancient times not vandalism.



Graffiti is a very different type of art as many people don't consider it a real art as it can be messy and illegal. It's going way back to the Ancient Greeks, who invented graffiti for a working purpose; (to advertise their stock), however, instead of using the modern word graffiti they used the Ancient Greek word graphōn. Further on, the Romans took graffiti in a new direction: they used graffiti as a way to communicate, with the Gods and even took the word and transformed it into the word grapes and finally evolved into the word we use today 'graffiti'. However, the new style of artistic graffiti (the hippy movement) only took off in the 1960s in Philadelphia U.S.A where the famous graffiti artist is from (Taki 183).

Peter Kennedy



## The History of Graffiti.

There are many different facts about the history of graffiti. Let's start off on this, the word graffiti originated from the Greek word 'Graphain' which turned into the Italian 'Graggio' which therefore developed into the word we know

graffiti. In Ancient Rome, graffiti was used for religious messages, during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, whereas in Ancient Greece it was used to send out political messages / advertisements. Taki 183 was the first graffiti artist in New York (TAKI 183 was his Tag) Modern graffiti was first used during the Hippy movement in Philadelphia.

The main styles of graffiti are: Wild Style, Throw ups, Fill Ins and Tags.



## History of Graffiti

The history of graffiti goes way back to the early ancient Roman times.

The word graffiti first originated from the Greek word "graphein", which means "to write". This particular form of writing was also used for advertising and religious messages. This type of street art was discovered first in Pompeii, where there was a large piece of "scribbly graffiti" painted on the side of a building.

Graffiti can be carried out in two ways; street art and vandalism. Vandalism is where somebody doesn't have permission from the owner to paint on their wall, where as street art is where permission is given to work on the wall, this wall is usually public so the community has to be happy with this also.

Miley.



## History of Groggiti

A long time ago, people first discovered 'groggiti' in Pompeii. The word originated from the Greek word 'graphien', which means 'to write', and was used for advertisements and sending religious messages. The word 'graphien' evolved in the Italian word 'groggio'. It eventually turned into the English word 'groggiti' and it stands like that. The year 183 was the first professional street artist.

By Ewan



## Traditional Graffiti:

Graffiti can be like a two sided face. On the one hand, it can be considered as street art murals and attractive artwork. However, on the other hand it can be scribbles and mess carried out without permission - it is breaking the law. It is vandalism that people disagree with and is usually done by young adults and teens.

Graffiti has been around for many decades - but not art - it was created using sticks and stones on sand built walls for advertising trades. These ugly 'scribbles' are colourless and make people defect the area. The unattractive messages and scribbles often cause controversy which instills a negative feeling within the area. It is often found in public areas: toilets, alleys, markets, factories and subways. The vandals don't have permission and commit their illegal deeds at night (they typically spray the wall and flee into the dark).



By SamH

## Traditional Graffiti

Traditional graffiti is not street art, in fact it is the complete opposite and is not appreciated by many people. Graffiti has been around for many decades, however it really took off in the 60s. These types of 'scruffs' are especially bland, unartistic and often cause controversy but also provoke a negative vibe on the environment. This form of graffiti is usually found in: toilets, alleyways, abandoned buildings and subways. The culprits aren't generally caught by police as they vandalize at night and disappear within minutes. This variety of graffiti definitely doesn't enhance the area or make people proud of where they live, on the contrary it makes them feel unsafe and ashamed.



Tom 5

## Traditional, Slangy Graffiti

Graffiti is not just art, sometimes it is just a collection of scribbled words and symbols found in public areas. Graffiti has been around for centuries but only really took off in the nineteen sixties during the hippie movement. Scribbles such as these are usually lacking in colour, unsightly and unartistic. These images and messages can cause quite a controversy between members of the public and can provoke a negative feeling within community areas. This traditional graffiti is more often than not found in abandoned buildings and alleyways, where the vandals responsible for it believe that it will take time to notice. This vandalism is scribbled and scrawled quietly at night, using spray cans when there is less chance of being spotted by the police. This illegal act is usually completed in such a short time period that there is next to no chance of ever being caught. Maybe this is what infuriates people about graffiti the most.



