



Essential Graffiti and Street Art Vocabulary

- **Graffiti** - unsanctioned artwork, usually created on public property by someone without permission or a permit to do so. Graffiti originated from styles of written work, but comes in many different forms, and uses many different techniques.
- **Writer** - Early Graffiti artists called themselves “writers” and the act of making graffiti “writing”
- **Street Art** - A movement in Graffiti where artists began to use more experimental and multimedia methods of artmaking. Works became more image based, rather than text based.
- **Black Book** - Black Books were sketchbooks that would be traded among artists, it was common to ask others to draw in your book. It was seen as a status symbol, who ever had the best collection of drawings in their book was the coolest.
- **Sticker Art** - (A.K.A. sticker bombing, sticker slapping, slap tagging, and sticker tagging) is a form of street art in which an image or message is publicly displayed with stickers.
- **Installation** - When 3D artworks are created for a specific indoor space (and they are meant to transform one’s perception of the space).
- **Guerilla Art** - A movement in Street Art, where the location or environment where the art is placed, matters almost as much as the art itself.
- **Tag** - A tag is the most basic writing of an artist’s name; it is simply a handstyle. A graffiti writer’s tag is his or her personalized signature.
- **Throw-up** - A.K.A a bombing, which is typically a 2 or 3 letter tag (names are shortened) painted very quickly with two or sometimes three colors, sacrificing aesthetics for speed.
- **Piece** - Short for “masterpiece”, a piece is a more elaborate representation of an artist’s name, incorporating highly stylized letters, a large range of colors, and is highly detailed.
- **Wildstyle** - A complicated and intricate style of graffiti writing. Due to its complexity, it is often very hard to read by people who are not familiar with it. Usually, this form of graffiti incorporates interwoven and overlapping letters and shapes.
- **Wheatpaste** - (A.K.A flour paste, or simply paste) is a gel or liquid adhesive made from wheat flour or starch and water. Posters adhered to surfaces using wheatpaste adhesive are also referred to as “wheatpaste”.
- **Flyposting** - (A.K.A wild posting or bill posting) is a guerrilla marketing tactic through the act of placing advertising posters or flyers in legal or illegal places. Wheatpaste is a form of flyposting.