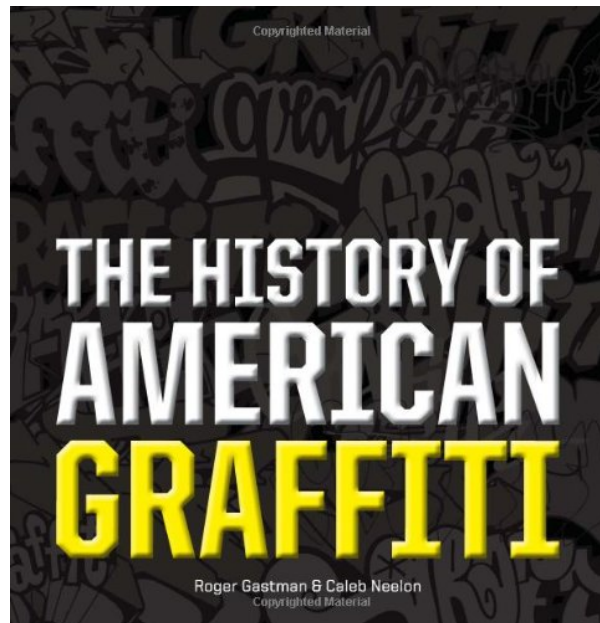
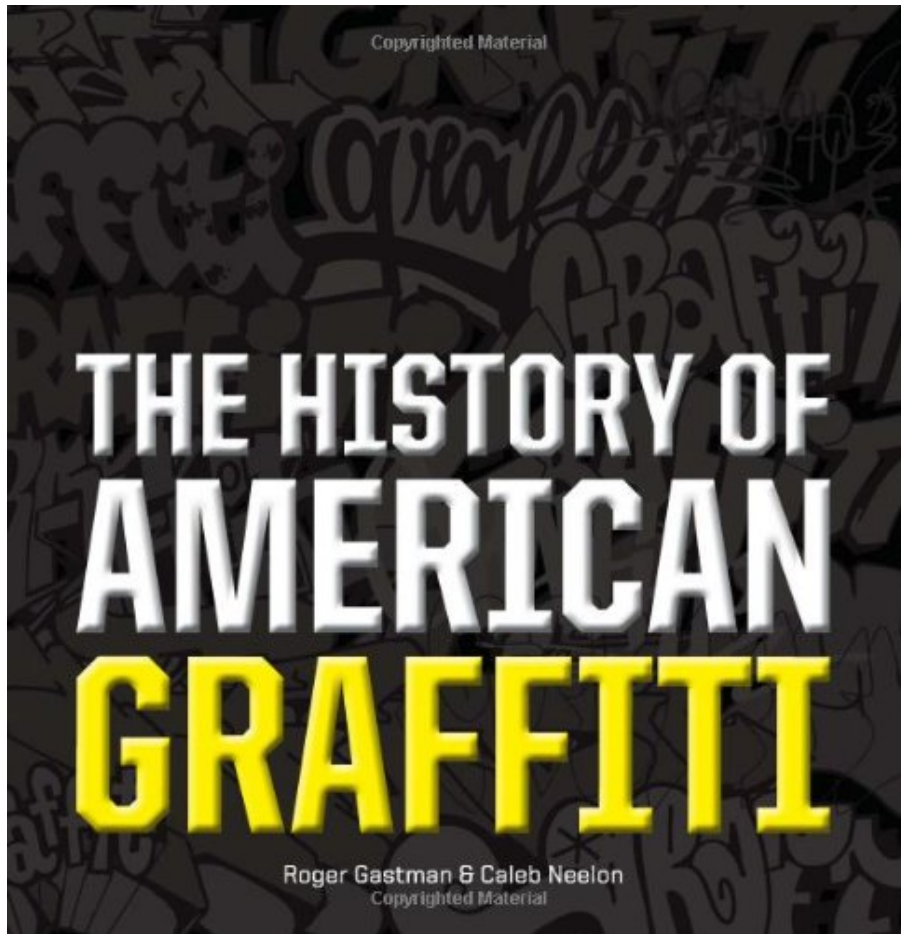


THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN GRAFFITI BY ROGER GASTMAN, CALEB NEELON



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Review

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“When the American graffiti movement emerged, it was ‘outsider’ art, youth art, and public art all at once. It shattered racial and economic segregation and provoked political and generational reprobation. Roger Gastman and Caleb Neelon’s The History of American Graffiti is as sweeping, provocative, and monumental as the movement itself.” (Jeff Chang, author, Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation)

About the Author

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Unprecedented in scope, *The History of American Graffiti* is the definitive story behind the most influential art form of the last one hundred years. Tracing the evolution of the medium from its early freight-train days to its big-city boom on the streets of New York City and Philadelphia, and to its modern-day influences, this volume is a compelling look at the key moments, places, and players in an art form distinctly American in flavor yet global in its reach.

Featuring behind-the-scenes stories and profiles gleaned from more than four years' worth of interviews with graffiti's most prominent names, as well as its lesser-known pioneers, authors Roger Gastman and Caleb Neelon provide an insider's perspective on the history of the medium. Not only do they reveal the most popular trends and styles that have dominated the scene for the last fifty years but they also provide a thorough examination of the regional differences among major American hubs—New York, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Chicago—and under-the-radar scenes in cities like Washington, D.C., Boston, and Miami. All told, more than twenty-five American cities are profiled, making this one of the most comprehensive volumes on the subject.

With more than one thousand photographs—the majority of which are seen here for the first time—from more than two hundred photographers, most of whom also created the artwork, *The History of American Graffiti* captures the look and feel of a genuine American art form with exceptional clarity and detail. An instant classic, this book is the ultimate resource to which aficionados of the art form will turn again and again, and which the uninitiated will regard as the definitive tutorial of all that is graffiti.

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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

knocked me out

By moshe barak

This book is comprehensive, insightful, and profound. takes it's place on the top shelf of hip-hop/graffiti books. The chapter on My home town of East Chicago took me by surprise. i knew all those guys! My son grew up in awe of them and carries the torch with UAE & FTR of Chicago. Highly recommended.

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

definitely delievers on its title.

By Christopher

books about graffiti can be hit-or-miss; they vary from the very artistic and beautiful to pop-culture garbage. i'm very happy to say that this book is one of the former. for starters, it's a just over 400 pages long, packed

full of pictures and text. while i expect any good graffiti book to have lots of pictures, this one is quite different in that it reads like a history book. that is, it delivers on its title, and this isn't any small feat. it spans the american graffiti world both historically and regionally, including short 2-page articles on most major american cities (the biggest cities, i.e. New York, Philly, LA, etc., have their own chapters). the depth of the information varies, as can be expected by such an endeavor, but the breadth of what the authors undertook is astounding, and far exceeded my expectations and hopes. i highly recommend this book to anyone who is seriously interested in graffiti as the artform that it is.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

History of American Graffiti

By Tom

To date, this is the most comprehensive look at the origins of graffiti. The book delves into local lore from the streets of major American cities, giving an accurate account of the birth of the controversial American subculture. Whether you see it as expression or vandalism, this book takes you on a tour of the streets where the "voice of the ghetto" was written on the walls! Hopefully there is a sequel in the works!

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