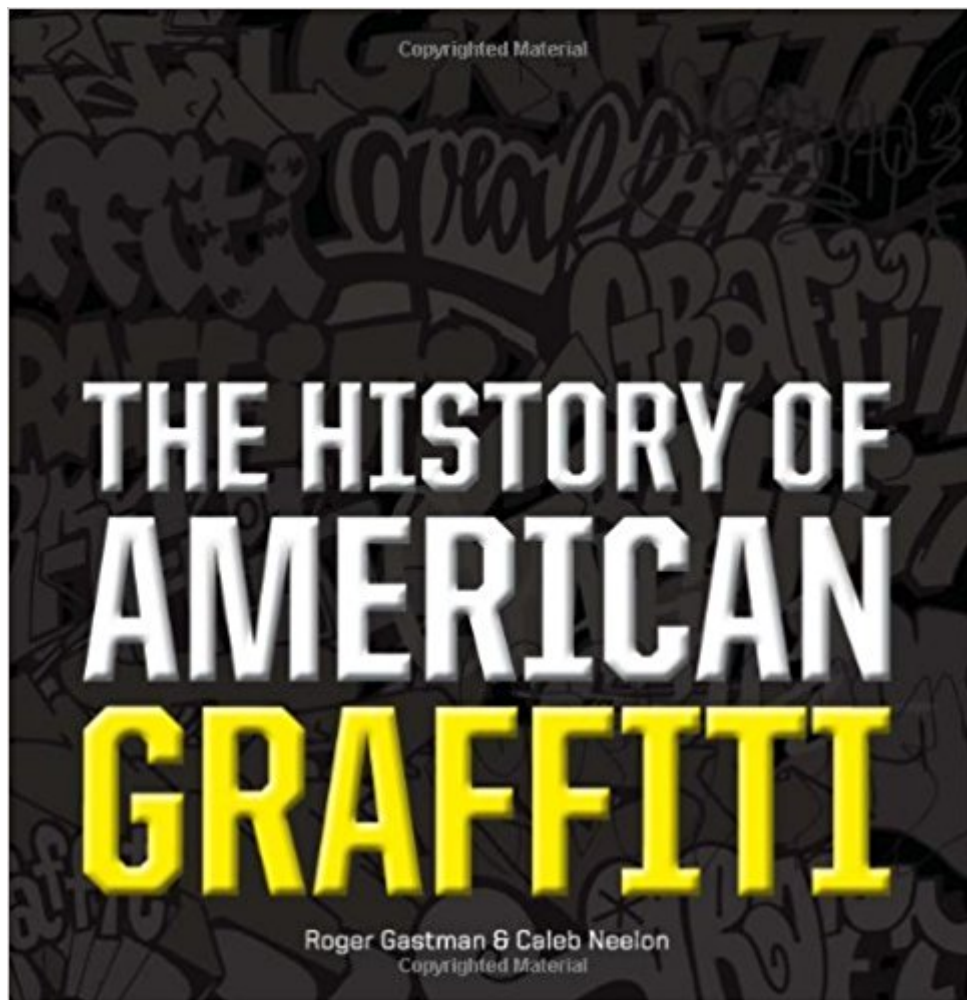




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# The History Of American Graffiti



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“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)

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 pop culture 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 co-author 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.

An incredibly well-researched city-by-city, decade-by-decade guide to graffiti and street art in the U.S. Even if you skim over the exhaustive listings of artists from each scene, you will find a ton of useful detail on the history and culture of graffiti. As an artist and educator I've found this material to be invaluable. Note: co-author Caleb Neelon is an internationally famous street artist in his own right, and lends first-hand experience and credibility to the text.

This book is comprehensive, insightful, and profound. takes it's place on the top shelf of hip-hop/graffiti books. The chapter on My home town of East Chicago took me by surprise. i knew all those guys! My son grew up in awe of them and carries the torch with UAE & FTR of Chicago. Highly recommended.

I purchased this book to use in a class that I am teaching called The Art and History of Graffiti. The introduction and opening chapters are very informative and there are lots of images to keep my high school students engaged.

This book could have been at least 3 or 4 times longer than it actually is but then it would weigh about 15 pounds instead of about 3-4 lbs. I love the thick pages and the colorful pictures and i also loved how detailed the history was. THERE SHOULD BE A CLASS WITH THIS AS THE TEXTBOOK IN EVERY COLLEGE IN THE NATION!!~EVOL

must have...

I bought this as a gift, and my boyfriend loves it! Great photos, tons of info, very comprehensive. Def recommend.

Bought this for my husband for fathers Day. He is from Baltimore City and knew of some of the people in the book. Awesome Book and best price I could find plus free shipping.

is a great book of history of usa graffiti... i saw new photos of oldschool graffiti and fresh interview to learn more. i recommended

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