

ICONS



GRAFFITI PIONEERS, LEGENDS AND CONTEMPORARY MASTERS

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UNDER THE AUSPICES AND IN THE PRESENCE OF

The First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus,
Mrs Philippa Karsera Christodoulides

IN THE PRESENCE OF

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FROM THE STREETS TO THE MUSEUM

ICONS GRAFFITI PIONEERS, LEGENDS AND CONTEMPORARY MASTERS

The exhibition traces graffiti’s journey from its early emergence in Philadelphia and its development on the streets and subway trains of New York to its transformation into a global artistic language. What began with the writing of names and identities in public space developed into a sophisticated visual culture of lettering, colour, scale and image-making - one that would enter galleries, museums and major collections around the world while continuing to thrive in public space.

The story begins with the formative culture of writing and tagging, represented by Cornbread, TAKI 183 and STAY HIGH 149. It expands through Blade, Lee Quiñones, SEEN, Dr. Revolt, DONDI, FUTURA 2000, Skeme, Lady Pink, CRASH, DAZE, TOXIC, Cey Adams, LA II and Cope2. Across the streets, subway system and downtown art scene of New York, these artists developed distinctive approaches to lettering, colour, characters and abstraction, helping to establish graffiti as a complex and influential visual language.

As graffiti travelled beyond New York, its vocabulary crossed geographical and cultural boundaries, extending across art, graphic design, fashion, music and visual culture internationally.

Street art emerged from this changing relationship with public space as a related but distinct international

phenomenon. Banksy’s use of stencil, image and text brought street art to an unprecedented global audience. AIKO, C215, PRO176 and FAKE show how the languages of the street evolved across different cultural contexts, while RETNA emerged from the Los Angeles scene with a calligraphic language rooted in graffiti lettering.

At the same time, the tradition of writing and tagging remains central. TOX and 10Foot, through their repeated names across the urban environment, demonstrate the enduring power of the tag as one of graffiti’s most direct and fundamental forms.

ICONS extends beyond graffiti and street art to their wider dialogue with contemporary art through works by Kenny Scharf, Damien Hirst, Hervé Di Rosa, Peter Klasen, Katherine Bernhardt and Robert Nava, whose distinct artistic histories and visual languages open unexpected points of connection across gesture, colour, popular culture and artistic freedom.

These encounters are not new. CRASH, DAZE, FUTURA 2000, Lady Pink, Lee Quiñones, TOXIC and Kenny Scharf showed together in *Post-Graffiti* at the Sidney Janis Gallery in New York in December 1983, one of the first presentations of graffiti at an established gallery; several appeared again in *Arte di Frontiera: New York Graffiti* in Bologna the following spring. In December

1984, CRASH, Hervé Di Rosa and Kenny Scharf exhibited together in *5/5, Figuration libre France/USA* at the Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

Damien Hirst’s exchange with street art has been both collaborative and referential. His spot painting *Keep It Spotless* was overpainted by Banksy in 2007 with a stencilled hotel maid lifting the rows of dots to sweep beneath them, and sold at Sotheby’s in New York the following year. In 2020, Hirst painted Lisa Kahane’s 1983 photograph of Lady Pink wearing Jenny Holzer’s *Truism*, in a small oil titled *Abuse of Power Comes as No Surprise*, exhibited at Gagosian, Gstaad, in 2022. In the exhibition, Hirst, Banksy and the large Lady Pink hang within a few metres of one another on the second floor, revealing an evolving conversation between street and studio, popular culture and contemporary painting, spontaneity and repetition.

Rather than presenting graffiti as a completed historical chapter, ICONS considers it a living and continually evolving practice. Over more than five decades, graffiti and the artistic languages that grew around it have transformed public space, challenged conventional definitions of artistic legitimacy and exerted a profound influence on contemporary visual culture.

