

Project: Street Art Club – Graffiti and Community Expression

Medium: Graffiti-Inspired Mixed Media

Time Frame: 8 Classes (45 minutes each)

Suggested Grades: 6th-8th

Adapted for Community Mediation Services, Far Rockaway, P.S. M53

Academic Vocabulary:

- Graffiti
 - Street Art
 - Collaboration
 - Activism
 - Typography
 - Tagging
 - Mural
 - Color Palette
 - Mixed Media
 - Perspective
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Resources Used:

- Google Slides: Introduction to Graffiti and Street Art
 - Video Clips: Overview of iconic street art and local examples in NYC
 - Virtual Field Trip: Bushwick Collective or local NYC graffiti landmarks
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Learning Objectives:

Artists will:

- Explore graffiti and street art as forms of creative self-expression.
 - Understand how art can represent and celebrate community identity.
 - Work collaboratively to design and create a graffiti-inspired group mural.
 - Use basic design principles, including typography, color theory, and layout.
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Materials Needed:

- Large butcher paper or canvas
 - Acrylic paints and brushes
 - Water cups and paint palettes
 - Colored markers or paint markers
 - Stencils (letters, shapes)
 - Pencils and erasers
 - Sketchbooks or scrap paper for designs
 - Masking tape
 - Rulers
 - Reflection journals or prompts
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Process:

Class 1: Introduction to Graffiti and Street Art

- **Discussion:** What is graffiti? How is it different from street art? How can it reflect community values?
 - **Slide Presentation:** Showcase works by Banksy, Keith Haring, and local NYC artists.
 - **Activity:** Students brainstorm themes related to their community (e.g., pride, kindness, growth).
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Class 2: Graffiti Lettering and Typography

- **Demonstration:** How to create graffiti-style letters using stencils or freehand techniques.
 - **Activity:** Students design their name or a word related to their community theme on paper, experimenting with style and color.
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Class 3-4: Mural Planning

- **Collaboration:** Divide students into groups to design sections of the mural.
 - **Sketching:** Each group drafts their portion of the mural, incorporating words, images, and patterns.
 - **Feedback:** Groups present sketches for peer feedback and refinement.
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Class 5-6: Mural Creation

- **Setup:** Prepare the mural surface (butcher paper or canvas). Divide it into sections for each group.

- **Painting:** Students transfer their designs onto the mural using paints and markers.
 - Encourage blending and layering techniques.
 - Use stencils for clean, bold typography.
 - **Reflection:** Pause midway to assess progress and ensure alignment with the theme.
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Class 7: Finishing Touches and Reflection

- Add details, outlines, and highlights to complete the mural.
 - **Artist Statements:** Each group writes a short statement explaining their section of the mural and how it represents their theme.
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Class 8: Showcase and Critique

- Display the mural in a school hallway or community space.
 - Facilitate a class critique:
 - Each group presents their section and discusses their process.
 - Celebrate collaborative successes and discuss what they learned about street art and teamwork.
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Assessment:

- **Artistic Techniques:** Creativity, use of typography, and color application.
 - **Teamwork:** Collaboration and contribution to the group effort.
 - **Expression:** Connection between the artwork and the community theme.
 - **Reflection:** Insightful artist statements and participation in critique.
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Optional Extensions:

- **Community Engagement:** Invite parents or community members to the showcase.
- **Digital Integration:** Use online graffiti generators or digital drawing tools to design initial concepts.
- **Advocacy:** Discuss how students' art could inspire positive change in their community.