TOMW



## Traditional "Scruffy" Graffiti

Traditional graffiti is usually done by young adults or teenagers, it is scribbles or words in public areas and is vandalism as the people don't have permission.

It is very rarely colour and has been around for thousands of years, however graffiti took off in the 1960's. These types of "scruffs" are especially unsightly and lacking in colour. The messages, which are unattractive, cause controversy and create a negative vibe to an environment. This traditional graffiti is usually placed in areas



such as: public areas, toilets, dark alleyways, walls, abandoned buildings and subways. Often those who carry out this illegal act, which is said to be vandalism as they have no permission, do it in a

short amount of time; more often than not at night as there is less chance of them being caught. The offenders usually do tags or symbols as they are quick and easy to do. The bad thing about traditional graffiti is it makes people feel worse, despoliating the area.

By Benito





## Street art and Murals

Graffiti has been around for centuries and has gained an unfortunate reputation, however, it isn't all as scruffy and rough as many people believe it to be. It can be an amazing piece of artwork that transforms a lonely area of brick into a bright coloured explosion of images. Graffiti in mural form invites people in, encouraging the community in several ways.



The new-modern form of "graffiti" started in the 1960s, Philadelphia, as part of the hippy movement. It then progressed into several styles: tags, throw-ups, fill ins and wicked style - all still used today. Images evolved from these styles and now graffiti is a professional occupation - more commonly called 'street art'. These images often depict animals, oceans, forests and usually mean something of relevance to the area.

This street-art is viewed differently by a variety of people throughout separate communities. Some think it enhances the area - while others criticise and despise it. The artists of these murals are called 'graffiti artists'. Throughout modern decades there have been a few notable graffiti artists, the first being Taki 183, who gave an interview for a newspaper. Although the most known today is Banksy. Banksy was born in Bristol and is a mysterious enigma whose artwork is worth hundreds of pounds. He never reveals himself and, though, he has his own website to publicise his genuine works - which are mostly pictures showing a political message. An example of his work is a teddy bear throwing a fire bomb - another is of a girl walking a glomung type with a stick. There are more like this all over England, Europe and the rest of the world, each with varying sizes, shapes and images.



Benjamin

# Street art and Murals

Street art brightens up the area around it, and can be very attractive. This type of art can be pictures, words or both, and can be used to spread political messages. People even take up doing street art as a job. These murals can transform boring brick walls into amazing, interesting art which can inspire people. This is how graffiti looks nowadays. However, it didn't always look like this.



This is how graffiti

Old graffiti looks scruffy, and was painted illegally on other people's property. It was a nuisance for everyone, as the vandalism darkened areas around it, and looked very aggressive. However, it may have been a good thing, as this was what developed into the bright and colourful modern street art.

There are many different graffiti artists in Britain, but the most famous is Banksy. This is not his real name, as his true identity is known by very few people. This is his tag. A tag is an artist's nickname, which in his case helps hide who he really is. It is known that he lives somewhere in Bristol, but not exactly. Many of the images he has composed have been in Bristol, and they are worth hundreds of pounds.



By Dylan

## Street Art and Murals

Street art and murals are the pretty kind of graffiti: bright and artistic. Have you ever seen scruffy scribbles in dull colours around Britain? It makes most people groan, however murals and street art are inspiring and eye-catching, grabbing passers by's attention.

The 1960s was when graffiti became the arty style it is now. In Philadelphia, USA different types evolved, for example tags, throws and wicked. Now there are painters illustrating walls all around the world.

It benefits nearly everyone because it is artwork that people can see and they don't then have to travel to an art gallery. Graffiti artists paint to express their feelings not really for money. Enhancing areas with bold messages and vivid pictures - is graffiti 'street art'.



Millie

## Street Art and Murals

Street art is inspiring with its bright colours in the artistic illustrations. However, street art originated from graffiti, which can be wrongly and known as vandalism.