FEATURING WORKS BY

AIKO
Banksy
Blade
C215
Cey Adams
Cope2
Cornbread
CRASH

Damien Hirst
DAZE
DONDI
Dr. Revolt
FAKE
FUTURA 2000
Hervé Di Rosa
Katherine Bernhardt

Kenny Scharf
LA II
Lady Pink
Lee Quiñones
Peter Klasen
PRO176
RETNA
Robert Nava

SEEN
Skeme
STAY HIGH 149
TAKI 183
TOX
TOXIC
10Foot

FIRST FLOOR

TAKI 183

NEW YORK, USA

TAKI 183 is the tag name of Demetrios, a New York teenager whose name appeared across Manhattan in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The tag combined his nickname with 183rd Street, where he lived. In July 1971 *The New York Times* published *Taki 183 Spawns Pen Pals*, and thousands of young New Yorkers began writing their own names. He was the first graffiti writer to reach a mass audience.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Beyond the Streets, New York, 2019 · Beyond the Streets on Paper, Southampton Arts Center, 2021 · *Beyond the Streets London*, Saatchi Gallery, London, 2023
PUBLISHED IN *The New York Times*, “Taki 183 Spawns Pen Pals”, 1971

CORNBREAD

BORN 1953, PHILADELPHIA, USA

Cornbread, born Darryl McCray, is recognised as one of the founding figures of modern graffiti. Writing his name across Philadelphia in the late 1960s, several years before New York, he showed that a written name could achieve public recognition through repetition alone. He remains active, working with Philadelphia’s Mural Arts programme.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS STRAAT Museum, Amsterdam · The Hip Hop Museum, New York
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Beyond the Streets, Brooklyn, New York, 2019 · *Start This: Cornbread the Legend*, STRAAT Museum, Amsterdam, 2021 · *Legendary*, Paradigm Gallery + Studio, Philadelphia, 2026
PUBLISHED IN *Cornbread the Legend*

STAY HIGH 149

WAYNE ROBERTS, 1950–2012, NEW YORK, USA

STAY HIGH 149, born Wayne Roberts, was among the most influential writers of graffiti’s first years. He formed his tag in 1971 from a nickname and 149th Street, adding a haloed stick figure borrowed from the television series *The Saint*, given a joint to smoke. The Smoker remains one of the most recognisable signatures in graffiti.

COLLABORATIONS HUF · Gravis
PUBLISHED IN Norman Mailer, *The Faith of Graffiti*, 1974
FEATURED IN *Just to Get a Rep*, 2004

CRASH

BORN 1961, NEW YORK, USA

CRASH, born John Matos, is one of the most recognisable figures of the first generation of New York graffiti writers. He began painting subway trains at thirteen, combining graffiti lettering with cartoons, comic books and mass visual culture. In 1980 he curated *Graffiti Art Success for America* at Fashion Moda, and his 1983 debut at the Sidney Janis Gallery placed him at the centre of

graffiti’s transition into the contemporary art world.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of the City of New York · Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam · New Orleans Museum of Art · Boca Raton Museum of Art
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Graffiti Art Success for America*, Fashion Moda, New York, 1980 · *Post-Graffiti*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, 1983 · *5/5, Figuration libre France/USA*, Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1984–85 · *Art in the Streets*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2011 · *Beyond the Streets*
COLLABORATIONS Keith Haring · Absolut Vodka · Fender · Levi’s · Tumi · Eric Clapton’s Crossroads Centre auctions
PUBLISHED IN *Subway Art* · *Spraycan Art*

DAZE

BORN 1962, NEW YORK, USA · SHOWN ON BOTH FLOORS

DAZE, born Chris Ellis, is an American artist whose practice spans graffiti, painting, public art and education. He began painting subway trains in 1976 and showed an early interest in figuration and narrative; his paintings of streets, trains, figures and imagined urban spaces bridge graffiti and contemporary figurative painting. Murals and teaching projects have taken him to Hong Kong, South Korea, Brazil, Haiti and Italy.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Whitney Museum of American Art, New York · Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of the City of New York · Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven · Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover · Ludwig Museum, Aachen · Groninger Museum, Groningen
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Beyond Words*, Mudd Club, New York, 1981 · Fashion Moda, New York, 1982 · *Post-Graffiti*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, 1983 · Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, 1984 · Musée d’Art Moderne et d’Art Contemporain, Nice · Palais Liechtenstein, Feldkirch · *Above Ground*, Museum of the City of New York, 2024–25
PUBLISHED IN *Subway Art* · *Spraycan Art* · *DAZEWORLD: The Artwork of Chris Daze Ellis*

