ZINE FOR GRA

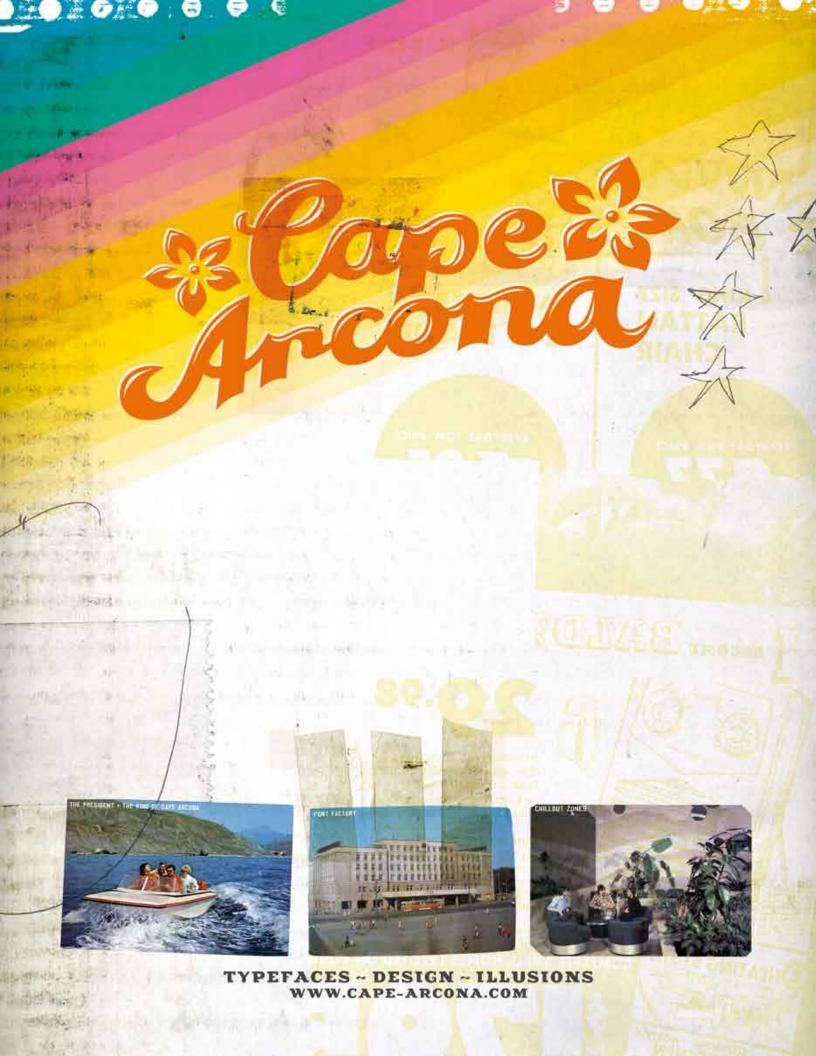


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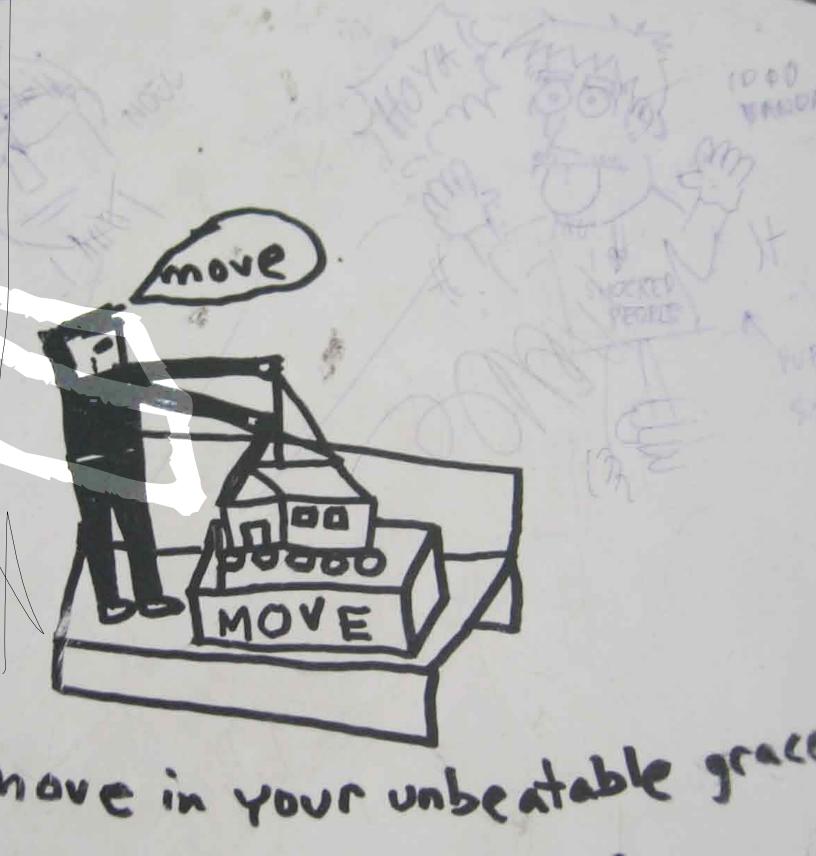






