



SONNI

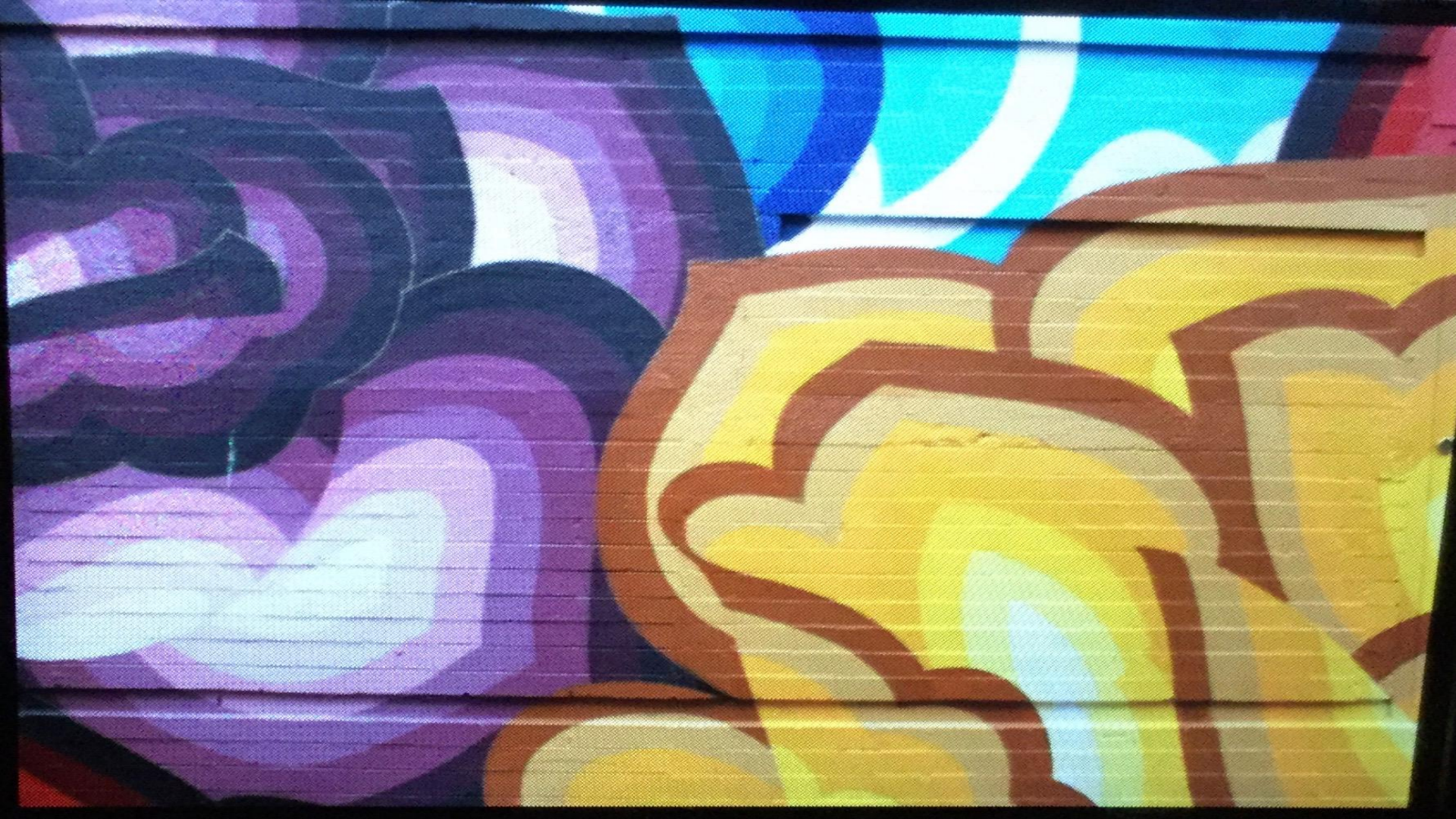
Graffiti

By: Alexis Villani

















Imagine that you're downtown in Soho and on every block you see a graffiti wall. Wouldn't you want to go to all of the graffiti walls you see? I love graffiti so, I would go to all the graffiti walls and see them because where I live on the Upper East Side, there aren't many graffiti walls like there are in Soho. I would also take pictures at the graffiti walls. I think that graffiti should be considered art.

First, graffiti is not art but it should be considered art. According to *Art Through Vandalism*, experts say that "Graffiti is not considered art but it should be because of all the planning that goes into graffiti." In an interview with Aerin Behar, a student at PS290 on the Upper East Side, she believes that graffiti should be considered art because some graffiti walls are very focused and other are not as detailed. According to Davon Chisolm, an art lover, he thinks that "I see it as an act of expression. In Queens where I'm from there once stood a building called 5 Pointz where many graffiti artists would go and display their artwork. Artists from all over were allowed to paint and draw on the exterior and interior of the building. 5 Pointz stood in a residential area and the community loved it. In 2013 the city demolished the building to build new high-rise buildings. The community was upset many people signed petitions to keep 5 Pointz, I was one of those individuals. The reason I signed the petition was that 5 Pointz gave many artists a place to call home and to display their work." I think that graffiti should be considered art because you draw graffiti with your imagination and it could come out very pretty. Graffiti should be considered art.

Secondly, graffiti has become popular as an art form. According to *Art Through Vandalism*, a source says that “People have started to put graffiti into galleries. Famous people have started to sell graffiti on the streets.” One time I was in Time Square with my family, walking around and I saw graffiti being sold on the street. Some people were looking at the graffiti like they wanted to buy it. I was looking at the graffiti being sold. However I was younger at that time so I didn’t want it and I didn’t think it was as cool as I think it is now. I kind of wish I got it now. This means that there are so many ways to get graffiti to become popular and make money. Also this may get people to stop thinking that graffiti is a crime or type of vandalism. Most importantly graffiti is becoming popular because it has been in galleries and sold on the street.

Lastly, graffiti helps you express yourself. According to *The Art and Message in Graffiti*, experts say that when people see graffiti it makes them express their self. In an interview with Aaron Premisler, a student at PS290 on the Upper East Side, he believes that “Graffiti helps people express themselves because they can express their feelings through art such as graffiti.” In the same interview with Davon Chisolm, he said “I express myself through graffiti the same way Picasso painted his paintings or how Beyonce performs on stage. Graffiti is a way to do what you love just like anybody else does what they love. Graffiti is a way to blow off stress and put all that anger and pain into your work. Graffiti is a way to show off your skill or talent or whatever you want to call it.” For example when I go to graffiti walls I express myself by my feeling through art. Also, I don’t really like to do art but when I see graffiti it makes me want to create graffiti. Without graffiti people would not be able to express their self the way they want to.

Overall, Graffiti should be considered art because it helps you express yourself, it has becoming a popular item like it has been selling on the streets and it has been put into galleries. I don't go to graffiti walls every day or know any experts that draw graffiti art but I do know that it can help you in many ways.