



The History of American Graffiti

By Roger Gastman, Caleb Neelon

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Unprecedented in scope, *The History of American Graffiti* is the definitive story behind the most influential art form of the last one hundred years. Tracing the evolution of the medium from its early freight-train days to its big-city boom on the streets of New York City and Philadelphia, and to its modern-day influences, this volume is a compelling look at the key moments, places, and players in an art form distinctly American in flavor yet global in its reach.

Featuring behind-the-scenes stories and profiles gleaned from more than four years' worth of interviews with graffiti's most prominent names, as well as its lesser-known pioneers, authors Roger Gastman and Caleb Neelon provide an insider's perspective on the history of the medium. Not only do they reveal the most popular trends and styles that have dominated the scene for the last fifty years but they also provide a thorough examination of the regional differences among major American hubs—New York, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Chicago—and under-the-radar scenes in cities like Washington, D.C., Boston, and Miami. All told, more than twenty-five American cities are profiled, making this one of the most comprehensive volumes on the subject.

With more than one thousand photographs—the majority of which are seen here for the first time—from more than two hundred photographers, most of whom also created the artwork, *The History of American Graffiti* captures the look and feel of a genuine American art form with exceptional clarity and detail. An instant classic, this book is the ultimate resource to which aficionados of the art form will turn again and again, and which the uninitiated will regard as the definitive tutorial of all that is graffiti.

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Editorial Review

Review

“The History of American Graffiti is the first truly comprehensive history of graffiti’s secretive, illegal culture.” (Shephard Fairey, artist)

“‘Wild style’ graffiti may be the most influential art movement since pop art. Roger Gastman and Caleb Neelon have written the definitive history of the origins of the graffiti styles that emerged in Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles in the early 1970s and inspired young artists around the world.” (Jeffrey Deitch, director, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art)

“Graffiti is a much-maligned and misunderstood social movement, which I am proud to be a part of. This book offers the definitive perspective on graffiti—finally, we have a historical textbook for the most colorful art form modern society has known.” (David Arquette, actor)

“If there were a college course on graffiti, this would be its textbook, but these stories are more fun than academic: The History of American Graffiti also supplements a degree from the school of street smarts.” (Shepard Fairey, artist)

“This book is a much-needed celebration of a true American art form—graffiti writing. Whether you love or hate graffiti, this book breaks down the history of this controversial art. Learn about this important movement—cop this book!” (Alain “KET” Maridueña, author, Graffiti Planet, Rockin’ It Suckers, and Graffiti Tattoo)

“When the American graffiti movement emerged, it was ‘outsider’ art, youth art, and public art all at once. It shattered racial and economic segregation and provoked political and generational reprobation. Roger Gastman and Caleb Neelon’s The History of American Graffiti is as sweeping, provocative, and monumental as the movement itself.” (Jeff Chang, author, Can’t Stop Won’t Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation)

About the Author

Roger Gastman started writing graffiti as a teenager in Bethesda, Maryland, and was able to parlay his love for it into a legitimate career. He founded and published two respected popculture magazines—*While You Were Sleeping* and *Swindle* (copublisher)—as well as more than a dozen highly sought-after art books. He is the founder and creative director of R. Rock Enterprises, a multiplatform media agency specializing in print, art, design, marketing, and brand development that has nurtured the careers of internationally recognized artists. Gastman has produced several independent documentary films and has held speaking engagements at universities and museums across the country. He lives in Los Angeles, California, with his two yellow Labs, Nicky and Harley.

Caleb Neelon has been writing about urban history and contemporary culture for more than fifteen years. He is the coauthor of *Street World* and *Graffiti Brasil*, author of his artist monograph, *Caleb Neelon's Book of Awesome*, and a contributor to dozens of other books and magazines. He has painted walls in more than two dozen countries and exhibited in galleries, museums, hospitals, and educational settings. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Kostka:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book The History of American Graffiti it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Gary Sandler:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this The History of American Graffiti publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation The History of American Graffiti as good book not just by the cover but also by content. This is one reserve that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Douglas Quintanar:

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is actually The History of American Graffiti. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

Cameron Rodriquez:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person similar to reading or as looking at become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important as well as book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update about something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is niagra The History of American Graffiti.

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