"electrifying yoshimi
battler surp-rath robot
on her shoulder"









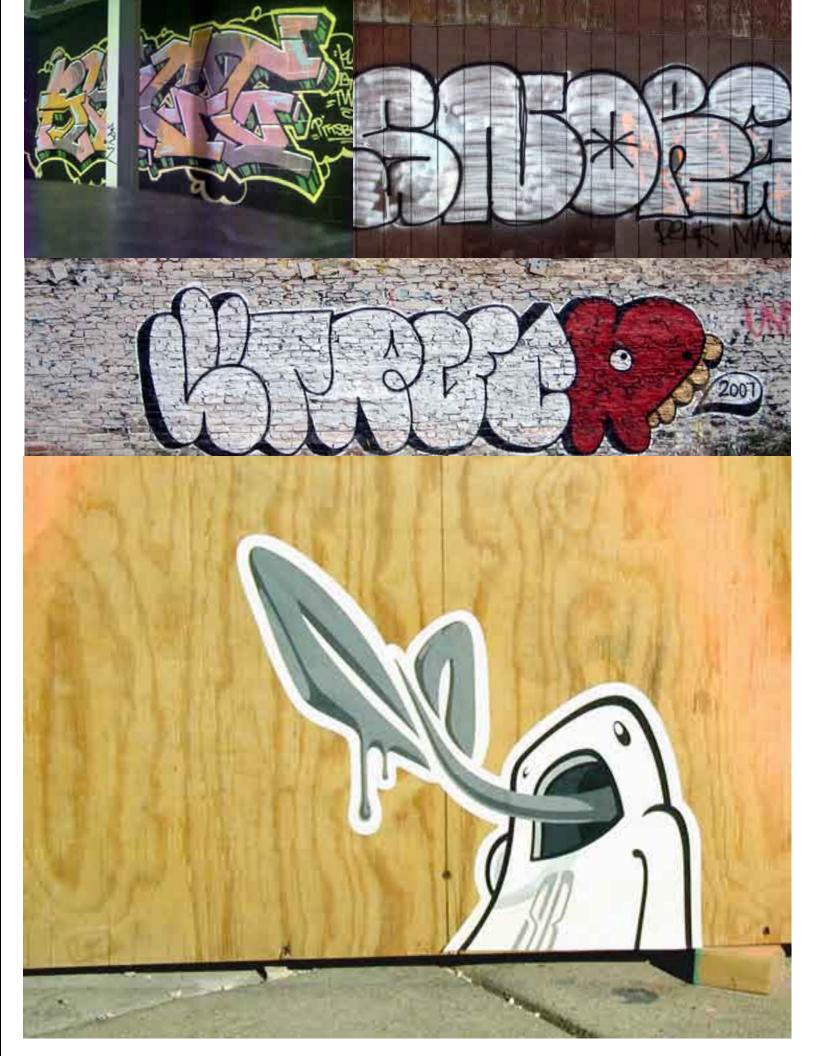


FLARE NOVEL

Alice Childress Author of RAINBOW JORDAN

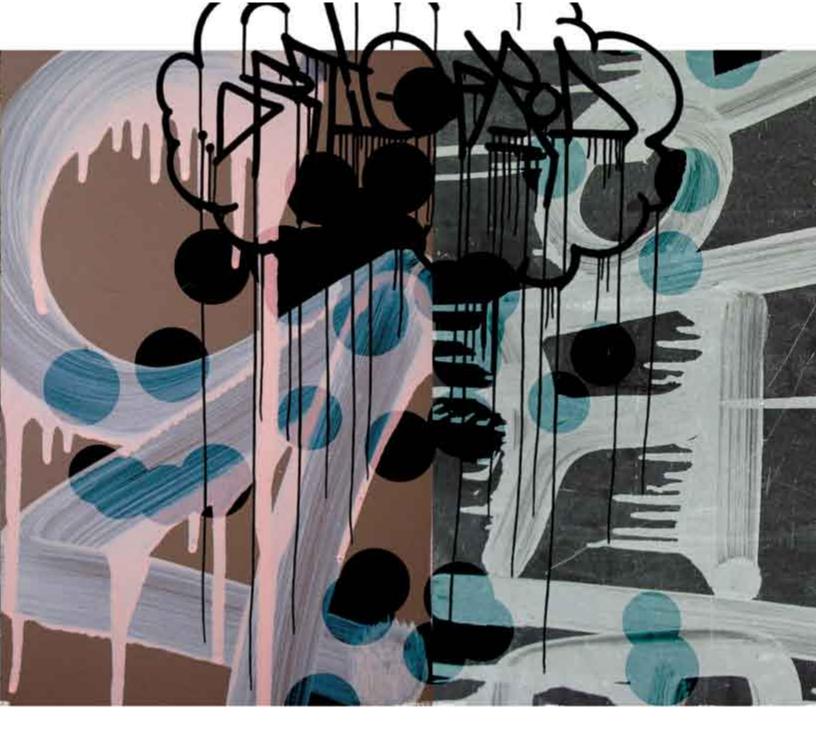
Benjie is young, black, and well on his way to being hooked on heroin.

Brilliant...exciting...entertaining"
The New York Times













All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.

