

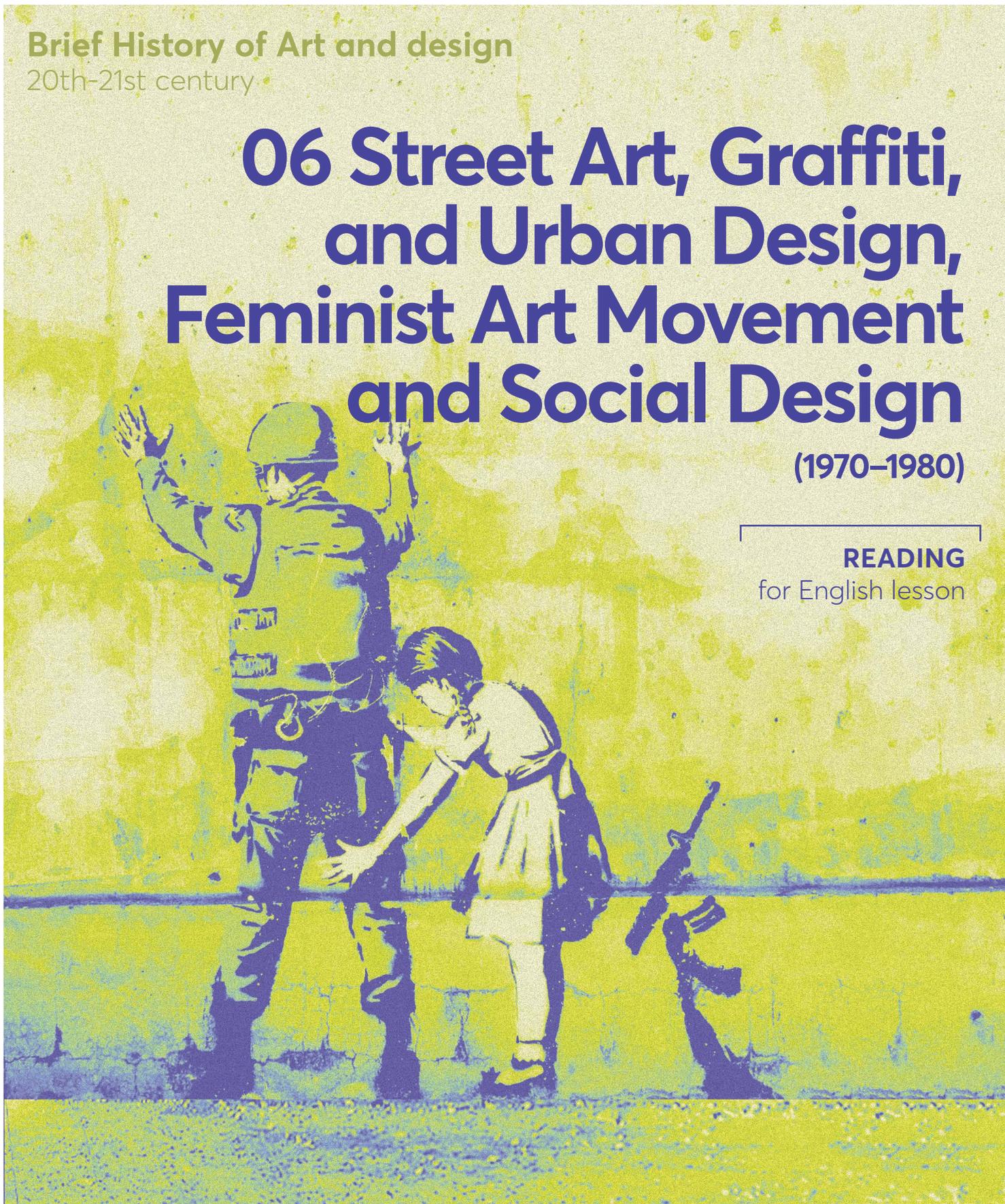
Brief History of Art and design

20th-21st century

06 Street Art, Graffiti, and Urban Design, Feminist Art Movement and Social Design

(1970–1980)

READING
for English lesson



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Empower **ED**

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READING

Read the text about street art and graffiti. Pay attention to key terms and facts. Underline or highlight the relevant information. Then continue with the reading comprehension task below.

Street Art and Graffiti: Expressions of the Urban Landscape

Street art and graffiti have long been vibrant components of urban culture, offering a means of self-expression and social commentary. While often conflated, street art and graffiti are distinct practices. Graffiti typically focuses on stylized lettering and tags, emphasizing the artist's name or pseudonym. In contrast, street art encompasses a broader range of visual expression, including murals, stencils, and installations.

Origins and Evolution of Graffiti

Graffiti emerged as a subcultural phenomenon in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly in cities like New York. Artists like Taki 183 and Cornbread pioneered tagging, transforming public spaces into canvases for their names. Over time, graffiti evolved into complex pieces featuring intricate designs and social messages. Hip-hop culture played a significant role in the rise of graffiti, integrating it alongside DJing, rapping, and breakdancing.

