Student name: Group:

Art movement.....Street Art XX, c.
Timeframe.....1960's – Present time
Topic Focus.....Art as a transgressive act

Teaching material: The instructor will provide video materials for educational purposes. ~15'

Background Information: Street art has its roots in the gang wars of New York during the 1920s and 1930s, when primitive graffiti and name tags began appearing to mark territories controlled by rival groups. Around the same time, artistic murals started transforming the urban landscapes of Southern California's metropolises. However, the well-documented origins of street art lie in Philadelphia and especially in New York City. By the 1960s, New York was facing significant economic decline, and the city's boarded-up buildings, vacant lots, and abandoned factories became a canvas for creative youths. These artists developed an entirely new form of expression, ranging from simple tags to elaborate murals that covered entire subway cars.

By the mid-1970s, street art evolved as prominent artists experimented with unique, signature styles and designs to distinguish themselves. During the 1980s, street art and graffiti found their way into art galleries and museums, as figures like Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat brought credibility to the movement, taking their works from the streets to the realm of fine arts. Despite its presence in galleries, street art has remained rebellious, constantly challenging notions of property, legality, and artistic expression in public spaces.

Discussion questions: What is the ethical debate surrounding street art? Should it be considered vandalism or legitimate art? Is it acceptable to use public spaces as a canvas? (10')

Main Activity: Street art is a broad and dynamic form of artistic expression, often provocative and humorous, which goes beyond traditional graffiti and spray painting. While territorial and rebellious at its core, it frequently conveys powerful social and political messages that spark discussion and reflection. Street artists have also embraced activism, using their works to raise awareness about urgent social and environmental issues. Street art employs a wide range of techniques. Spray paint tagging remains a common and rapid way to showcase work, but markers, paint, and innovative methods such as filling fire extinguishers with paint are also widely used. Beyond these, street artists employ an array of materials, including stencils, stickers, posters, textiles, LED lights, mosaics, and video projections. Yarn bombing—a relatively new phenomenon in street art—uses colorful knitted or crocheted fibers to create striking outdoor installations.

Group activity:
Search for visual examples that align with the techniques and themes described above. Each student will present their findings and discuss how these examples exemplify key aspects of street art.

Relevant texts: *Subway Art* by Martha Cooper and Henry Chalfant (1984):
A seminal book documenting graffiti and urban art within New York City's subway system, featuring striking photographs that remain foundational to the understanding of street art's history.

*The Street Art Book: 60 Artists in Their Own Words* by Ric Blackshaw and Liz Farrelly (2006):
Interviews with 60 street artists, including Banksy, Shepard Fairey, and Swoon, provide insight into their creative processes, philosophies, and the evolution of urban art across the globe.

1. Notes on the Street Art and historical facts.

3. Key words, artists and artworks.

2. Notes on the types of Street Art manifestations.

4. Summary and conclusions.