

Hypothesis: 100s of years of now
Archeologists will be able to
determine what was occurring in our
society during this time period.

Introduction: Graffiti, also known as
street art has been considered
controversial over the past decades
with some individuals considering it
detrimental to businesses and
communities. While others believe it
to be a form of expression and a
creative response to opinions. Over the
past couple of years there has been
political polarization that has impacted
our society. For my project I chose to
analyze if graffiti had an accurate
reflection of what's occurring in our
world today and whether this would
be seen in future years from now.

Market off Elm St



Graffiti:

Research Topic: How street art and graffiti is reflecting in
the current events we see today and how Archeologist
can reflect on our time period in the future. By Jack Burgos

Background: In order to test the hypothesis we analyzed
four different locations from Bellingham and categorized
them into four categories: Black Lives Matter (BLM),
political parties, tribal awareness, and feminism. These are
four of the biggest topics being discussed over the media
and political parties during this time period.

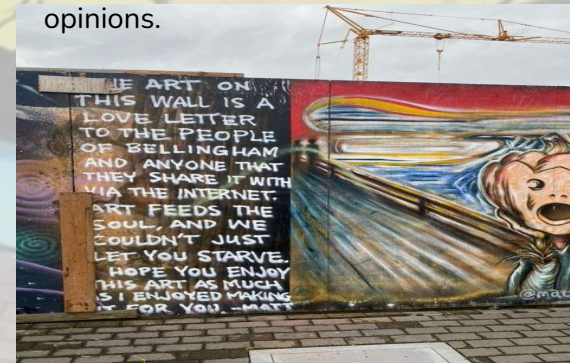


Photo taken at the Granary

I took inspiration from Pauline Bullins article, "Graffiti and Street Art
Can Be Controversial, but Can Also Be a Medium for Voices of
Social Change, Protest, or Expressions of Community Desire. What,
How, and Where Are Examples of Graffiti as a Positive Force in
Communities?" Where she adds counter arguments from both
parties and represents an idea of that discussion being a natural
response to street art because it is meant to be in your face and
initiate that conversation. Also, many people might be afraid to hear
a perspective that does not align with theirs.

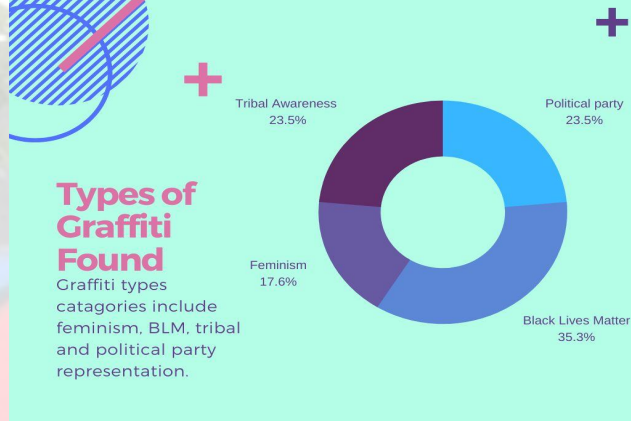


The political polarization, societal
issues, and current events that reflect
our society today all make up street art
and graffiti. Different areas reflect
different graffiti for different causes
but all convey the same message of
voicing these issues for everyone to
see. Coming from a primarily liberal
area, we see many art forms that
reflect more left leaning-democratic
opinions.



As shown in the graph, we can see the prominence of current events that affect our society in graffiti and street art. Throughout our research we saw many different forms of art, but a large amount of this art was to convey some sort of message of either current events or politics; from topics such as feminism to black lives matter. This answers our research question and hypothesis that over time, archeologists that study graffiti will be able to determine our current events from this time period, and identify what was happening in our society during this age. As people in the future explore and look at and analyze this art, they will be able to pick up the messages and political implications, societal limitations, and problems that our society faced, because of this artwork.

One challenge I faced in my project was that as I looked for graffiti early on, when I went back to the location it was painted over, this means that I could have had stronger evidence for my project, and I struggled with finding enough representation of different categories in my project due to this. This was the biggest challenge since I wanted to accurately represent my information, and I could not accurately have exact data due to this reason. This was apparent when I analyzed the different types of graffiti I found in different areas, because I had previously found more information to support my project, and then the graffiti I was going to collect was painted over; so since having to collect new data I was not able to have as much evidence as I wanted. I do have a wide variety in my project, however I wished I had a little more to show in regards to the amount of pictures I have.



Works cited

- Alixbeattie. (2020, May 30). *Street art: Commentary on society or a reflection of society*. Alix Beattie: Street Art Researcher. Retrieved May 22, 2022, from <https://alixbeattie.com/2020/05/30/street-art-commentary-on-society-or-a-reflection-of-society/>
- Bullen, Pauline, et al. "Graffiti and Street Art Can Be Controversial, but Can Also Be a Medium for Voices of Social Change, Protest, or Expressions of Community Desire. What, How, and Where Are Examples of Graffiti as a Positive Force in Communities?" *The Nature of Cities*, 19 May 2020, <https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/03/23/graffiti-and-street-art-can-be-controversial-but-can-also-be-a-medium-for-voices-of-social-change-protest-or-expressions-of-community-desire-what-how-and-where-are-examples-of-graffiti-as-a-posit/>. Guarino, B. (2019, December 12). *The oldest story ever told is painted on this cave wall, archaeologists report*. The Washington Post. Retrieved June 8, 2022, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/12/11/oldest-story-ever-told-is-painted-this-cave-wall-archaeologists-report/>

Methods

For the past 8 weeks I've been looking for the most relevant graffiti in Bellingham, and I have found a wide variety of types that reflect current events today. These categories are Black Lives Matter, Political party, Tribal awareness, and Feminism. These categories represent the different issues that reflect society today.

Materials Used

I documented graffiti using my Iphone and through a series of pictures and videos that I took to represent my findings. I also created multiple tables in a google docs of my findings and used this final graph to represent this evidence.

Procedure

At each site that I found graffiti I took, I categorized the pieces and logged them in a google docs in order to create my final graph. I then proceeded to sort out all my photos into different sections. I then calculated the percentages to put into my graph and I was able to write my summary of my project based on this collection of data.