Despite its artistic merits, graffiti has often been viewed as vandalism, leading to debates about its legitimacy as art. Legal crackdowns have forced graffiti artists to innovate, sometimes transitioning their work into galleries and mainstream art scenes.

The Rise of Street Art

Street art gained prominence in the late 20th century as artists began to engage with urban spaces more deliberately. Unlike graffiti, which often prioritizes individual identity, street art frequently addresses social, political, and cultural themes. Iconic street artists like Banksy, Shepard Fairey, and JR have used their work to challenge societal norms, critique consumerism, and advocate for change.

Mediums used in street art vary widely, including spray paint, wheat paste, stickers, and even augmented reality. The ephemeral nature of street art—often created without permission and subject to removal—underscores its role as a fleeting yet impactful form of cultural expression.

Feminist Art Movement: Reclaiming Spaces

The feminist art movement emerged in the 1960s and 1970s alongside broader feminist activism. This movement sought to challenge the male-dominated art world, question traditional representations of women, and highlight issues such as gender inequality, violence, and reproductive rights.

Key figures in the feminist art movement include Judy Chicago, whose installation "The Dinner Party" celebrates women's contributions throughout history, and the Guerilla Girls, an anonymous collective that critiques sexism and racism in art institutions. By addressing topics often excluded from mainstream discourse, feminist artists have expanded the boundaries of what art can represent.

Intersection of Street Art and Feminism

The intersection of street art and feminism has given rise to a powerful subgenre that reclaims public spaces to amplify women's voices. Female street artists like Miss Van, Swoon, and Lady Pink use their work to challenge gender stereotypes and confront societal expectations. These artists often blend bold imagery with personal narratives, creating pieces that resonate with diverse audiences.

Key concepts in this intersection include representation, visibility, and empowerment. By occupying walls, streets, and other public venues, feminist street artists make marginalized perspectives impossible to ignore, fostering dialogue about gender and equality.

Conclusion

Both street art and the feminist art movement underscore the power of art to disrupt, inspire, and provoke. Whether through the vibrant tags of graffiti artists or the thought-provoking installations of feminist creators, these movements invite viewers to rethink their surroundings and challenge societal norms. Studying these forms of expression reveals the evolving relationship between art, identity, and activism.

Answer the questions about the text to check your comprehension by choosing the most appropriate answer.

1. Who were the pioneering artists credited with establishing early graffiti tagging?

- a. Banksy and JR
- b. Taki 183 and Cornbread
- c. Miss Van and Lady Pink
- d. Shepard Fairey and Swoon

2. What primarily distinguishes street art from graffiti?

- a. The use of spray paint
- b. The location of the artwork
- c. The emphasis on social and political themes over personal tags
- d. The legality of the artwork

3. Which art collective is known for anonymously critiquing sexism and racism in art institutions?

- a. The Feminist Art Movement
- b. The Street Art Coalition
- c. The Urban Artists Guild
- d. The Guerrilla Girls

4. What significant installation by Judy Chicago celebrates women's contributions throughout history?

- a. The Dinner Party
- b. The Urban Canvas
- c. The Female Perspective
- d. The Historical Women

- 5. Which cultural movement played a crucial role in the rise of graffiti?**
 - a. Punk rock
 - b. Abstract expressionism
 - c. Pop art
 - d. Hip-hop

- 6. What medium is NOT commonly associated with street art?**
 - a. Oil on canvas
 - b. Wheatpaste
 - c. Stickers
 - d. Spray paint

- 7. Which contemporary street artist is famous for their anonymous identity and political commentary?**
 - a. Lady Pink
 - b. Banksy
 - c. Miss Van
 - d. Swoon

- 8. What key concept characterizes feminist street art's mission?**
 - a. Profit generation
 - b. Traditional aesthetics
 - c. Empowerment
 - d. Abstract expression

- 9. During which decades did graffiti emerge as a subcultural phenomenon?**
 - a. 1980s and 1990s
 - b. 1940s and 1950s
 - c. 1960s and 1970s
 - d. 2000s and 2010s

- 10. What aspect of street art emphasizes its temporary nature?**
 - a. Its commercial value
 - b. Its educational purpose
 - c. Its digital format
 - d. Its ephemeral quality

- 11. Which female street artist is known for challenging gender stereotypes in her work?**
 - a. Miss Van
 - b. Georgia O'Keeffe
 - c. Frida Kahlo
 - d. Louise Bourgeois

- 12. What is a primary focus of traditional graffiti artists?**
 - a. Political statements
 - b. Stylized lettering and tags
 - c. Religious imagery
 - d. Landscape scenes

- 13. How does feminist street art typically interact with public spaces?**
 - a. By avoiding controversial topics
 - b. By maintaining traditional art forms
 - c. By seeking official permissions
 - d. By reclaiming and amplifying women's voices

14. What distinguishes the feminist art movement of the 1960s and 1970s?

- a. Its focus on commercial success
- b. Its challenge to male-dominated art institutions
- c. Its rejection of political themes
- d. Its emphasis on traditional techniques

15. What role does representation play in feminist street art?

- a. It focuses solely on aesthetic beauty
- b. It emphasizes commercial appeal
- c. It makes marginalized perspectives visible
- d. It promotes traditional gender roles