# Panorama of Graffiti; A wide view

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### **ABSTRACT**

'Art' refers to a visual expression. It is considered imagination, imitation, and creative skill also. Art is aesthetic in nature too, that is, always appreciated by the human mind. A combination of single coloured drawing to a multicoloured painting, the beauty of art is compared to 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'- The perfect nature and surroundings that are beautiful. From spray cans to digital graffiti, the wall paintings in the form of scribbles, stick figures, fresco, murals and street art presents different art forms. The paper is a review of wall painting and graffiti which can be called synonym for each other in the new-generation age. The study is qualitative in nature that deals with observations and case studies. Today wall painting and graffiti have emerged as Urban Art growing from Tag to hip-hop, to hand painted political advertising, to considering socio-cultural issues in a very short span of about fifty years in contemporary times. The objective of research here is to study the wall paintings and graffiti that tends to affect cultural and aesthetic values in a society. It is to observe how from spreading one's name and fame, the art has embraced different styles and techniques of self-expression through visual communication. The samples collected are Stratified Random Samples from direct visit and magazines and internet retrieved material for the grounded theory for analysis of the data. The inference and final opinion calculated from the theoretical situation presents that the wall painting and graffiti are interchangeable, identical and corresponding to each other in the present times. Their popularity is over- increasing in the recent setup.

**Keywords:** Graffiti, wall painting, urban art, synonymous

### 1. Introduction

Since the emergence of civilization there is a primitive instinct in man to imitate nature. He adapted to write and draw on the stone walls of the cave.

It is very often observed that a child scribbles on the walls of the room or teaches the class enacting a teacher at home and writes on the wall, considering it a black board or a smart board of today. Same is the case with Diego the famous mural artist of the day using the walls at home in his infancy. Michelangelo and leonardo-da-vinci's beautiful works are also admired throughout the world. So is the case with wall paintings of Kaimur range Uttar Pradesh, Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and Ajanta, Ellora caves. All these evidences of the temples, roofs, walls, and interiors of the ancient places. Inscriptions on charminar of Hyderabad represents the early graffiti writing on the walls.



Figure 1. Art Forms

Talking about the art forms the famous seven forms can be enlisted as Painting, Cinema, Sculpture, Music, Architecture, Theatre and Literature.

Art painting is the medium of teaching in early education also. And today's best known contemporary artists have adopted to work in this medium to give expression of life and culture while painting bare wide walls, abandoned buildings, subways and flyovers and under-bridges. The painting is done through brushes, smear dabbing or splashing or airbrushes, rollers or sponges or spray cans. And this painting is classified in the terms of projects, themes, subject matter, style or genre. May it be still life, landscape, seascape, postures or abstract with different styles and mediums and techniques.



Figure 2. Painting on Socio Cultural expressions.

In the contrary context, the painting on the wall gives information and aesthetic, artistic expressions to the community by presenting public expressions. It defines the values, life, and traditions and prevalent socio-cultural issues also.

Wall painting in the form of murals serves a different purpose. The artwork around the city has come out to the public space and has recognition from all sides of the world. So wall paintings are the murals by nomenclature of today.

Talking about writing Graffiti, it had been considered vandalism earlier. But now the style adopted by today and popularity they met, many sponsors are adopting the medium as a tool for advertisement in the form of symbols and typography and social awareness as well as in political messages.



Figure 3. Folk art on wall

The murals, Wall paintings (smaller or larger) size are made as a tradition inside and outside the building, offices and public as well as private walls. They identify different tribes, religious beliefs, customs and project India for unity in her diversity. This way the local artists and art both are being encouraged. The messages, the theme, hand painted murals, serve different purposes at different places.



Figure 4. Patwardhan Aditi (2017). Madhubani murals on the walls of Jharkhand.

Avinash, who started the project in the village over a year ago in collaboration with Artreach India, observed the lives of the participants closely. He saw that women, no matter what the circumstances, were never able to take a break from their strenuous duties.

The graffiti style murals present different wall paintings though the size may vary according to the distance for the viewers. Some may be bold, big, giving all details. The space chosen may be of any space, the visual may have a specific design and theme to communicate. The material and tools may also have the same specifications.

# 2. Why graffiti is so important now days?

To justify graffiti and street art, one must consider its individuality. The uniqueness lies in the fact that both art forms beautify and enhances the public spaces. They portray a well-defined culture of the place, where they are drawn. They both represent a message to specify a subculture Hence they are interchangeable terms.

While graffiti once called vandalism is not technically illegal now. It is self-expressive also. And the powerful message it conveys has its impact on public life. Similarly wall paintings or murals if it is of bigger size then, that wall painting is also an 'Art speech'. A visual expression, an imagination and a skill that is creative is art too. So both expressively express and captivate the attention of the viewers. Hence show the requisites of art and are not distinguished from each other. Both are analyzed with the help of elements and principles of art and design. Both the terms being one form can be valued by society as an important form of art.



Figure 5. Suktara Ghosh (Dec 21, 2020), Picture on the wall Mumbai Mirror

Earlier graffiti dealt with writings only and wall paintings on form and Color. But now contemporary issues like the environment, gender equality, poverty, politics and even the dreaded coronavirus have become headlines and find their way into public and private spaces in the form of striking images. They make the passersby to stop and think. And often adapt and appreciate the information.