LADY PINK

BORN 1964, ECUADOR · SHOWN ON BOTH FLOORS

Lady Pink was born in Ecuador and raised in New York. She started writing graffiti at fifteen and was soon the only woman competing on equal terms with the men painting the subway between 1979 and 1985. Her starring role in *Wild Style* in 1983 made her a lasting figure in hip-hop culture, and at twenty-one she held her first solo exhibition at the Moore College of Art. She is also a committed educator and muralist.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Whitney Museum of American Art, New York ·

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York · Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of the City of New York · Museum of Fine Arts, Boston · Groninger Museum, Groningen
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *New York/New Wave*, P.S.1, New York, 1981 · *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014 · Brooklyn Museum, New York · MASS MoCA, North Adams · *Above Ground*, Museum of the City of New York, 2024–25 · Plaza Mural Project, MoMA PS1, New York, 2025
COLLABORATIONS Jenny Holzer · Louis Vuitton *White Canvas*, with Lee Quiñones and the Estate of Rammellzee, 2023

BLADE

BORN 1957, NEW YORK, USA

Blade, born Steven Ogburn, is widely regarded as one of the most important figures in New York graffiti and is frequently called the King of Graffiti. Raised in the Bronx, he began writing in 1972 and is credited with painting more than 5,000 trains over the following decade. His whole cars and three-dimensional lettering were documented by Martha Cooper and Henry Chalfant.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Groninger Museum, Groningen
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *New York/New Wave*, P.S.1, New York, 1981 · *Graffiti*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, 1984 · *New York Graffiti*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1985 · Fun Gallery, New York · *Coming from the Subway*, 1992 · Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2000 · *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014 · *Beyond the Streets*
PUBLISHED IN *Subway Art* · *Spraycan Art* · *Blade: King of Graffiti*

TOXIC

BORN 1965, NEW YORK, USA

TOXIC, born Torrick Ablack in the Bronx, began writing at thirteen. With Rammellzee and the Tag Master Killers he pushed writing past conventional lettering into a practice built on language, symbolism and performance. In 1983 he travelled to Los Angeles with Jean-Michel Basquiat and Rammellzee for Basquiat’s second exhibition at the Gagosian Gallery. The three called themselves the Hollywood Africans, and Basquiat painted them in *Hollywood Africans*, now in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of the City of New York · Groninger Museum, Groningen
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Camouflaged Panzerism*, Fashion Moda, New York, 1982 · *Post-Graffiti*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, 1983 · *Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2020

LEE QUIÑONES

BORN 1960, PONCE, PUERTO RICO

Lee Quiñones is widely regarded as one of the foundational figures of New York graffiti. Born in Puerto Rico and raised on the Lower East Side, he was a central

member of the Fabulous Five and produced some of the most celebrated whole-car productions in graffiti history. His appearance as Zoro in *Wild Style* made him one of the defining faces of early hip-hop culture.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Whitney Museum of American Art, New York · Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of the City of New York · Groninger Museum, Groningen · Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam · Pérez Art Museum Miami · Blanton Museum of Art, Austin
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *New York/New Wave*, P.S.1, New York, 1981 · MoMA PS1, New York · Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles · *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014 · *Above Ground*, Museum of the City of New York, 2024–25
COLLABORATIONS Jenny Holzer · Louis Vuitton *White Canvas*, with Lady Pink and the Estate of Rammellzee, 2023
PUBLISHED IN *Lee Quiñones: Fifty Years of New York Graffiti Art and Beyond*, Damiani, 2024

