

Graffiti Verite': Read The Writing On The Wall

Reviews as they appeared in **MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL** and **MSRRT NEWSLETTER**



“Wake up and smell the aerosol,”

says one interview subject in this inside look at the colorful yet misunderstood world of Graffiti Art. With the words of Los Angeles-based Artists who view their city as a canvas, this documentary gives a human face to the outlaw creation of street Art. Their work comes across as a complex, powerful undertaking with loads of Artistic credibility. The Artists discuss working in a

realm of self expression and social commentary-and how they engage in a “game of survival” on urban streets fraught with physical danger. After hearing them speak, even those who view graffiti as an act of vandalism may reconsider what one Artist calls “a beautiful crime.”

G. Helfand

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL



Recommended Viewing

This tightly edited 45 minute documentary on graffiti is “... a mind expanding experience in peoples’...” --as opposed to commercial culture. Guaranteed to break preconceived notions, it lets two dozen Los Angeles Artists do all the talking, showing some of them in action.

“Art” is the keyword here: exuberant and intense Art. Not about illicit tagging under cover of night or subway vandalism, it focuses greatly on colorful pieces, some even created for gallery shows. “Old schooler’ Chaz, active in the 70’s, articulates graffiti’s place both on the streets and in institutions and traces the LA scenes Chicano roots. Younger Artists (a multi-racial contingent including two women) critique technical aspects of each other’s works and talk about graffiti’s place--with rap and break dancing--in hip hop.

Above all, free expression is the common bond. Occasionally provocative and sometimes deeply moving, Graffiti Art deserves wider understanding. To that end, this documentary is highly recommended for public libraries.

Chris Dodge
MSRRT NEWSLETTER
“Library Alternative”