The artists feel to start the conversation these days with the passersby and spray cans or paint and brushes or other techniques can help do so to break the ice.



Figure 6. Self-Clicked (2021) PAP Chowk, Jalandhar

In a smart city metropolitan Jalandhar, a big wide wall painting is open at PAP chowk in the form of Case study of Women Empowerment. The cityscape shows players and sports women also many in Punjab Police under the theme project 'Beti Bachao Beti Pardho'.

Madhubani wall paintings at Bihar are folk paintings serving the purpose of graffiti. Hence it is injustice to distinguish wall paintings from the graffiti as graffiti is now legal and accepted form of art even commissioned and sponsored.

### 3. Difference between Murals and Fresco

So murals are wall paintings or other work of art that are displayed directly on the walls. It is very legal program now, graffiti is a form of drawing that has been scribbled or spray painted directly on a public wall or space. Earlier it is used to be focusing on lettering and one black and white colour but slowly it has assumed the multi-coloured expression of the form as well like that of wall paintings and murals and folk art do

cannot distinguish fresco is done in water based penetrates in the plaster and is fixed when dry. The various techniques in the mural are the oil painting, tempera, acrylic painting, brushes, rollers, and air brush are also allowed in graffiti due to change of time and local artists who are hired. A fresco is one of the oldest and famous techniques in mural making on dry limestone while mural are done and mural is a large paintings on a wall or any permanent surface and is seen as a graffiti if some typography is shown.

### **Enlisting similarities**

Graffiti	Wall Painting
Graffiti is a sign of creative activities around the city	Wall painting (Mural) folk art help those people who do not necessarily have the resources to pursue more traditional careers in art.
It is considered that more the graffiti more cultural and artistic the city it is.	Wall painting also beautifies the city artistically, culturally and aesthetically.
Colourful life is a happier life due to art.	Street painting also takes you to a newer level.
people feel attached and alive to the surroundings	feel awakened by local art folk who prefer local folk art by the local people.

*Nicholas Ganz* feels, Graffiti and street art are characterized by defining sociological elements. In graffiti bold, Color's choices, with highly stylized and abstract lettering to wild style or cartoon characters were more seen with no rules. Now street art with fewer rules also embraces a much broader range of style and techniques. The aggressive style appearing on walls has become an international signifier of rebellion.- *Troy Lovata*. Both are for commercial purpose, political purpose, employment purpose. The new trend in the form of graffiti is not very old but synonym to murals, street art and wall painting.

## 4. Data Collection:

Observation 1 \_ Cycle 1

Artist	Theme	Nature of the problem	Impact
Taylor	Explore and paint harsh truths of society	Remind people of the problems.	Socialmedia impact is long and lasting

Guess who	Cretated eye catching contemporary issues	Latest issues in politics	yes
Anpu Varkey	From cats to flaming trees	What is right in front of her eyes. And also talk about nature.	Start interacting with it
Mooz	Environmental issues and coronavirus	Plastics are very dangerous than coronavirus	Art is complete when people react to it.

The artists draw the graffiti explore and paint the truth of society with eye catching environmental issues, including coronavirus too. They talk about things that are right in front of their eyes. The visual communication helps them to start interaction with issues and surroundings. Art is complete in this way. The message is delivered effectively.





Figure 7 and Figure 8. Suktara Ghosh (2020), Picture on the wall

## Observation 2

## **Table of Observation 2.**

Artist	Design	Places of Exhibits	Which form you paint
Sunil Kumar Bharti	wall paintings on different places to decorate.	Ranchi, Suchna Bhawan, CM secretariat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar.	Worked in Folk Art Madhubani, Sohrai
Poonam Devi	Feels happy to paint	Work in team	Madhubani Station, Wall paintings
Ajit	Learn the skill	Work in groups	Theme is given by authorities, Painted in Sohrai and Madhubani

Local folk art is considered while painting wall paintings on the wall are Gond, Madhubani. They feel happy and work as a team to beautify the city walls. Theme is given by the authorities and the project is discussed.

## Observation3

#### Cycle 3

Artist	Issues/ Subject	Point of concept	Stimulation/Impact
Anpu	Nature and surrounding	Dizzy theme from surroundings.  People own the theme.	People stop to see the painting, watch nature have an impact.
Taylor	Spray can is a powerful tool. I take a neglected wall and give it a meaning.	Social and political disparities is the theme.	It proves the message has found its way home.
Mathur	Gender Stereotype works	Project portrait of a women	Works with permission. It allows you to talk to a whole world.

The social issues are taken generally. Spray can and paints can be the tool for gender stereotypes, women empowerment impact after seeing the painting is there. The graffiti or wall paintings can be white washed or reversed by fast news or social media to make it converse throughout the world.

#### 5. Conclusion

From the importance of the wall paintings to allies Graffiti it is gathered that they create a vibrant neighborhood. The local people live there and take care of them and tourists or other people want to visit the places. This helps in building new businesses that gives business an economical boost. The surroundings become beautiful and the new generation appreciates and learns a lot regarding the social issues written and expressed on the walls.

The visuals encourage the viewers to show down in the mechanical era and admire their surroundings, nature and environment. This brings solace and a stress free lifestyle.

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