People often pass graffiti in cities - it is mostly scribbles drawn by vandals - but, has anyone seen the beauty of graffiti that is now called street art? The fabulous murals of birds, animals and much more are showing people what street art can be like.

In the 1960s, America began the fine, colourful type of street art that attracts passers-by, instead of making them frown and mutter in anger.

Street art can enhance dull places, it makes people all around the world want to go and see the wonderful artwork that people used to never think about, they might just walk around cities to see some artwork instead of going to an expensive gallery. Even though people pay street artists to do work in dull places, most of the time they do it just to express their feelings.

Maisie



# The Process

All the great graffiti artists have a process of producing graffiti. They follow a method, have you ever wondered how the artists make such incredible street art? Read on to know how to become an amazing artist.



There are many different techniques of performing street art, this is a quick method that many use; this art work uses a lot of concentration, the artist has to start easy at first, especially with the main mural.



First, the artist will paint the background in black or blue - white (as in night and day). The graffiti artist's creates the outline of the main mural and adds small amounts of detail inside, the might even shade the insides of the mural to make it look more realistic. After painting the outline, if the image needs a sky, the painter shades carefully with different colours of blue. When they are satisfied with the sky, they will start to paint inside the mural, and also take regular steps back to see the whole image from a distance. Then they continue on any additional detail to finish the mural. If tempted, they may shade around the image to make it 3D.

By Maddy

# The Process

There are many stages to the intricate art of 'graffiti': it can take from two hours to two weeks, depending on how large and detailed the client requests it to be. These artworks are very different to its scruffy relatives, contrasting greatly from the slap-dash 'tags' that crowd beneath building walls. So top after stop, the usual comes together in a planned process, colourful explorations of sprayed paint swarm the brick canvases.



The process begins by simply filling the subject's wall in with a single shade of reservoir paint. White is for day, as it gives the colours a brighter look, and black is for night (because it darkens the scenery). He/she will then study their prepared piece - a sketch or CG design - and quickly sketches the scenery outline onto the bricks, while constantly glancing at his plan. The artist then layers shade upon shade of sky and clouds, continuously adding details like trees, hills and other inanimate objects to the scenery. Artists usually add shades using sweeping movements, dealing with large areas swiftly and efficiently. Greater detail is then added after some time of consideration, and for more complex outlines, a stencil will be required. The final stage is ensuring the client is pleased with the image, and pays their fee - usually a large sum (but worth the trouble)!

Harry

# The Process

There are many different stages in creating 'graffiti', it can take from two hours up to two weeks, this depends on how big or decorative it is or how your client requires it to be.

This particular design is a lot more expensive than its 'graffy' relatives.

However, graffiti takes time and all artists' concentration but, the results are worth it. Nothing enhances a dark alley or a brick wall like a professional mural - if it is appropriate.



Generally, an artist would never start a design without requesting the client get their desired image. The artist might then use a gadget - computer, i pad or phone - to create the illustration the client wants.

When the artist has finished planning, they will paint the background, white for day or black for night. He may use respray paint. After the paint has dried, the outline would possibly be done next whilst checking it from the plan. Generally, the artist would paint the sky, blue for day or purple for night. The deeper detail is now added, lighter or darker blue then graffy white stencils. Finally, additional details, such as trees and animals, are added and the ground is painted using different shades and sweeping movements. Cut stencils out of card, stencils are usually used to draw people or animals.





## Mural Life

There are many different



Finish the design by adding shadows and minor details, such as shadows, sun-light and shades. Now the design is finished.

George







## Mural Lige

Russell Meehan (Some know him as Russ) was born in Stockport, England and now lives in Old Trafford in Manchester. He started graffiti as a young boy - about twelve - and his tag / graffiti name was QuBek!! Russell realised people didn't like what he was doing, so he stopped and did a few years Russ set up Mural Lige and created murals in people's houses. Cig the owners were happy with it. As he grew up his designs improved and his company's reputation increased. Mr Meehan is most famous for the Manchester art and bee also Mural Lige. One of his most recent pieces is at Goosey School in Cheshire the art represents the four houses. Most of his work is realistic and some is even cartooney.



