

**Important!**

There are explanations for some words in the text.

The explanations are placed to the right.

And these explanations are written in gray.



## The exhibition “Graffiti.”

There is a new exhibition at Museion.

The exhibition is about graffiti.

The word graffiti comes from the Italian word graffito.

A graffito is a drawing.

Graffiti is a special type of art.

Artists make graffiti with spray paint cans instead of brushes.

By pressing a button, the paint comes out of the can.

However, the paint is **not** liquid or thick.

Instead, it comes out as a fine spray.

In the exhibition, you can see:

- How artists made art with spray cans for the first time 70 years ago.
- How young people in New York made graffiti famous.

New York is a big city in America.

- And how artists today use graffiti in their art.

This exhibition shows artworks by over 50 artists from different countries and different times.

The exhibition starts with an opening event on March 28, 2025.

You can then see the exhibition from 29 March to 14 September 2025.

## Where can you see the artworks?

You can see artworks from this exhibition on the third floor and on the fourth floor of Museion.

On the third floor, you will see:

- How artists started to use spray cans.
- How graffiti became more popular in New York.
- And how graffiti is changing art today.

And on the fourth floor, you will learn that graffiti is even today part of life in big cities.

## What is graffiti?

Graffiti is a special type of art.

Artists use spray paint to make graffiti.

And artists paint and write on many different things.

For example:

- On walls.
- On trains.
- On bridges.
- Or on objects like garbage bins.

Graffiti is often big and colorful.

People make graffiti for different reasons.

Sometimes artists use graffiti to show they disagree with things.

For example:

In many cities, homes cost too much to live in.

Some people **cannot** pay for homes that cost so much.

So, an artist might paint graffiti on a wall that says:

Housing must be affordable.

The artist uses graffiti to speak up about this problem.

And sometimes the artists use graffiti to say:

This is me.

And this is my art.

The first spray cans were made in 1951.

Workers used these spray cans to paint radiators and machines.

But artists soon realized:

We can create new art with spray cans.

## **What can you see on the third floor?**

On the third floor, you can see 3 areas:

1. How artists first used spray cans.
2. How graffiti became more popular in New York.
3. How graffiti is changing art today.

### **Area 1: How artists first used spray cans.**

On the third floor, you can see the first experiments with spray cans.

At first, artists did **not** create graffiti with spray cans.

The artists tried a lot and thought:

What can we do with the paint from spray cans?

The paint on the artworks was smooth and even.

And the paint could be used without a brush.

This was new and exciting for the artists.

## The artwork by David Smith.

One artwork on the third floor is by the artist David Smith.

David Smith was actually a sculptor.

A sculptor is an artist who shapes materials to make art.

For this, David Smith used various things:

- Machine parts.
- Wood and metal.
- Or branches.

David Smith then put these sculptures on paper or canvas.

A canvas is a very solid material.

Artists paint their pictures on a canvas.

David Smith then used a spray can to paint over the objects.

The parts covered by the sculptures stayed white.

This is how the artwork “Untitled” was created.

The artwork looks a bit like shadows of people.

David Smith’s art was an experiment.

The artist did **not** actually want to protest against something with his art.

David Smith simply wanted to try out a new form of art.

David Smith showed:

Spray cans can be used for more than just painting machines in a factory.

Spray cans can also be used to create amazing art.

## **Area 2: How graffiti became more popular in New York.**

10 years later, young people in New York started using spray cans.

Many of these young people lived in poor neighborhoods.

The young people sprayed their names on walls and trains.

Trains in New York run through the whole city.

This meant everyone could see the young people's names on the trains.

The name for this is "tagging."

We can still see this form of graffiti everywhere today.

And this form of graffiti was very important for young people.

By painting graffiti on the trains, the young people showed:

We are also a part of New York.

We have names and messages.

And we also want to participate and get involved.

This is how young people turned the walls and trains of the city into canvases.

Starting around 1970, more and more people started creating graffiti.

Now, the young people stopped just writing their names and messages.

Young people started spraying colorful and big pictures.

This made the art of spray cans more popular.

More artists began to use spray cans for their art.

This is how graffiti became a new kind of art.

## **The artwork by Rammellzee.**

A famous artist from this time was Rammellzee.

Rammellzee is an artist name.

Artist name means:

All people get a name at birth.

But some people come up with a second name.

This is then their artist name.

Actors or singers often do this.

Rammellzee started by painting on trains and walls in New York.

Later, Rammellzee also showed his art in exhibitions.

Rammellzee thought a lot about letters and language.

Rammellzee believed:

Letters have a special power.

Letters are almost like little fighters.

People can use letters to speak up for what they believe in.

