

*Steve Glines*

**The next movement in art**

The headline screamed (well horse whispered – this was, after all, the New York Times) “Wanted: Genius Designer.” The story went on to lament the lack of anything new in fashion, that the “oh cool” chord hasn’t been yanked in years. To the writer whose idea of sartorial bliss is a new sweatshirt on a cool autumn day this seemed awfully silly yet we all appreciate the well draped female torso as it slithers down a red carpet or accidentally crosses our path in Real Life™. The article was right; there hasn’t been much to impress us in the last few years, dead swans not withstanding.

It’s all the visual arts that have stagnated. A NEW show at a museum claiming to show nothing but the latest greatest artists showed us nothing new. It was the same old stuff. Any art historian could have rattled off a list of “influences” – nothing new here. Heck we can’t even come up with a name that fits. “Post-Modern” is 50 years old already. “Post-industrial” sounds like a return to cave-man existence, burnt ochre on cave walls anyone?

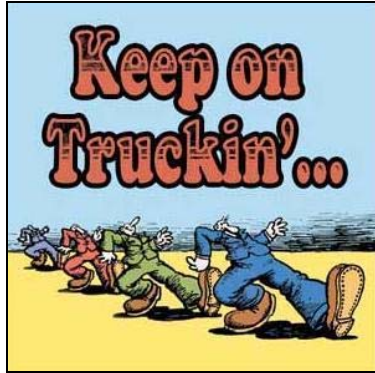
I declare the snooty arts dead.

So what’s next? Are the visual arts going to simply languish, fall to the level of environmental illustration or is there a seed of creativity that will carry us into the next movement. I’ve poked my nose into hundreds of art galleries and museums and visited dozens of artists’ studios. There are good artists, even great artists working today. Great art isn’t the just province of old dead guys. But everyone found in snooty galleries and avant-garde museums can be tagged as modern, impressionistic, photo-impressionist .... You get the idea. How to find the new is the question!

I’m not an artist but I think I have a relatively good eye for art. I’ve been complemented on the photographs I’ve taken of found art both natural and manmade. So I asked myself what art have I found to be consistently “cool?” Surprisingly the answer for me was *graffiti*.

Graffiti comes in many forms both good and bad. Just as there is good and

bad abstract expressionism. By good graffiti I don't mean the incomprehensible tagging that turned New York City's subway cars into a bewildering visual cacophony. I do include the art that grew out of the cartoons of the 1960's like that of R. Crumb.



We have profiled other artists coming from the same artistic tradition like the work of [Mark Fisher](#).



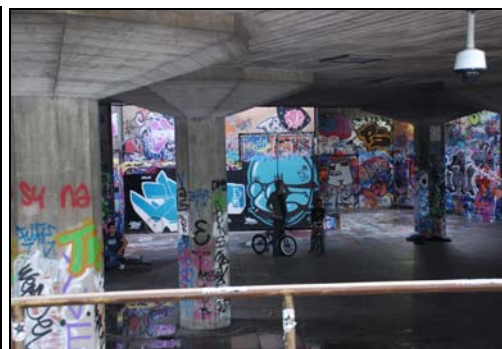
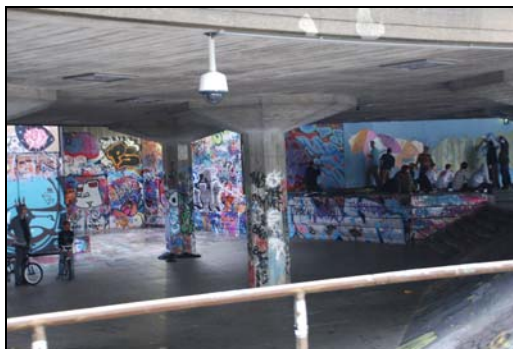
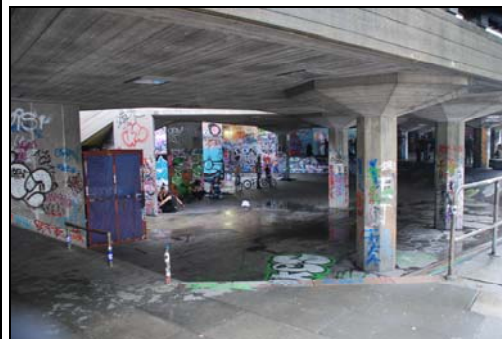
These are real artists who paint or draw on traditional media and whose work could not easily be called graffiti.

Here are some images that have caught our eye over the years that are graffiti. Several years ago we went on a trip to Europe taking a camera with us. We stayed in the house of a sculptor that had been painted by the artist Ami Tsao.