STAIRCASE

KATHERINE BERNHARDT

BORN 1975, MISSOURI, USA

Katherine Bernhardt is an American painter and one of the most distinctive of her generation. Holding an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, she draws on fashion, consumer products, cartoons, tropical animals and global popular culture: the Pink Panther, E.T., Crocs, Nike swooshes, cigarettes and fruit become vivid compositions balancing spontaneity, humour and formal experimentation.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh · Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC · Rubell Museum, Miami
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth · Museo Mario Testino, Lima · David Zwirner, London · Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center, 2025 · High Line Billboard, New York, 2026 · Halle für Kunst Steiermark, Graz, 2026

SECOND FLOOR

DR. REVOLT

NEW YORK, USA

Dr. Revolt is one of the most inventive figures of the first generation of New York graffiti. Active in the 1970s and early 1980s and associated with the Rolling Thunder Writers, he brought humour, illustration and satire into a culture then focused almost entirely on lettering. Many historians regard him as among the earliest artists to explore the meeting of graffiti and graphic design.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Museum of the City of New York
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *New York/New Wave*, P.S.1, New York, 1981 · Fashion Moda, New York · Fun Gallery, New York

SKEME

BORN 1964, NEW YORK, USA
Skeme, born John Cecil Dash, is among the most respected stylists of the later subway era. He began writing in 1978 and achieved all-city status at fifteen, earning the nickname the 3 Yard King. *Style Wars* made him known worldwide in 1983, and the scenes with his mother are among the most memorable in the film.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *3 Yard King*, Galleria Varsi, Rome, 2013
PUBLISHED IN *Subway Art* · *Henry Chalfant: 1980*, Eric Firestone Gallery, New York, 2016
FEATURED IN *Style Wars*, 1983

DONDI

DONALD JOSEPH WHITE, 1961–1998, NEW YORK, USA
DONDI, born Donald Joseph White in East New York, Brooklyn, is re-membered as one of the most influential stylists of the subway era. His *Children of the Grave* whole cars, painted between 1978 and 1980 and photographed by Martha Cooper, remain among the most celebrated productions in graffiti history. He was the first graffiti artist given solo exhibitions in the Netherlands and Germany.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Museum of the City of New York · Groninger Museum, Groningen
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014 · *Graffiti*, Museion, Bolzano, 2025

FUTURA 2000

BORN 1955, NEW YORK, USA
FUTURA, born Leonard Hilton McGurr, is a foundational figure of New York graffiti and the pioneer of abstraction in aerosol painting. He was the first graffiti artist to move decisively away from letter-based writing toward floating forms, atmospheric colour and gestural marks; his subway work *Break* of 1980 remains a defining example.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Museum of the City of New York · Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles · Groninger Museum, Groningen · Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS MoMA PS1, New York · New Museum, New York · *FUTURA 2000: Breaking Out*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, 2024–25
COLLABORATIONS The Clash, live paintings on the 1981/82 US tour · Nike · Supreme · Louis Vuitton · Comme des Garçons · UNKLE
PUBLISHED IN *Futura: The Artist's Monograph*, Rizzoli, 2020

SEEN

BORN 1961, NEW YORK, USA
SEEN, born Richard Mirando, is a foundational figure of New York graffiti, widely referred to as the Godfather of Graffiti. He began writing in 1973 and became a leading member of the United Artists crew; his *Hand of Doom* is among the most documented works

of the subway era. He has since expanded into painting, sculpture and murals, exhibiting throughout Europe, North America and Asia.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *New York/New Wave*, P.S.1, New York, 1981 · Fashion Moda, New York · Fun Gallery, New York · *Art of the 80s and 90s*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, 1995 · *Nés dans la rue*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, 2009 · *Playboy Redux*, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, 2010 · Urban Nation Museum, Berlin, 2017
PUBLISHED IN *Subway Art*, 1984 · *Spraycan Art*, 1987 · *They Call Me the Godfather of Graffiti*