Sir Winston Churchill

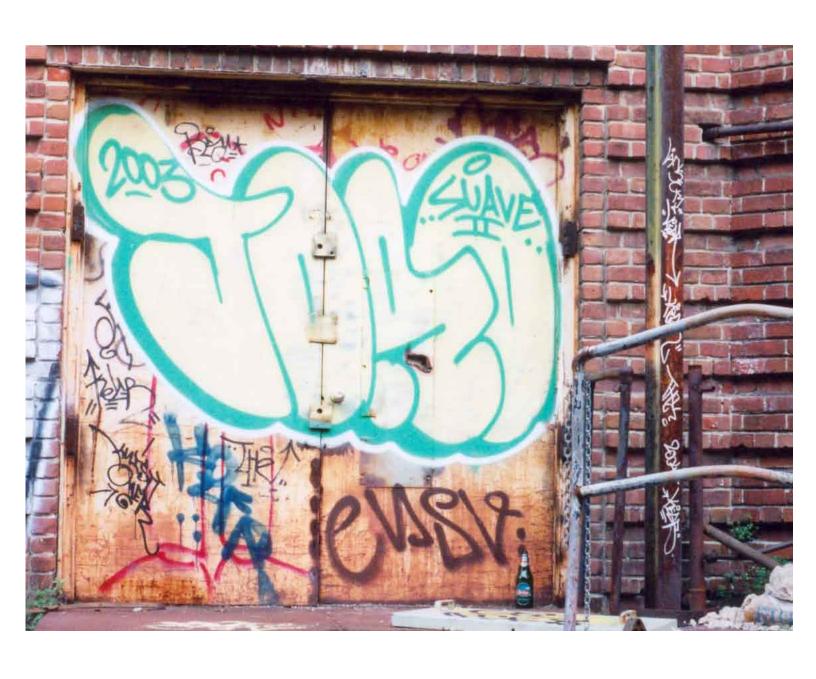








Photos by Kel Troughton

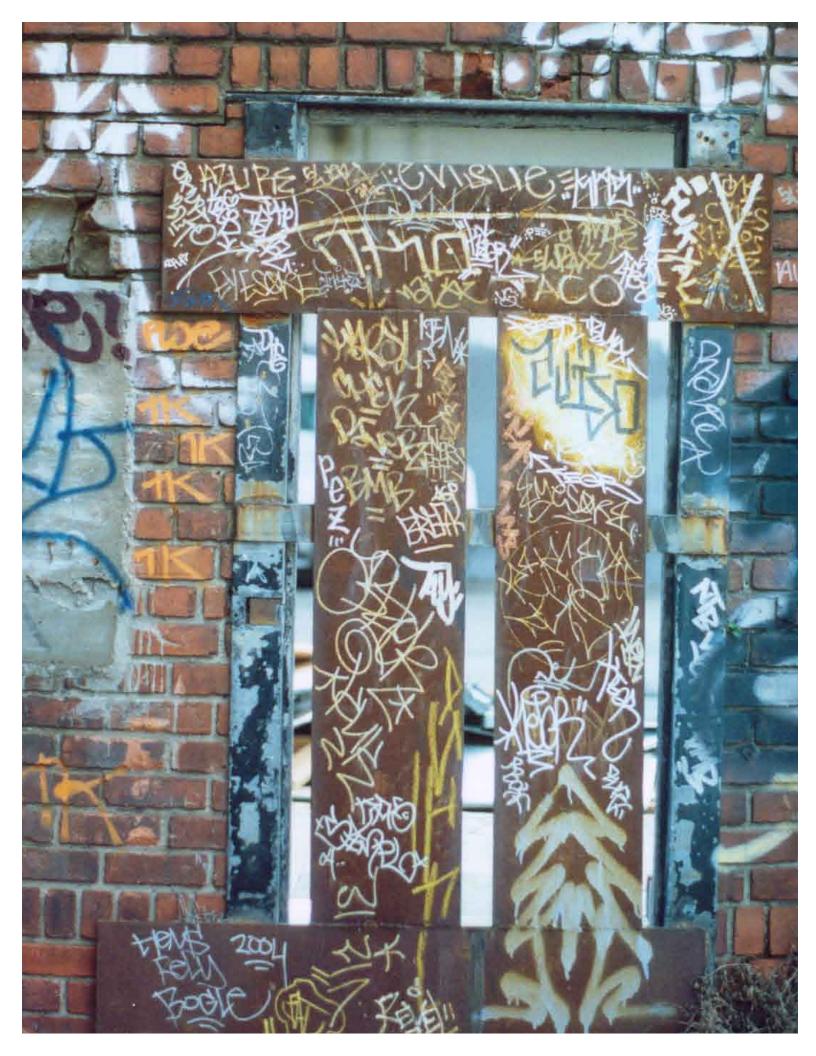








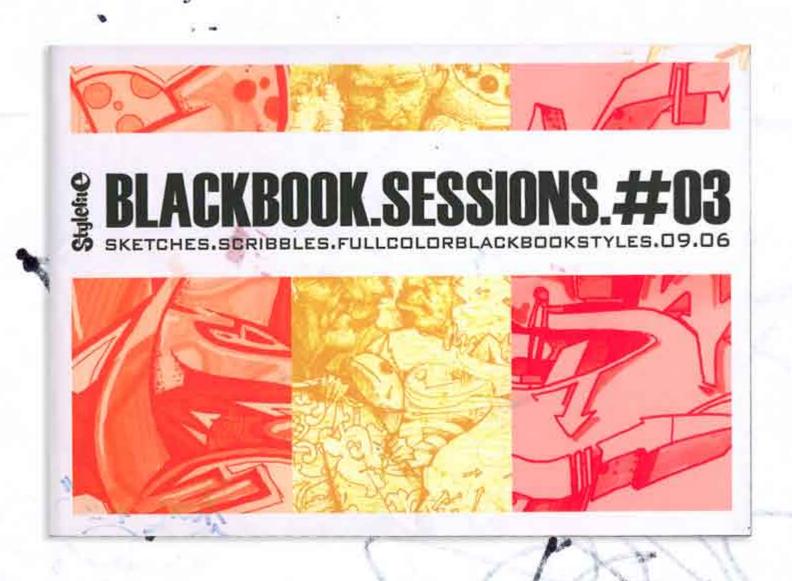






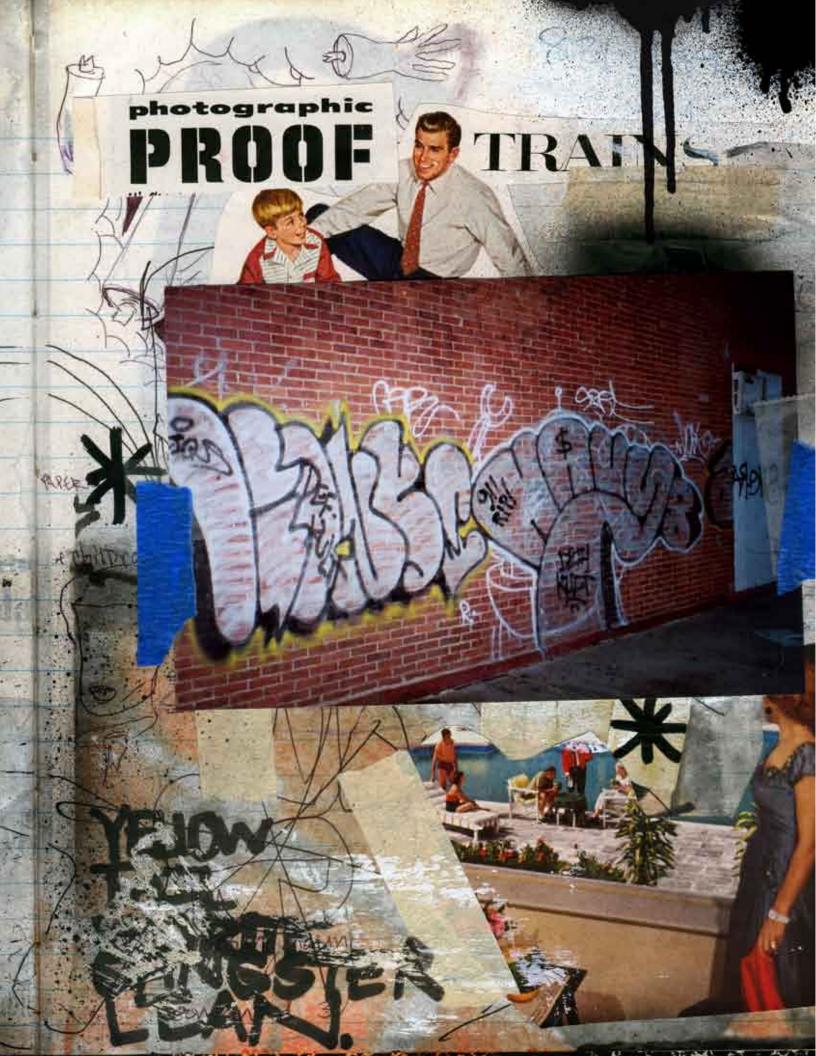
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Photos by Matt Scobey





Graffiti: Spray showdown Graffiti producers and coverers wage feverish battle on city's streets

Both groups are skilled in what they do. Both take pride in every pass of the spray can or wave of the paint machine. When finished, both groups marvel at their work. The difference: one spray paints walls and sidewalks by day for all to see. The other works under cover of darkness and is long gone before anyone sees the results. It's an ongoing battle that pits city of Indio Graffiti Truck operators against graffiti taggers. "It's a competition - between them and us. That's the way I see it," said Florin Blaj, one of the

graffiti truck operators. And according to the Indio Police Department, it's a competition the city is winning. The city's new Graffiti Truck has made a big difference, ridding the valley's largest city of unsightly gang and tagger graffiti that pops up on walls, sidewalk, storefronts and bridges. In most cases, the 17-foot, custom-made vehicle is out the very next morning after property has been defaced.