By Jack S





## Russell Meehan - Mural life.

Born in Stockport - England, Russell Meehan has always had a love for art. At the age of just 13 years old, Russ began using his talent of art to vandalise houses and walls. However, Russell soon began to realise that if he used his art for good, making murals and pictures for people, his talent would be appreciated a lot more, so he did! Thus creating his very successful company, Mural life.



Russell now paints: murals, pictures, bedrooms and many other things, however his main style of art is a very realistic take on things. Now living in Old Trafford - Manchester, he is very well known for his Manchester bees and is proud to be able to see and to paint his city's symbol to be enjoyed by the general public. Russell's most recent piece of amazing artwork is situated in the small town of Goostrey in Cheshire. The truly amazing and breathtaking mural is in their local school and it represents their school houses, which are: Lovell, for the Lovell Telescope or it is also known as Goddell Bank which is in their local area. Garner, for Allan Garner a local author that lives not far from the school, Mallory, the Mallory house is for the explorer George Mallory who used to live in Mobbely which is not far from Goostrey, and their final house is Harding, the Harding house is named after their first ever headteacher of the school, Sarah Harding. Russell Meehan is also a very well known street artist, but in his street art life he is known as Qubek.





## Mural Life

There are many different well known street artists in Britain, one very talented one is "Russ Mehan". He runs a big company called Mural Life, which paints a variety of different designs. The murals are mostly personal to the employer but painted with vibrant colours. His most recent piece of artwork is at Goosey Community Primary School. He painted the school houses: Lowell, Games, Mallory and Harding. Russ is quite famous for drawing the Manchester Bee. Most of his images are shown in a market building called "Affleck's Palace". Did you know that Russ started painting on walls without the owner's permission? However, he now paints bright and colourful images as an occupation. Though he needs the owners permission before he starts.



Elliot





## Mural Lige

Russell Meehan was born in Stockport in the early 1980's. In his early life he started admiring murals, (which are big pictures of graffiti) and wanted to start painting his own.



Russ is famous for painting the Manchester Bee and he will often paint his tag, (a short nickname for a graffiti artist). Russell's tag is called QUBEK.

People who want Russ to paint a mural on the side of their house can request what they would like.

Russ lives in Manchester, Old Trafford and his most recent mural is at Goostrey School. The mural represents their school houses. The owl is for the yellow house. Mount Everest is for the green house. Jodrell Bank is for Lovell and Harding is portrayed by a boat.

By Jack T



## Equipment and Tools



Graffiti artists use a variety of tools and equipment when painting a mural. However, before the artist starts painting, they create a plan or a design. Professional painters might use a computer and an app, which allows a detailed design to be drawn, coloured, created and printed, prior to the painting process. When they get to site they use a tape measure to allocate the area for the mural. They would then paint the wall with masonry paint using a roller. This would give the wall a seal and allows the spray paint to adhere to the wall much better. Paint is messy and can come off clothes easily. So it's better to put some old things on when painting. Also the use of a cover to stop spilage going on the floor, could be useful. Some artists use a mask to prevent breathing in the paint fumes.



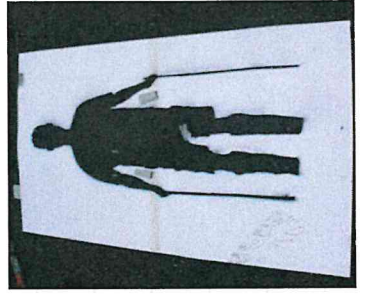


Now, they are ready to start the mural. Spray cans are mainly used.

However, they use one nozzle for every colour until it clogs up, then it is swapped for a new one. Some times a stencil is used to achieve a sharp edge.

A finger could be used to create a spot. If an artist needs to paint a high area, they

would use a cherry picker to safely climb up to it.



## Equipment and Tools



Many tools are used, when a graffiti artist is working on a mural or traditional graffiti.

