



Teaching Graffiti and Street Art Through a Lens of Media and Technique

You can organize your Graffiti and Street Art curriculum according to artmaking techniques and have students create works of art focusing on the creative use of those materials. Here are some common and historically important techniques used in Graffiti and Street Art.

- **Boxcar Monikers:** Boxcar train writing, includes text and images together, usually simple line designs, done in oil sticks, industrial crayons, etc. Usually assumed to be done by hobos who road the rails, many were done by railroad workers.
- **Throwups:** a simplified name, usually 2 letters long, designed for maximum coverage and speed.
- **Tag Writing:** Different cities developed different writing styles. The shape, style, size, etc. different from place to place, and writer to writer.
- **Typographical Writing:** Mostly associated with the NY style of writing, where more complex and colorful fonts are used.
- **Black books:** used for practicing designs, and collecting drawings from friends and fellow writers. There were held up as a status symbol, like a passport, the more diverse your collection of blackbook work, the cooler you were.
- **Freight Painting:** Freight Trains allowed aspiring writers in other areas of the country (ones not immediately connected to a hub city) to put up work that would travel.
- **Wheatpaste:** When a gel or liquid adhesive made from wheat flour or starch and water is used to adhere paper based artworks to surfaces.
- **Postal Stickers:** (Label 228) Due to their availability (given out by the Post Office for free) and blank center space, DIY sticker bombers have chosen these as a canvas for their work.
- **Stencil:**
 - **With Bridges:** This takes more careful design planning, and can be difficult for first time stencilers, where all floating shapes (or shapes within shapes) must be connected through bridges in the stencil.
 - **Using Screens:** One of the more common techniques for stenciling today is to adhere the paper to a cutting board, cut the stencil fully (leaving floaters stuck to the board) adhere the screen with glue, and pull up the screen with all paper floaters adhered to it.
 - **Additive Stenciling:** Small individual shapes are cut out of separate pieces of material, and are then registered to line up in the composition.