



Urban Art Legends

KET

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Renowned graffiti artist KET looks at 38 of the most influential urban artists from around the world

From being spray-painted onto walls and trains, to enjoying acclaim in galleries and museums, the graffiti movement has changed. Far from being viewed as mindless vandalism, graffiti, or urban street art, has become prized as a highly valued and socially relevant art form. Renowned graffiti artist KET selects 38 of the most influential and pioneering urban artists from around the world who have driven this transformation. Alongside selections of their artwork, KET explores their mediums, methods, and backgrounds, and why they've chosen to challenge classical ideas of art to convey messages about urban culture. From well-known names such as Banksy, Shepard Fairey, and Blek le Rat to superstars of the underground movement, these are artists who have moved far away from the clichéd lettering and tags to develop individual styles that reflect and critique modern life. With photographs, biographies, and commentary by KET, this is the perfect companion for modern art fans who would like to learn more about their favorite street artists and discover new ones, and anyone wanting to learn more about this vibrant, exciting, and constantly evolving art form.

Urban Art Legends Details

Date : Published February 1st 2016 by Michael O'Mara

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Author : KET

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From Reader Review Urban Art Legends for online ebook

Allison says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway

Kend says

A beautifully crafted and bound collection, featuring a number of street writers and artists that I'd heard of (Banksy, Kase2, Saber) and several that I had not (Doze Green, Faith47, Lady Pink). His selection seems well-chosen, if rather more a "greatest hits" catalogue of graffiti's high-profile legends than it is a discovery tool for new, upcoming, or less-well-known artists. Each writer or artist gets a page spread (or two) complete with a brief working biography and several examples of their work. Penned by street artist Alan Ket and published by the British imprint LOM ART, the book itself is a fine thing to hold in your hand--thick glossy pages, well-designed, beautifully bound in hardcover.

This is the sort of book which, having read once, I know would look nice on a shelf somewhere. The problem is, "Urban Art Legends" strikes me as too firmly rooted in nostalgia to transcend its "coffee table" destiny. It features too few artists--only 39--to serve as representative of the street art, writing, and graffiti movement ... much less as a reference. Every city in every country has its street artists, and those KET anthologizes here are almost strictly Western--London and New York are well represented, and Los Angeles, Cape Town, and Sydney make a rare appearance. In many ways, it feels both very White and very Male--which, it is true, has largely been the hallmark of street artists who have transitioned into museum and private collections. The book's front and back material provides a concise history of Western street art, but steers clear of commentary on greater questions of social strata, revolution, and transformation. KET's intent is to document his influences and icons, not to educate readers on art itself. I perhaps would have enjoyed more meat to digest, but I appreciate the book as a testament to one artist's singular vision.

Anthrochiq n2 Art says

OO Excellent !! I won this book, so awesome ! Will review when I receive the book; looking forward to this art book.

Chadwick says

Thanks to LOM Art for an advance copy via a giveaway. Receiving a free copy did not affect the content of my review.

This is an attractive book, nicely packaged, with a cool cover and terrific color plates. It's worth a read -- whether you're an aficionado of urban art or know little about it (like me). The introduction and author bios by KET are very helpful in understanding the art and its context. And there is some amazing art, needless to say.

Adam Dotter says

I received this book over the weekend, and the photos are beautiful. As a book its a very quick read, however the true value is the unique photos of the art of which the book is based. Its a top tier compilation of none traditional artists. Highly recommend.

Tammie Shelley says

Cool art