A plan is made before the graffiti artist the design or mural on a surface. The plan can be followed easily if it isn't too complicated. However the image might not be drawn on on paper, it could be produced on an iPad, computer or on a app (on a phone). Before he starts painting the wall with masonry paint, he will use a tepe measure to mark out the sections on the wall so they are equally divided. After the wall has been measured out; a cover is placed on the floor to prevent daps of paint dripping on the floor.

Most artists use a mask to prevent them from breathing the paints fumes when they are painting. They don't just use a mask, they wear old clothes that are warm. Other items that are used:

- A roller to prime the walls with masonry paint.

- Spray cans are used to paint the mural, one nozzle is used on every colour, until it is clogged up (there is different sizes of nozzels).
- A stencil is also used to get a sharp fine edge.
- A cherry picker is used to safely to high areas.



By Phoebe

## Equipment and Tools.

Some graffiti is beautiful, some less so. But to do any graffiti, artists need equipment and tools. Some graffiti tools are obvious, other are more unusual, but they all help graffiti artists such as Banksy to achieve their aim. The other artists do thing in is:

. A plan - before an artist begins, he creates a plan for the artwork to be painted at his house. It's normally extremely well detailed and is a replica of the artwork to be created.

. A floor cover - a craftsman covers the ground at the painting site to protect it from drips from the artwork.

. A tape measure - artists use a tape measure to make out how long a wall is so if the artwork is split, the space will be even.

. Clothing - clothing is essential as it protects the artist from the elements. A mask is also essential as it stops the artist from breathing in spray can fumes which are toxic.



Now that the artist is prepared, he uses the proper tools to do a sufficient job; the painting process begins.

Matthew.





A roller - First of the painting process, the painter covers the the with masonry paint to enhance the walls.



Spray Cans - the professional uses spray cans to paint the mural / graffiti on the walls.

Stencil - to develop a sharp edge, artists use stencils from time to time.

For a greater scale, artists use Cherry Pickers to get safely up large walls. Craftsmen, with the right equipment, artists can create a stunning mural for the environment.

Matthew.

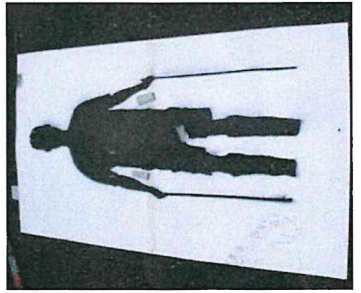




## Hints and Tips

There are many graffiti artists in Britain and they all have their own styles, hints and tips. Here are some points to be a graffiti artist.

- Change the nozzle on the spray can after every use so it doesn't get clogged up and stop working.
- add more layers for depth;
- paint background first then paint forwards
- shade from dark to light
- use different tools like fingers and paper not just spray cans.
- paint over any mistakes.



If you wanted to be a graffiti artist it would take years of practice and you would need to know all these hints and tips. Graffiti is difficult and can take some time, artists would need permission from their clients if they wanted to produce a piece of street art.

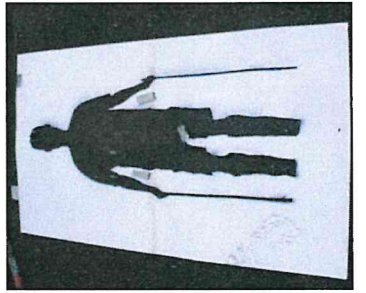
Matt



## Hints and Tips

Anyone could paint a mural, however it takes a lot of time and definitely practice, someone simply could not just walk up to a brick wall with some spray cans as it would not work just as that person may have expected. Before someone can even think of picking up a spray can, they have to plan what they are going to do first. A good way to do this would be to download the app 'Pro-Create' because it will help all graffiti artists to design their own piece of artwork. If the hints and tips given are followed, anyone could become successful. Even the most famous graffiti artists (e.g. Banksy) started off as normal people, but when they followed these tips and became, with lots of practise, successful and famous.