"The quicker we knock it down, the better," said Gary Lewis, the city's Public Services general services manager, who oversees the truck and its employees. Residents are encouraged to report graffiti immediately and merely have to look at the truck to figure out how. The city's graffiti hotline number, 391-4143, is printed in bold red numbers across all sides of the truck for all to see and use. The truck, though, is only one method used to combat graffiti in the city. The Community Outreach Unit was









created in July to combat vandalism related crimes. In its first 4½ months, the unit made 65 graffiti-related arrests. In addition, the city combats vandalism by working with school officials. And, cameras have been placed strategically across the city in order to catch taggers and other kinds of vandals. "This is a huge effort. I do think the tide's been turned," said City Manager Glenn Southard. Other valley cities fight graffiti in a similar fashion. Palm Springs has its own graffiti hotline. And, city crews are quickly dispatched to clean up any reported tagging. Indio however, is believed to be the only valley city to have a state-of-the-art graffiti truck with its own paint-making and matching system on board, said Sgt. London Pickering, of the Indio Police Department. Among its many features, the truck is equipped with: A hand-held portable spectrophotometer with a laser to read the composition of painted surfaces. A laptop computer that generates and prints a label displaying the proper formula of tint/base

combination to match the paint. A paint-mixing station with an in-line manual 12-color paint-tinting dispenser that can combine colors to match more than 3,000 shades. "We have everything (on board). We don't have to be running back and forth for materials," said Tony Muñoz, a graffiti truck operator, who works with Blaj. On a recent outing, the two had already hit four spots across the city by 10 a.m.

One job at Indian Terrace Park on concrete walls took 15 gallons of paint called Baked Potato, to remove various tagger markings. On a few occasions, Blaj and Muñoz said the taggers watched as they removed their work. "They don't like us at all," Blaj said. Both take pride in cleaning up the city and get frustrated when a wall they recently cleaned is hit again with graffiti. But, it's their job. "We like it," said Blaj. "We make a good match."