CEY ADAMS

BORN 1962, NEW YORK, USA
Cey Adams is an American visual artist, graphic designer and creative director. Writing as Cey City, he took part in New York's graffiti movement in the late 1970s and appeared in *Style Wars*. As founding Creative Director of Def Jam Recordings he created artwork, logos and campaigns that became inseparable from hip-hop's global rise.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC · Museum of the City of New York
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014 · *Departure: 40 Years of Art and Design*, Boston University Art Galleries, 2022
COLLABORATIONS Run-D.M.C. · Beastie Boys · LL Cool J · Public Enemy · Slick Rick · The Notorious B.I.G. · Jay-Z · DMX

LA II

BORN 1967, NEW YORK, USA
LA II is the tag name of Angel Ortiz, born on the Lower East Side. In 1980 Keith Haring went looking for the writer whose calligraphic tag he kept seeing in the street. For six years Ortiz collaborated with Haring full time; his dense interlocking marks shaped the look of that work, almost always catalogued under Haring's name alone.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *King of Hearts*, D'Stassi Art, London, 2022 · *Graffiti*, Museion, Bolzano, 2025, with Martin Wong
COLLABORATIONS Keith Haring · Kenny Scharf · Richard Hambleton · Delta 2 · ERO · STIK

ROBERT NAVA

BORN 1985, EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA, USA
Robert Nava is an American painter who has attracted significant international attention for a visual language of fantastical creatures, hybrid animals and mythological beings. Holding an MFA in Painting from Yale, he developed a direct and spontaneous approach that deliberately resists polished technique, drawing on prehistoric cave painting, ancient civilisations, medieval imagery and cartoons alike.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Art Institute of Chicago · Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC · Los Angeles County Museum of Art · Museum of Fine Arts, Houston · National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, 2024 · Night Gallery, Los Angeles · Kunstmuseum Schloss Derneburg · Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York · *Supercharger*, Pace Gallery, Tokyo, 2026

BANKSY

BORN C.1974, BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM
Banksy is an anonymous British artist whose work has fundamentally shaped contemporary street art. Emerging from the Bristol underground scene in the 1990s, he developed a stencil-based language of dark humour, irony and political commentary. In 2018 *Girl with Balloon* partially self-destructed at auction and was retitled *Love Is in the Bin*; his work is authenticated exclusively by Pest Control Office.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Bristol Museum & Art Gallery · British Museum, London
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Barely Legal*, Los Angeles, 2006 · *Banksy versus Bristol Museum*, Bristol, 2009 · *Dismaland*, Weston-super-Mare, 2015 · *Cut & Run*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, 2023
PUBLISHED IN *Wall and Piece*, 2005

RETNA

BORN 1979, LOS ANGELES, USA
RETNA is the professional name of Marquis Lewis, who became active in Los Angeles graffiti culture as a teenager. Drawing on Blackletter, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy, Indigenous symbolism and urban lettering, he created an alphabet functioning simultaneously as image, language and abstraction. His public walls include the Houston/Bowery Wall in New York and Wynwood Walls in Miami.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Art in the Streets*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2011, and a dedicated installation there in 2013 · JD Malat Gallery, London, 2025 · ArtLife Gallery, Miami, 2025
COLLABORATIONS Louis Vuitton · Chanel · Nike · Helmut Lang · Vista-Jet · San Francisco Opera · Washington National Opera · Justin Bieber, *Purpose*, 2015

PETER KLASEN

BORN 1935, LÜBECK, GERMANY
Peter Klasen is a German-born painter, photographer and sculptor whose airbrushed depictions of industrial machinery place him among the defining figures of postwar European figurative art. Settled in Paris since 1959, in 1964 he took part in *Mythologies quotidiennes*, the exhibition that launched Figuration Narrative as a European response to American Pop Art. His public commis-

sions include work at La Défense in Paris.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Centre Pompidou, Paris · Victoria and Albert Museum, London
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Mythologies quotidiennes*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1964 · *Figuration narrative, 1960–1972*, Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, 2008 · *Nowhere Anywhere*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris · Musée Arthur Rimbaud, Charleville-Mézières, 2024 · *Retrospective*, Galerie Zannettacci, Geneva, 2025