By Sophie A





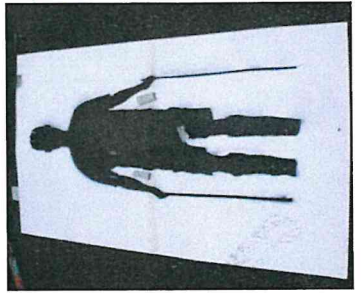
## Hint and Tips

Greggiti is hard to learn, but you can always pick up tips on how to transform your art from scruffy, to magical.

Your art should be bold, and you can not just pick up a spray-can and start painting: this would be seen as vandalism because you don't have the owners permission. But here are some key tips which will make the owner happy with what you have done:

- you should always change the mediums after every use, otherwise the paint will dry and clay up.
- do the background just then the foreground, otherwise the image will disappear.
- go dark to light because you will probably want the shadow effect.
- you should add layers for depth because want a dark effect, this would be good.

Remember, though, Greggiti can still be difficult - even with these useful tips - and you need to get years of practise to get really good, but these tips will help you on your journey.



Charlie

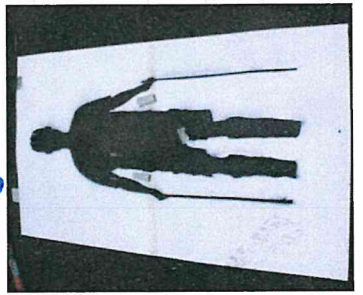


## Hints and Tips

There are many famous graffiti professionals in Britain, all have hints and tips to share! Here are some of them to help:

- One of the tips is to remember to swap or change the nozzle (in case it gets clogged up!).
- The artist should start some layers to make depth. When they create it, it will start to look amazing.
- Start with the background and then build forwards to add detail.
- Start dark and then build up to light (it makes a difference).
- Before you jump into it, try to plan it on paper/i-pad so you don't make a mistake.
- Try not to stick with spray, try to use stencils for detail.
- To add detail by adding white from your thumb to make it look like a light reflection.
- Just in case an error occurs, with spray paint it will easily go over it.

Now everyone knows some hints and tips, the artist is ready to go! Just remember, the more anyone practices, the better they will get (just like Russell Meaham). Remember, everyone needs permission to graffiti on walls!

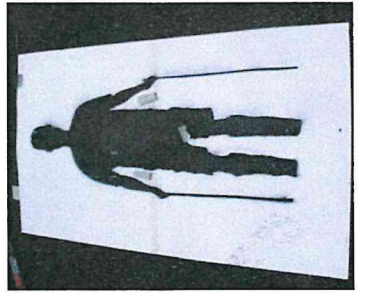




## Hints and Tips

One of the tips is to change the nozzle to the spray can that the artist would be using otherwise, the can could clog up and not work. Another tip is, if the designer wants a nice type of shade, like dark to light, they need to spray heavier on the sides and light in the middle, that would give a cool effect to the mural/design, the middle would be light and the outside dark! Also, if you do the background first, and build forwards, the person will find it easier. The spray is not the only tool to make a mural, there is much more like stencils. However, if the artist makes a mistake, he/she could go over it, and the viewers wouldn't be able to tell that the designer messed up!

By Regus



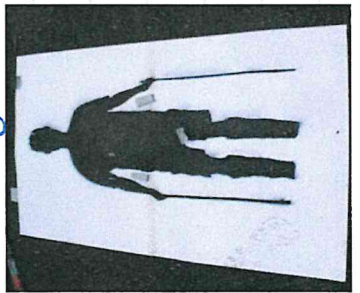


## Hints And Tips

Graffiti is a hard subject to learn, but there are many of short cuts and cheats to getting better at it.

Graffiti's short cuts are not always useful for every piece of artwork that may be painted, although a graffiti artist can always pass on these tips to other graffiti artists. Some tips include:

- Don't leave the nozzles on the spray cans or they will clog up
- Add layers for depth
- Go from background to foreground.
- Go from dark to light



- There are more things than just a spray can you can use.
- Mistakes can be painted over.



Remember though, it's not the equipment

that makes the quality of the mural but the artist that does it.  
Finally the client who hold the graffiti artist permission (most of the time) will say if they like it or not!

James