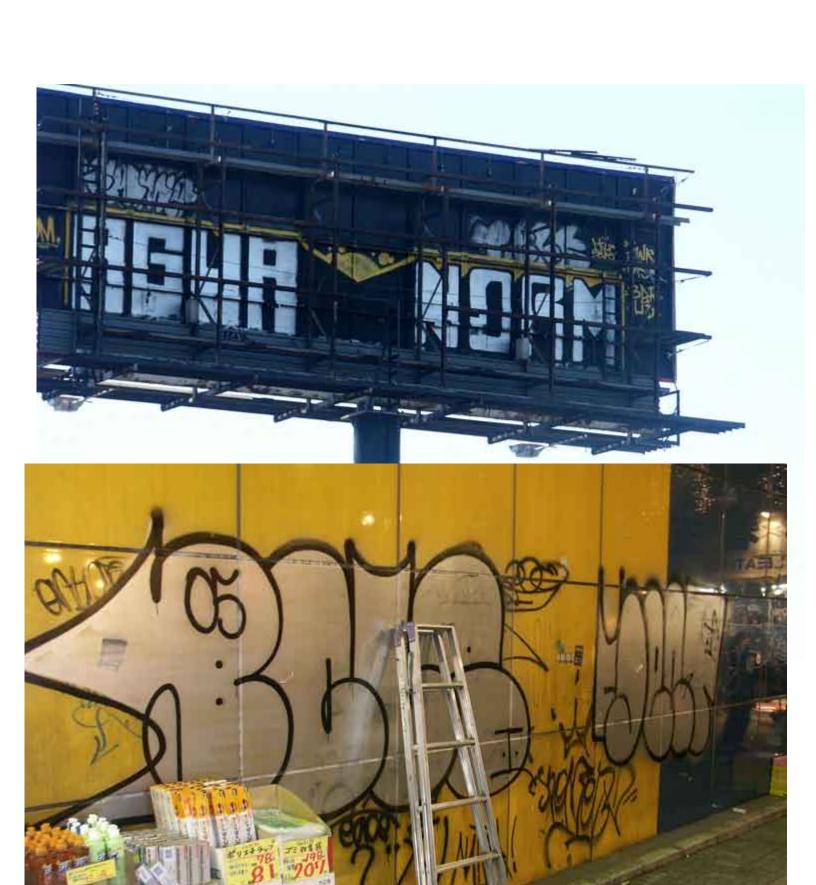
real art
is a thin
breath
exhaled
amidst a
struggle
in the mind













