

GRAFFITI GUIDE

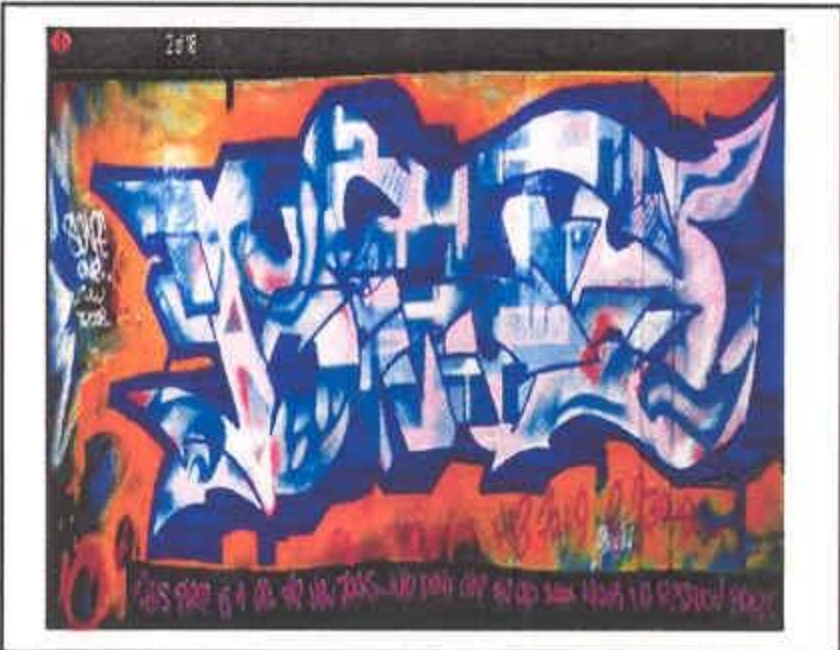
Graffiti: Term applied to an arrangement of institutionally illicit marks in which there has been an attempt to establish some sort of coherent composition. Such marks are made by an individual or individuals (not generally professional artists) upon a wall or other surface that is usually visually accessible to the public.... {*The Grove Dictionary of Art*}



TAG: A stylized signature used to identify the 'tagger' or 'writer' utilizing one color, thereby allowing it to be put up quickly and often for the purpose of gaining notoriety and recognition. Numbers representative of an area code, street or address may also be included to identify where the 'tagger' or 'writer' is from. (The terms 'tagger'/'writer' refer to a person who 'tags')



THROW-UP: Stylized signature a step-up from the 'tag'. Most typically employing 'bubble letters' and no more than two colors making up the outline and 'inside fill', requiring a little more time to execute than a 'tag'. As with the 'tag', it allows a 'writer' or 'tagger' to gain recognition or notoriety by 'getting up'. Which is another term in graffiti vocabulary referring to the proliferation of a name leading to high visibility.



PIECE: Short for 'masterpiece'. Also referred to as a 'burner'. It is a time consuming, technically and stylistically executed multi-colored 'painting' or image that may employ arrows, giving flow and direction and various other effects.



GANG-RELATED: Often referred to as 'The Newspaper of the Streets' complete with 'want ads' and 'obituary' section. It will most typically include symbols, numbers or characters representative of the gang. And may identify the gang's ideology; territorial boundaries; group membership; enemies/allies; violence that has occurred or will occur. Graffiti that has been crossed-out, written upside down or broken in half is a sign of disrespect to a rival gang.

REPORT GRAFFITI TO THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OF JURISDICTION AND FOLLOW THE THREE R'S:

READ IT
RECORD IT
REMOVE IT