



ENGLISH SPEAKING CLUB

Color your world

1. Spark up



IMPRESSIONISM

***Impressionism** is a 19th-century art movement characterized by relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, open composition, emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities.*

EXPRESSIONISM

***Expressionism** is a modernist movement, initially in poetry and painting, originating in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Its typical trait is to present the world solely from a subjective perspective, distorting it radically for emotional effect in order to evoke moods or ideas.*



MINIMALISM

***Minimalism** is an extreme form of abstract art developed in the USA in the 1960s and typified by artworks composed of simple geometric shapes based on the square and the rectangle.*



Frank Stella (American, b. 1936), **Agbatana III**, 1968, Acrylic on canvas, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Fund for



2, Language exposure



Graffiti

A HISTORY

Is graffiti a vibrant urban art form or senseless vandalism? When did graffiti first become popular? Read this article to find out about the history of street art and hear from both sides of the debate.

The first drawings on walls appeared in caves thousands of years ago. Later the Ancient Romans and Greeks wrote their names and protest poems on buildings. Modern graffiti seems to have appeared in Philadelphia in the early 1960s, and by the late sixties it had reached New York. The new art form really took off in the 1970s, when people began writing their names, or 'tags', on buildings all over the city. In the mid seventies it was sometimes hard to see out of a subway car window, because the trains were completely covered in spray paintings known as 'masterpieces'.

In the early days, the 'taggers' were part of street gangs who were concerned with marking their territory. They worked in groups called 'crews', and called what they did 'writing' – the term 'graffiti' was first used by The New York Times and the novelist Norman Mailer. Art galleries in New York began buying graffiti in the early seventies. But at the same time that it began to be regarded as an art form, John Lindsay, the then mayor of New York, declared the first war on graffiti. By the 1980s it became much harder to write on subway trains without being caught, and instead many of the more established graffiti artists began using roofs of buildings or canvases.

The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Vallone, a New York city councillor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property it becomes a crime. 'I have a message for the graffiti vandals out there,' he said recently. 'Your freedom of expression ends where my property begins.' On the other hand, Felix, a member of the Berlin-based group Reclaim Your City, says that artists are reclaiming cities for the public from advertisers, and that graffiti represents freedom and makes cities more vibrant.

For decades graffiti has been a springboard to international fame for a few. Jean-Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the '80s. The Frenchman Blek le Rat and the British artist Banksy have achieved international fame by producing complex works with stencils, often making political or humorous points. Works by Banksy have been sold for over £100,000. Graffiti is now sometimes big business.



3. NEW VOCABULARY

English

Vietnamese

Impressionism (n)

trường phái nghệ thuật Ấn tượng

Expressionism (n)

trường phái nghệ thuật Biểu hiện

Minimalism (n)

trường phái nghệ thuật Tối giản

Graffiti (n)

vẽ tranh/ biểu tượng lên tường bằng sơn xịt

vibrant (a)

sống động

senseless (a)

không có cảm xúc

vandalism (n)

sự phá hoại

street art

nghệ thuật đường phố

drawing (n)

bức vẽ, bản vẽ

reach (v)

tiếp cận, với tới

take off (v)

thành công

to be covered in

bị che lấp bởi/ có rất nhiều

to mark one's territory

đánh dấu lãnh thổ của ai

canvas (n)

vải bố

to be done with permission

làm trong phạm vi cho phép

property (n)

tài sản



3. NEW VOCABULARY

English

Vietnamese

spray paint

sơn xịt

complex (a)

phức tạp/ phức hợp

stencil (n)

miếng kim thuộc mỏng

springboard (n)

bàn đạp

represent (v)

đại diện cho

to go on (v)

tiếp diễn. tiếp tục

city councillor

ủy viên hội đồng thành phố



4. DISCUSSION

PART 1

Art

1. Did you enjoy doing art lessons when you were a child?
2. Do you ever draw or paint pictures now?
3. When was the last time you went to an art gallery or exhibition?
4. What kind of pictures do you like having in your home?

Photography

1. Do you enjoy taking photographs?
2. What things do you like to photograph?
3. Do you consider photography an art form?
4. Do you visit art museums when you go to another city?

PART 2

Describe a work of art that you really like.

You should say

what the work of art is

when you first saw it

what you know about it

and explain why you like it.

PART 3

1. Is it easy to learn how to draw?
2. Do you think art is as important as academic subjects at school?
3. Why do you think some people enjoy looking at paintings and sculptures and others do not?
4. What are the traditional art forms in your country?
5. How has art changed in the last few decades in your country?
6. Should the government provide support for art and cultural activities?