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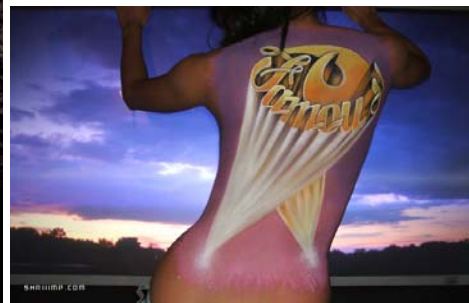


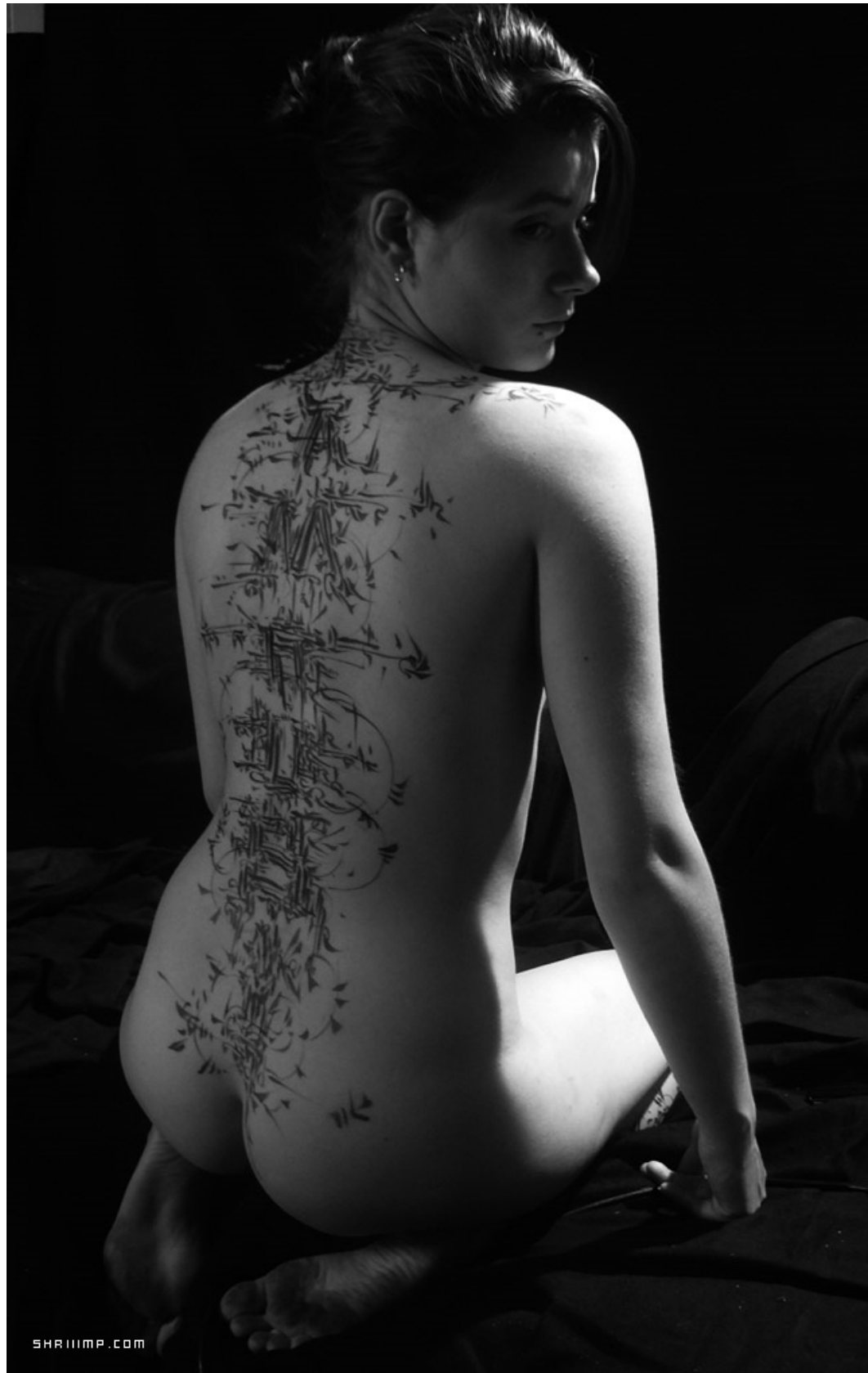
As we passed through London we found shelter during a rain storm in a well lit tunnel brightly lit by graffiti.



By nature graffiti is found on unconventional surfaces and by far the best graffiti we've found so far in our search has been on the female torso. Yes, there is a web site devoted to "Graffiti on Girls."

From [www.shriimp.com](http://www.shriimp.com) :





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Finally, if graffiti can be considered a “movement” then there must be some focus for the artists of this genre. We found it, It’s in French and it’s an online magazine: <http://www.graffitiartmagazine.com/> Pick up your copy here: <http://www.graffitiartmagazine.com/preview.pdf>