PRO176

BORN 1976, PARIS, FRANCE
PRO176 is the professional name of Rudy Dougbe, a French graffiti writer and painter whose work synthesises graffiti, comic-book imagery, abstraction and futurism. Active since the early 1990s, he co-founded Ultra Boys International in 1997. The influence of the American comic-book artist Jack Kirby remains central: his paintings combine structured letterforms with cosmic environments, futuristic machinery and dynamic colour.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Urban Art Biennale, Völklinger Hütte, Völklingen
COLLABORATIONS Seen Studios, from 2009 · RTZ (Return To Zero), Berlin

HERVÉ DI ROSA

BORN 1959, SÈTE, FRANCE
Hervé Di Rosa co-founded Figuration Libre in 1981 alongside Robert Combas, Rémi Blanchard and François Boisrond, one of the defining European movements of the 1980s. The 1984 exhibition *5/5, Figuration libre France/USA* in Paris positioned the movement alongside Basquiat, Haring, Kenny Scharf and CRASH. He co-founded the Musée International des Arts Modestes in Sète in 2000 and was elected to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 2022.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Centre Pompidou, Paris
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Barbara Gladstone Gallery and Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York, 1983–84 · *5/5, Figuration libre France/USA*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1984–85 · *Le passe-mondes*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2024 · MUCEM, Marseille, 2025 · *Idolâtries*, Galerie Templon, Brussels, 2025

DAMIEN HIRST

BORN 1965, BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM
Damien Hirst is one of the central figures of the Young British Artists. He organised Freeze in 1988 while still a student at Goldsmiths, and his practice explores life, death, science, belief and mortality through sculpture, installation and painting. *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living* (1991) and *Mother and Child* (Divided) (1993) became defining works of 1990s conceptual art.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Tate, London · The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York · Centre Pompidou, Paris · Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Retrospective, Tate Modern, London, 2012 · Fondation Cartier, Paris, 2021 · The National Art Center, Tokyo, 2022 · Museo Jumex, Mexico City, 2024 · Albertina Modern, Vienna, 2025 · National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, 2026

AIKO

BORN 1975, TOKYO, JAPAN
AIKO is a Japanese-born artist whose work sits between graffiti, street art, painting and collage. She moved from Tokyo to New York in the mid-1990s and worked in the Brooklyn studio of Takashi Murakami before co-founding the collective FAILE. She was the first woman invited to paint New York's Bowery Wall, in 2012, and the first to paint the façade of the Urban Nation Museum in Berlin, in 2021.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS STRAAT Museum, Amsterdam
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS Brooklyn Museum, New York · Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles · Shanghai MoCA · Japan Society, New York · Urban Nation Museum, Berlin, 2021 · *Beyond the Streets*, Los Angeles, New York and London
COLLABORATIONS Banksy, *Exit Through the Gift Shop* · Louis Vuitton *Fouls d'Artistes*, with RETNA and Os Gêmeos, 2013 · Fendi · Martha Cooper

COPE2

BORN 1968, NEW YORK, USA
Cope2, born Fernando Carlo Jr., is one of the most recognisable and enduring figures in the history of New York graffiti. Born in the Bronx, he began writing in 1978 and founded the Kings Destroy crew in 1982. His mastery of the throw-

up - bold, highly legible rounded letters with strong outlines - elevated rapid street writing into an instantly recognisable artistic language.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Museum of the City of New York
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Made From Love*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, 2008 · *From the Street to the Studio* · *City as Canvas*, Museum of the City of New York, 2014
COLLABORATIONS Converse · Adidas · Foot Locker · *TIME* Magazine · Shepard Fairey · RETNA
PUBLISHED IN *Cope2: True Legend*, 2003 · *The History of American Graffiti*, 2011 · *Cope2: The Evolving Art of a Bronx Graffiti Legend*