Rammellzee's artwork in the exhibition is called:

“Future Futurism Forced Landing”

When you look at the artwork, you might see figures.

These figures look like robots or beings from the future.

And these figures also look a bit like fighters.

With this artwork, Rammellzee wants to show:

Language is powerful.

With language, you can change things.

## **The artwork by Keith Haring.**

Another important artist from this time was Keith Haring.

Keith Haring painted simple figures with white chalk.

Keith Haring used black boards in the subway stations.

It was very important to the artist that everyone could understand his art.

And everyone should be able to see his art.

In the past, often only rich people could visit museums.

Keith Haring's artworks often show social problems.

For example:

- Poverty.
- Violence.
- Or discrimination.

Discrimination means:

People do not treat one person the same way as everyone else.

There are different reasons for this.

For example:

This person has a disability.

Or this person believes in a different religion.

Still, Keith Haring's figures were colorful and cheerful.

The artwork by Keith Haring in the exhibition is called "Untitled."

The artwork shows colorful characters.

Some of the characters are fighting.



### **Area 3: How graffiti is changing art today.**

Today, graffiti has many new forms.

Artists all over the world are inspired by graffiti.

And these artists often combine graffiti with other ideas and techniques.

This creates new works of art.

You can also see these works of art on the third floor.

### **The artwork by Patricia L. Boyd.**

Patricia L. Boyd created an unusual work of art.

The artist took a piece of photo paper to a bus stop.

Then the artist pressed the paper against the window of the bus stop.

The window was dirty and covered with scratches.

People had written graffiti on the window.

And many people had left different marks on the window.

Finally, the artist used the photo paper to create an artwork called "35888."

35888 is the number of the bus stop.

This bus stop is next to a building in Melbourne.

Melbourne is a city in Australia.

The building is called the Housing Commission.

The Housing Commission was the first building in Melbourne with lots of apartments for low prices.

This is because the government kept the rent low.

But across the street, a new luxury apartment building is under construction.

With this artwork, the artist shows how cities change.

And the artist makes us think:

Often, new expensive buildings replace old and cheaper ones.

Then, many people lose their homes.

That happens because they **cannot** afford the higher rent.

So, rich people move into these new buildings.

But what happens to people who **cannot** afford to stay?

## **What can you see on the fourth floor?**

On the fourth floor, you can take a look at the fourth area:

### **Area 4: Graffiti is part of life in big cities.**

The fourth floor is a bit like a small city.

In this small city, you can see things from real cities.

We often use these things in our lives.

For example, garbage bins or trains.

The small city on the fourth floor shows:

Graffiti is a part of cities.

We can find graffiti everywhere.

We just have to look closely.

For example:

- On walls.
- On trains.
- And in the streets.

For example, on garbage bins or on garages.

## **The artwork by Josephine Pryde.**

The artwork by Josephine Pryde is called: “New Media Express”

The artwork consists of a big model train.

Model train means:

This train looks like a real train.

But this train is smaller than a real train.

The train is sprayed with graffiti.

These graffiti are by unknown artists from Berlin.

The train used to be in Berlin.

Now the train travels through the small city on the fourth floor.

And you can get on this train and ride it for a bit.

The train might remind you of the trains in New York.

These trains used to be sprayed with graffiti by young people.

The artist wants to show:

Graffiti is part of life in big cities.

The same artist also shows 2 photos.

The photos show hands.

These hands are touching different devices.

For example, a lamp.

## **The artworks by Klara Lidén.**

Another artist is Klara Lidén.

Klara Lidén used real things from the city for her artworks.

For example: garbage bins or junction boxes.

Junction boxes keep electrical wires safe.

You can see junction boxes on the sidewalk.

These boxes are often gray or light green and made of plastic.

Sometimes junction boxes are also called electrical boxes.

These things have lots of different marks on them.

For example:

- Graffiti.
- Or dirt and grime.

Sometimes, the artist changes these things.

And sometimes, the artist leaves these things as they are.

For Klara Lidén, these things are part of life in the city.

Klara Lidén wants to show:

This is how people use and change cities.

On the fourth floor, you can see different artworks by Klara Lidén.

## **Why is graffiti important?**

Graffiti is more than just art.

Do people **not** have much power?

Or do people **not** have much money?

And can these people often **not** take part in decisions?

Then these people can use graffiti.

With graffiti, these people can show and say:

This is important to me.

And this is my opinion.

The exhibition at Museion shows:

Graffiti is often forbidden.

And yet graffiti is an important part of art today.

Graffiti connects important things with each other.

For example:

- Art and cities.
- Or protest and creativity.

This exhibition helps Museion learn new things.

For example:

How art helps people speak up.

This exhibition shows us:

Art can change a city.

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