**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azolNnTCnMI>**

**Introduction**

We were told this painting called “Bof” by an artist who is known simply as Lee was sold for 10 000 of dollars

Let's step up for this graffiti roots, which was “writing on the wall for free”

Let’s look over whether graffiti is art.

**First part**

It is in fact a national urban epidemic it's spreads like some mysterious magic marker pen spray paint fungus

Remember when graffiti was the scourge of American cities, and now it seems that almost every inch of every public wall is covered with names in an obscure kind of print.

But what was once considered vandalism is being presented at an exhibit at the museum of New York, show casing for some who as teenagers left their marks in the 1970s and 80's

**Leonard Mac Gurr** : I'm gonna be 59 this year and so, looking back, you know, it just doesn't seem real

**Journalist** : Leonard Mac Gurr who goes by the street name of Futura 2000, Chris Ellis is also known as DAZE and Lady Pink's real name is Sandra Fabara

They say that early graffiti was all about tagging, figuring out a stylish and distinctive way to write your street name

**DAZE** : Spray Paint was the perfect media for what we were doing because it was vibrant colors, it was quick, it dried fast and it enabled you to paint on a large scale

**Journalist** : Over the years, graffiti writers began to embelish their work with more design elements many borrowed from popular culture. All along, hardered the attraction for these kids, including Lady Pink was that they were OUTLAWS. With spray paint, often stolen, as their weapon of choice.

**Lady Pink** : Learning how to paint in pitch blackness, with your knees bending together your heart in your throat, you hear a noise, it might only be a rat, but you jump out of your sneakers and you run out on the length of the lane and then you'd have to come back and continue painting, in the dark and develop night vision. This is not an easy thing

**Journalist** : But what many of us never realised is how hard these teenagers worked on their creations

They actually planned out what they were going to put on buildings and trains and buses!

Yes, it was very common to kind of work on your style and then translate it into work in the world

CharlotKurtrein who curated the exhibit showed us a rare box of little black books essentially sketch books , there are also photos and reproductions all collected by the late **Martin Wong**, a painter in his own right who became friend and mentor to many of the young graffiti writers

**Journalist** : Why do you think he realised that this stuff was worth going on until?

**Museum curator** : He believed there was a real creative value to what these kids were doing. He really bought into who they were.

But others object to glorifying graffiti, arguing that's it's a sign of a city out of control

**Heather Mac Donalds** : It is filthy, it is spirit killing

Heather Mac Donalds who writes about Urban policy for the Manhattan institute says she is angry about the exhibit

It does not focus sufficiently on the corrosive effect that graffiti had on the city spirit. Anybody who could avoid the subways in the 1970s and 80s that could, did.

Journalist : The exhibit presents graffiti in the context of art, you're suggesting that this isn't art

**Heather Mac Donalds** : It is vandalism, it is an appropriation of the public space or somebody's private property without permission and nobody has a right to do that.

**Pink lady** : It's only graffiti or vandalism if you get arrested. But if you get away with it than it's clearly art

**Journalist** : in fact, graffiti began to disappear from streets and subways as New York city became more vigilent about tracking down and cleaning up but it has left a lasting impression on our culture

Futura 2000 has become a graffic artist who works for Nike ans Levis

Lady Pink is a painter whose work has been exhibited in several museums

And so is DAZE

And the graffiti movement paved the way for world reknown artists like Keith Haring, Banksy and Shepard Fairey who created the famous Obama HOPE poster

In all the light this trail of graffiti pioneers.

**Futura2000** : I think we are all pretty grateful right now to have had that experience because a lot of people paint for it whah, it must have been so cool back then in New York. You know what, yes it was and you missed it!

Journalist : The museum says it has been one of the most popular exhibit in years

And whether you like the work or what it stands for , there is not getting away from the fact that all of this was created by the very young!

**Pink Lady** : The train you see was done by a 14 / 15/ 16 years old. it is done by kids. When was the last time we have seen an important movement be contributed by teenagers in our American culture?

Is street painting art or vandalism?

**Activity 1 : Global comprehension**

**What**

* This document is
* A report on a museum
* A news report on street art
* A film directed by 3 street artists

**Where**

* The video takes place in :
* London
* New York

**Who***(multiple correct answers)*

* The characters seen in the video are :
* A journalist
* A reporter
* A museum guide
* Street artists
* An administrative from the Urban department

**When***(multiple correct answers)*

* The video takes place :
* Today
* In the future
* In 1972
* We have no information

**Activity 2 : Detailed comprehension**

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| 1. **Watch and work: 1st part (INTRODUCTION and images from 1972)**   => 0 :43 |
| True (T) / False (F) / No information (NI)   1. In 1972, street art was very popular …………… 2. In 1972, graffiti was everywhere on the walls of American cities …………… 3. Today, there is an exhibit in a museum in London …………… |

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| 1. **Watch and work: 2nd part « The exhibit »**   =>0 :43 / 2 :03 |
| 1. Find information on the artists  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Names** | **Nicknames** | **Other information (age?/job today?)** | | Leonard Mac Gurr |  |  | | Chris Ellis |  |  | | Sandra Fabara |  |  |   True (T) / False (F) / No information (NI)   1. Early graffiti was all about tagging …………… 2. Advantages of spray paint according to DAZE   Vibrant colors …………… quick …………… didn’t dry fast ……………  cheap : ……………   1. To embellish their work, artists used elements of Disney world ………………. 2. The teenagers prepared their creations to find their style …………… |

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| --- |
| 1. **Watch and work: 3rd part « Graffiti is vandalism »**   =>2 :04 / end |
| True (T) / False (F) / No information (NI)   1. The lady interviewed thinks graffiti is disgusting …………… 2. She says that in the 70s and 80s people liked going in the subway : …………… 3. She is happy with the exhibit ………………. 4. She thinks graffiti is art ………………….. 5. Graffiti disappeared quickly ………………….. 6. Daze and Pink Lady are now famous painters …………… 7. Today Futura 2000 is a politician …………… 8. Banksy created the Obama poster …………… |