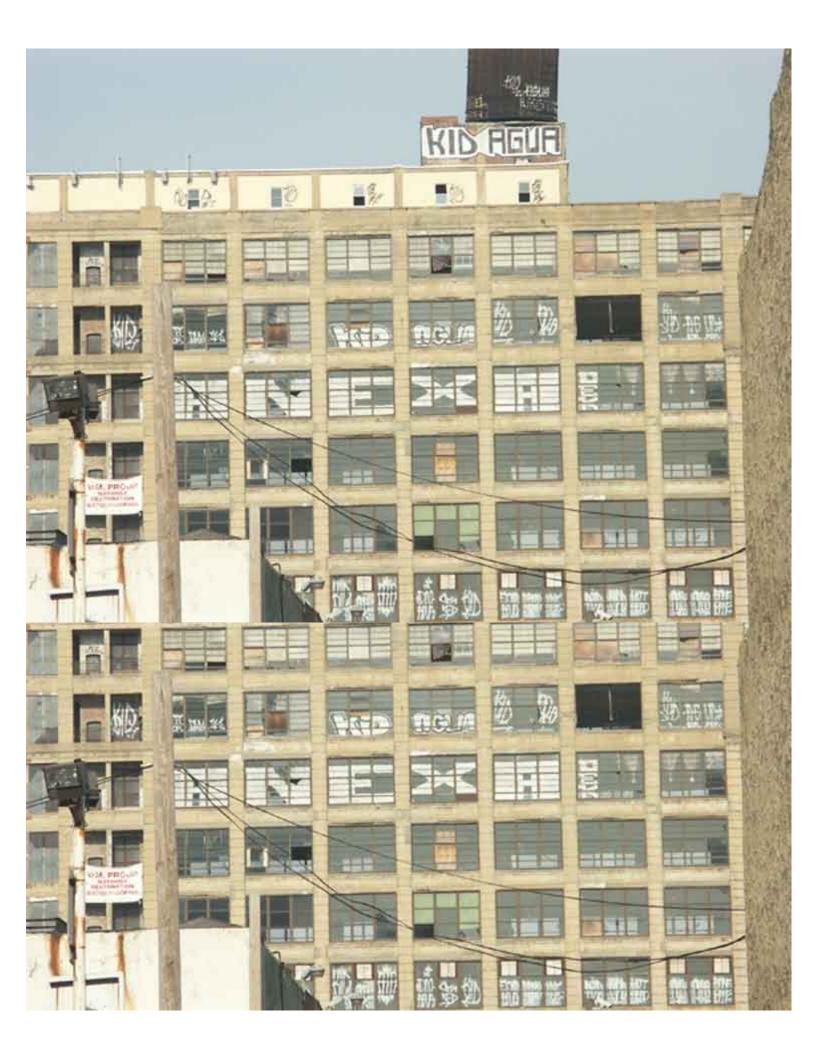


























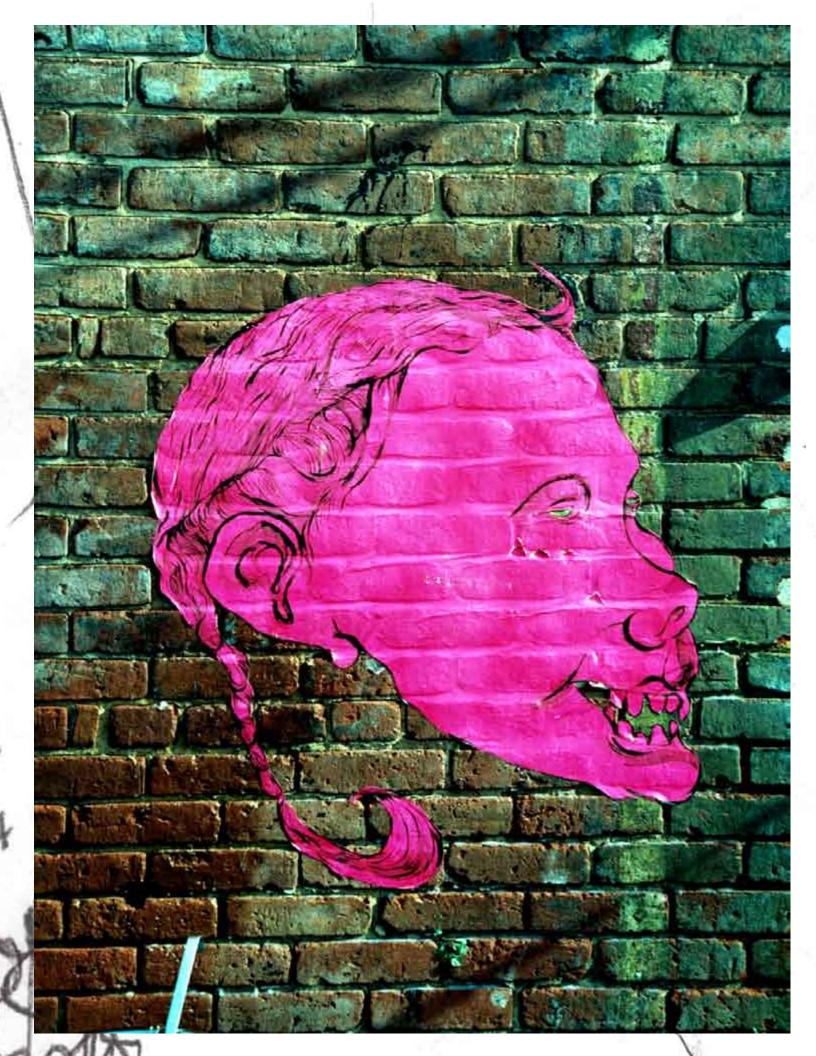


Tube graffiti guerrillas leave greetings and a bill

VANDALS taunted the police during a Christmas Day rampage that caused thousands of pounds of damage to Camden Town Tube station. Daubing "Merry Xmas BTP" on the wall to underline their defiance of British Transport Police, a gang of graffiti artists defaced platforms, electronic noticeboards and escalators in a day-long spree that has baffled investigators trying to determine how they got access to the gated and padlocked station. BTP chiefs admitted to the New Journal yesterday (Wednesday) that a pre-Christmas campaign to deter the spray-can criminals had backfired. A spokesman said: "It looks as though the publicity in advance has contributed to

an increase over Christmas. "Although we haven't had any injuries, which is a positive, this is very disappointing. We'll need to learn some lessons."