KENNY SCHARF

BORN 1958, LOS ANGELES, USA
Kenny Scharf is an American artist whose paintings, sculptures and installations have held a distinctive position in contemporary art since the early 1980s. Moving to New York in 1978 to study at the School of Visual Arts, he became part of the East Village scene alongside Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring. His work draws on science fiction, animation, comic strips and television.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS The Museum of Modern Art, New York · Whitney Museum of American Art, New York · Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York · Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam · San Francisco Museum of Modern Art · Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles · Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1985 · Retrospective, The Broad, Los Angeles, 2021–22 · *Kenny Scharf: Cosmic Time*, Albertina Modern, Vienna, 2024 · The Brant Foundation, New York, 2024–25
COLLABORATIONS Dior · Swatch · Louis Vuitton · Absolut Vodka

C215

BORN 1973, BONDY, FRANCE
C215 is the professional name of Christian Guémy, a French artist internationally recognised for stencil-based portraits and public artworks. Rather than lettering or graphic symbols, he centres his work on individuals - residents, workers, migrants, children, historical figures - placing portraits on doors, postboxes and overlooked walls. His work can be found in Paris, London, Rome, New York, Istanbul, Lisbon, Dakar, Berlin and New Delhi.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS Musée Carnavalet, Paris · Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris · Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice · Pera Museum, Istanbul · War Museum, Kyiv
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Illustres!*, Panthéon, Paris, 2018 · *Entre ombre et lumière*, Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération, Paris, 2022 · *Slava Ukraini*, Assemblée nationale, Paris, 2023 · Musée Inguimbertaine, Carpentras, 2024
COLLABORATIONS French Ministry of the Armed Forces · La Poste · SNCF · Urban Art Biennale, Völklinger Hütte, 2013

TOX

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
TOX is one of the most recognised and discussed graffiti writers to emerge from Britain this century. Known for the extraordinary visibility of his name throughout London, he built a practice centred on the tag, the throw-up and the continual assertion of identity in public space. He has since developed studio works and editions that carry the language of tagging onto canvas and paper.
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Long Dark Tunnel*, with 10Foot and FUME, Piccadilly, London, 2025

PUBLISHED IN *The Big Issue*, 10Foot guest edition, 2025 · *Juxtapoz*, 2024

10FOOT

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
10Foot is one of the most influential figures in contemporary British graffiti, known for relentless activity, highly visible productions and an unwavering commitment to the traditional principles of writing. Rising to prominence in London in the 2010s, he built a reputation through consistency, scale and work placed in strategically significant locations across the city's railway networks and industrial infrastructure.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *Long Dark Tunnel*, with TOX and FUME, Piccadilly, London, 2025 · *Criminal: An Untold History of Homelessness, Resistance and Survival*, Museum of Homelessness, London, 2026
COLLABORATIONS *The Big Issue*, guest-edited issue with Banksy, Kneecap and Alan Moore, 2025
PUBLISHED IN *Juxtapoz*, 2024

FAKE

BORN 1980, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
FAKE is the professional name of Manuel Seikritt, a Dutch artist recognised for stencil-based works combining street art, popular culture, humour and social commentary. He moves between public space, studio production, editions and gallery exhibitions. Among his most widely seen works is *Super Nurse*, made during the COVID-19 pandemic as a tribute to healthcare workers.

IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS STRAAT Museum, Amsterdam
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS *AcabCadabra*, Amsterdam, 2023 · *DISCONNECTED*, Maastricht, 2024 · *Street Art Is Dead*, Amsterdam, 2025 · *Micromania*, 2026
COLLABORATIONS Diesel · Bavaria · Philips · Vans

A SHORT HISTORY

KEY MOMENTS IN GRAFFITI AND STREET ART

Artists in the exhibition are set in bold.

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