



Brief

Scape Martinez has been creating art his entire life. He is a noted and renowned "Urban Street Artist", born in Newark, New Jersey. Scape currently lives and works as an artist, writer, and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. His stunning large scale paintings combine elements of abstract expressionism and graffiti art. Today Scape defines this as - "Screaming, Creative And Positive Energy!" His passion for art has transcended beyond walls and canvas to include: public art, murals, writing, art education, and digital mediums. Scape Martinez is an advocate for art education for young adults, especially in the areas of self exploration and creativity. He works with young adults of all backgrounds to empower them through Graffiti Art. He executes workshops and speaking engagements to young adults and professionals alike, sharing his unique perspective on graffiti art and creativity. His insightful, and thought-provoking lectures inform, inspire, and are equally uplifting and motivating.

Accomplishments

"GRAFF: the Art & Technique of Graffiti", Published by F&W Media 2009, Cincinnati Ohio.

"GRAFF 2: Next Level Graffiti Techniques", Published by F&W Media 2011, Cincinnati Ohio.

"GRAFF Color Workbook: Explore New Coloring Techniques", Published by F&W Media 2012, Cincinnati Ohio.

Public Art Commission, Morgan Hill Public Library, Morgan Hill, CA. 2011

Public Art Commission, Roosevelt Community Center, San Jose, CA. 2007

Clients and Relationships

Aaron Brothers Art Stores

Crescent Paper Company

IMPACT Books

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How did you get the name SCAPE?

Well in the beginning everyone has a weak name, but the idea is that whomever takes you under their wing usually gives you a name. In my case, we took the word "escape", and since my given name starts with an "e", and we are departing from that, we dropped the "e", and ran with "scape". In time, Scape became an acronym for "Screaming Creative And Positive Energy". It sounds combative, and is not nice on the ears, plus the letters work well together.

When did you become interested in graffiti?

In the sense of what we call graffiti today it goes like this: I was in junior high school, and one day while walking home from school, I noticed a graffiti piece on the side of the local high school. It was the 1980's, it was totally illegal and the colors and design captured my attention and I was hooked. Prior to that as a youngster I was into what we would call "gang graffiti", practicing old english letters, block letters, the homeboy writing styles and such.

When did you start painting abstract art?

I was always creative, into art and drawing, for as long as I could remember. While doing street art I still had a passion for pushing myself and my artwork creatively and began to study 1970's New York Abstract Expressionism. I learned about artists like Mark Rothko and Willem DeKooning, I began to explore more abstract styles in my graffiti art. The "aha" moment came one day as I was staring at my hand, and for some odd reason, and I stretched my arm out to the sky... I thought, "How could I draw my hand, but without an outline, how I could blend the flesh with the sky?" and then I was off to the races. I began to explore doing graffiti with no proper outlines, blending the body of the letters into the backgrounds and that started my abstract art love affair. So in the mid and late 1990's I made the leap from street art to studio painting. I began using spray paint, acrylics, and markers to create large scale abstract paintings.

What is your first book "Graff: The Art and Technique of Graffiti" about?

It is the world's first "instructional" graffiti art book. It is an open discussion about the artistic and creative applications of this often misunderstood art form. In this book I discuss the path of creativity from ideas and concepts, to working on paper, to executing them on walls. The book is proof of the artistic heights graffiti has achieved. Each element of graffiti is presented in sequence, with successive images showing the development of a form or style. There are tips and directions on preparation, method, design, color, and execution. Lots of detailed information.

What is your second book "GRAFF 2: Next Level Graffiti Techniques" about?

The second book piggy-backs off of the first one. One could look at it as a deeper dimension of graffiti art. Whereas the first book details the building blocks of graffiti art, the second book explores the use of these building blocks. We delve deeper into letter manipulations, color patterns, and abstract letter styles. One could look at it as the graffiti education equivalent of taking "Spanish 1 & 2".

What can participants expect to learn in your workshops and lectures?

I believe that participants can expect to hear some honesty and truth about the impact of art in someone's life. They can expect to hear about the transformative power of art and creativity. How art can heal lives and change the atmosphere of an environment. For me it is bigger than just graffiti art. I try to communicate certain views about value and empowerment. How can you catch your personal lightning, capture your dreams, and let it work for you.

What do you hope to accomplish through your work?

I wish to open minds, open eyes, and touch hearts.