

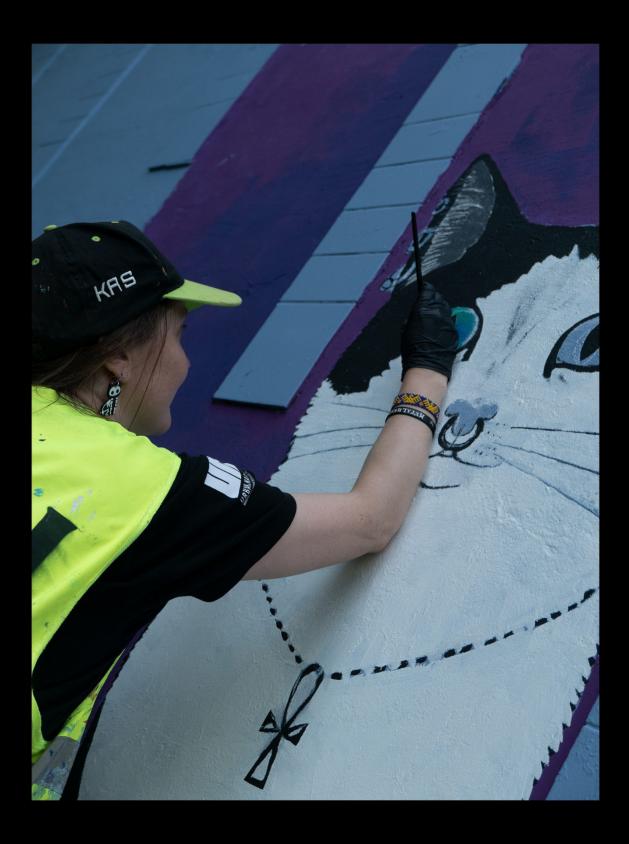




Street artists and graffiti writers are a modern-day flaneuses, urban nomads, wandering through the misty city streets of the world, scouting for exciting locations in which to place their pieces. Helsinki youngsters have been "gettin up" by marking and painting their names on walls since 1984. Even though graffiti landed in Helsinki aliready in 1984, only in recent years have street art, with murals and graffiti appeared as part of the street scene in the city. One could say that they have reappeared in fact, as a decade of zero tolerance between 1998 and 2008 eradicated nearly all of the street art that had been created before then. Nowdays many artists, associations and collectives have arrived on the scene, such as Helsinki Urban Art, Upea, KAS, Mimmit ry: Mimmit peinttaa, KERA-kollektiivi and SAV collective.

Street Artist (visual artist, sculptor and monumental painter) Heidi Hänninen from the KAS collective, Helsinki, Kontula district: Community art has became naturally very crucial way of art processing. "For me art is tool for better life. Art can be more humane point of view in our society that depends on constant growth of economy and competition. Art can be alternative for all us one way or another."

The general public tends to criticize graffiti as vandalism, a defacement of the city's appearance. Street art, however, offers less offense, although in principle there isn't much difference in these two forms of expression. There is a higher degree of tolerance for street art because it's usually more integrated into its surroundings than graffiti which serves to provoke. Clakoh 2018, 7-13. I Street art invades a public space, shakes it up and suddenly disappears, but the memory of the disruption haunts the site for audiences who experience it. The street artists seek to interrupt daily life, startle onlookers with an inversion of a familiar place and quotidian activities, and test the limits of what they can do in public and what they can encourage the public to do. Street art does more than offer outdoor entertainment; it frames the public space and everyday with art. (Haedicke 2013, cover.)



The Pocket Handbook for Helsinki Street Art focuses on the unexpected mix of this lively, accessible mediums to reveal engaging aspects of an intentionally secretive international creative community. This volume presents street art in and from Helsinki. Helsinki is currently one of the few cities in Northern Europe with such a lively and eclectic menu of street art on its walls and streets, and this form of art is constantly changing in the capital of Finland. This is a handbook and travel guide to the world of Helsinki Street Art. Must have to community planners dealing with urban space, researchers, gallery and museum curators interested Helsinki Street Art and Graffiti subculture.

Many people helped me to complete this book. I'm grateful to all the street artists and graffiti writers who inspired me with their masterpieces and lively talks. I am especially grateful to those street artists, writers and scholars who generously shared anecdotes, books and unpublished documentation of their work and always willingly answered all my questions: Timo J. Virtanen, Malin Fransberg, Paavo Arhinmäki, Heidi Hänninen. Lotta Impela. Saara Berg, Jarna, Crista. Time ikenen. Paula Barclay, Anna Vuopala. Tommi Latovehmas. Oskari Ylenius. Natalia Karvala. Mariu Kurvits, Lumi, Samuli, Timo, Helmet libraries Helsinki, Helsinki University Library, Pasila Urban Art Center, Mimmit ry, Helsinki Street Art Bureau and the City of Helsinki, KAS community and especially following street artists and writers REPO. Heidi, Ruusa, Poppamaija, Acid, Frenia, VIV Magia, Foskori (Miguei Diaz). Maríadie. Pac Dunga, Punk Parents (band) (Anna, Leena, Matthew, Tero), Nikita M. and Thierry Noir and Nina Hagen from the good old days of West Berlin late 1980s about all information and inspiration concerning early graffiti subculture, bunk and street art in Europe. My personal journey began in that exiting, creative atmosphere of West Berlin.



