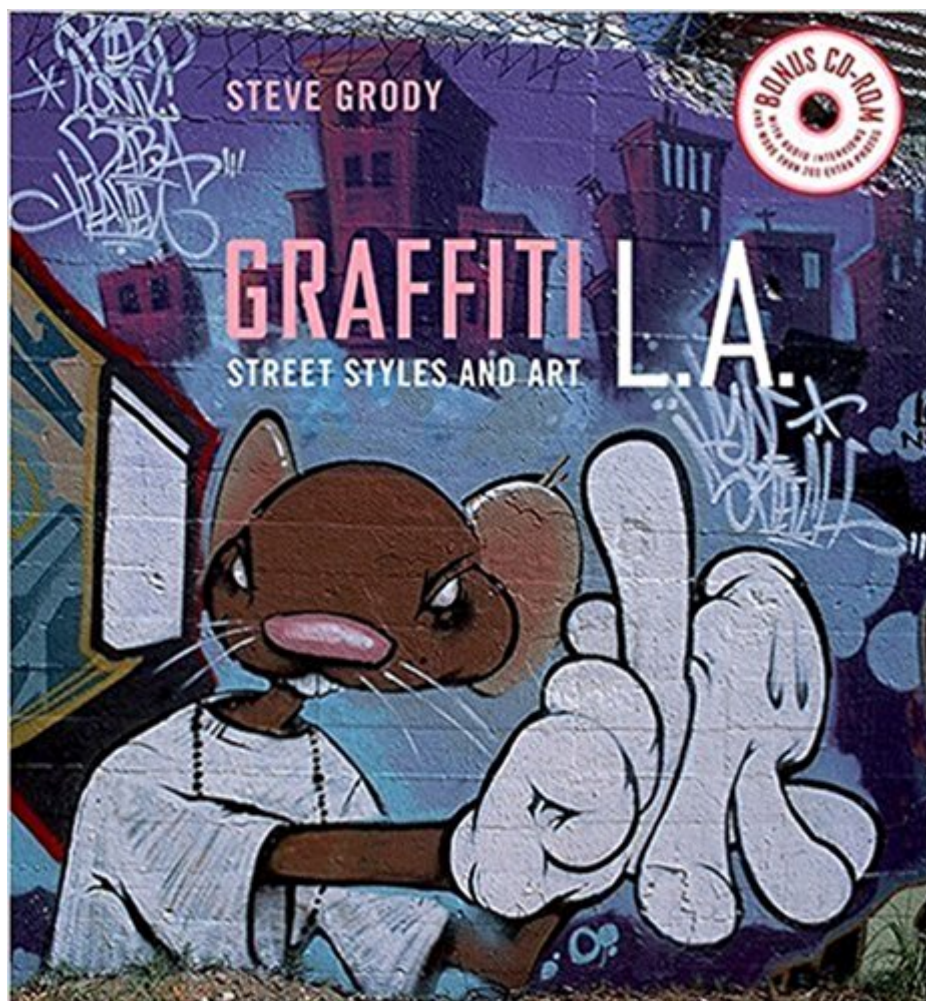


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# Graffiti L.A.: Street Styles And Art (with Cd-rom)



## Synopsis

Long before graffiti was adopted as the visual expression of hip-hop culture in the 1980s, Chicano gang members in East Los Angeles had been developing stylized calligraphy and writing on walls. Cholo (gangster) scripts became the first distinctive letter forms to evolve in the modern vernacular tradition of graffiti writing. Today Los Angeles writers of diverse backgrounds draw from a unique confluence of cultures that has led to regionally distinctive styles. Graffiti L.A. provides a comprehensive and visual history of graffiti in Los Angeles, as well as an in-depth examination of the myriad styles and techniques used by writers today. Complementing the main text, interviews with L.A.'s most prolific and infamous writers provide insight into the lives of these fugitive artists. Essential to the understanding of the development of the graffiti movement, this book will be an invaluable source to graffiti fans around the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The culmination of author and photographer Grody's 17-year obsession, this stunning examination of Los Angeles street art should prove to be a definitive work on the subject. Beginning in the 1930s, when stylized calligraphic writing (often called "Old English") was first used by Latino gangs to mark territories, Grody quickly moves on to the art form's explosion in the '80s, when four distinct forms were spreading throughout the city: tags, a name in stylized script; throw-ups, one-color designs quickly applied; pieces, more elaborate and colorful efforts; and productions, a collection of pieces. The book truly takes off among the hundreds of beautifully photographed pieces Grody offers, along with testimony from the artists and "crews" who created

them. Grody describes the anatomy of a piece, crew dynamics and the politics of what is still an illegal art form, but knows when to step back and let the artists speak for themselves; he elicits comments on everything from overcoming early technical obstacles to close calls-both with cops and injury-to the history and meaning behind their art. The importance of Grody's work-as in any other street art roundup-is in capturing these short-lived pieces before they're inevitably defaced by rivals or painted over by the authorities; what makes this beautiful book stand out is the way Grody completes his vibrant picture with the voices of the street artists themselves. CD-ROM included.

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Steve Grody saw spray can art begin to appear around Los Angeles's streets and walls in the 1980s and immediately recognized its creativity and verve. Since 1990, he has been driving across Los Angeles searching its back alleys, washes, and abandoned lots for this vernacular art.

Really a great overview of LA graffiti stretching from the old past to the almost-now present. Lots of the known names as well as some that you will not forget once you get this book. If you know of and appreciate Subway Art and want the second course, this is it and more. All photos are clear and well presented with excellent quotes that give insight into these artists' methods and madness. Very Good layout with so much info and flicks that you can really open this book to any page and be drawn in. A nice balanced writing style that welcomes writers, enthusiasts, and newcomers alike. This book approaches Subway Art as one of the Bibles of graffiti art and will be a key element in pushing this art/vandalism form ahead into the future.

Very dope book...a must for graff writers and anybody who likes Graff art or collecting books...dope styles all through the book and some history lessons in LA bombing...

I'm not from LA but i like all kind of graffiti books. This one is really a good one, mainly with hundreds of pictures from the classic graffiti from LA: wildstiles, big murals and some fat cap tags. Very heavy and hardcover, looks like "graffiti world" but is even bigger. I suppose that a lot of walls from the city are represented here, so its a must have if you are from California, and a very interesting book if you are interested in graff.

Great! Lots of inspiration in those pages

Now this is a book worth buying

love it

woo hoo great book

AMAZING book!!! alot of good shots from alot of LA'S best! i highley recommend this book!!!

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