As news emerged that gangs had targeted up to 70 stations over Christmas, the spokesman denied that the brazen graffiti artists had revealed a weakness in the Underground's security. "It is a big, open system, and it is open to this sort of attack," he said. "People who use the Tube every day can see that. But there are staff at every station during the day, and blanket CCTV coverage. There has to be a





balance." Investigators were examining CCTV footage to determine how vandals had got into the system, though early evidence suggested they had entered at a vulnerable point some distance from Camden Town and travelled there through the tunnels. The spokesman said: "The questions are: How did they get in there, and how many were there?" Police arrested 25 vandals in the run-up to Christmas, he added. Camden Town was the most spectacular target of the graffiti onsaught, with staff at the station yesterday estimating the damage at tens of thousands. At Transport for London

headquarters, a spokeswoman said a big clean-up would begin last night (Wednesday). Passengers returning to work had mixed reactions, with some commuters disgusted at the damage or alarmed by the boldness of those targeting the Tube system, and others impressed by the guerrilla-style audacity of the strike.













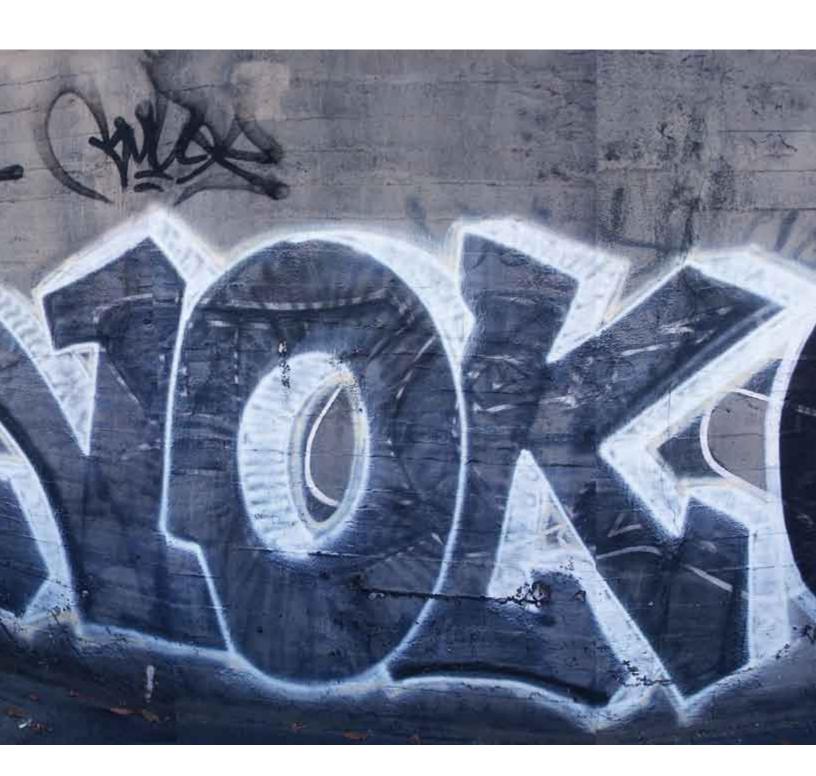


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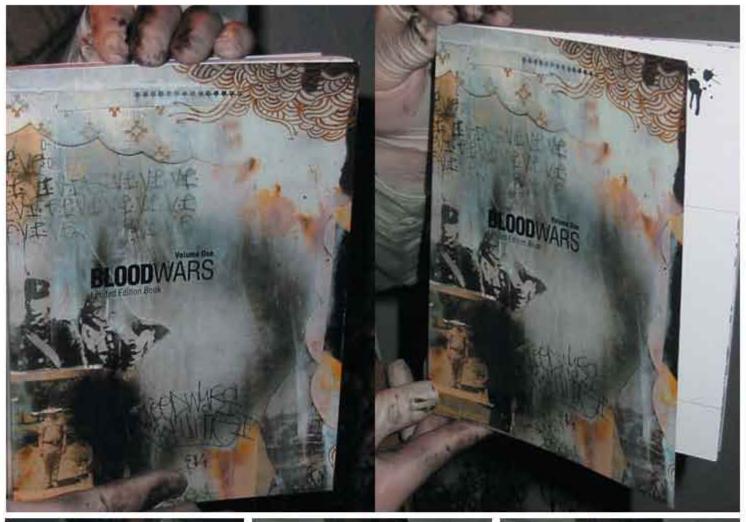
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