

BRALNO RAZUMEVANJE PM zima 2012 – Street Art

Preberite članek *Street Art In Montreal* in rešite nalogo.

Street Art In Montreal

You have to admit that graffiti is a form of expression. Egyptians did it; their hieroglyphics are what in graffiti slang we would call "tags". These are the signatures of people's existence. All graffitiists, I suppose, think of it as a way to hit back at the society that has rejected them.

Graffitiists usually come from marginalised backgrounds, as I did. I moved to Montreal with my father when I was 12 from the neighbouring province of Ontario. I was born in a very small town, so moving to a big city like Montreal was quite a change. I didn't know anyone here at the time, so I would just wander off on my bicycle. One day I came across an area that we call Red Path, which was a rundown industrial neighbourhood whose walls were popular with graffitiists in the 90s. Back then, graffiti was simple. I found it interesting, so I started doing it. I'd just go out with my paints and spray the walls.

At first it was scary because I knew I was doing something wrong. But then it became like a drug: I was hooked. We followed a code of ethics in those days, even if we were doing something that wasn't permitted by law. We wouldn't graffiti houses, businesses or monuments. Today this has changed – and it's giving graffiti a really bad name. Kids nowadays graffiti anything, even monuments and other works of art, and that's disrespectful. It becomes vandalism when you destroy someone else's creation.

I founded Graff-X, my graffiti association, to help channel all this raw energy. My goal is to provide kids with walls they can legally graffiti, so they won't be hounded by the authorities. You have to find a way to work with these kids.

A graffiti programme like this may not turn their lives around overnight, but at least it can give them some discipline or a framework for their talent. They won't just be truants or delinquents any more, their talent will be recognised – and their art form as well.

Graffiti is a new form of art. The difference between graffiti and a mural, in my opinion, is that one is spontaneous and the other planned. Otherwise, it's all creative expression.

Today I work closely with the city of Montreal to get permits for walls to be used for graffiti. Montreal is sort of in the forefront of "legal" graffiti, if I can call it that. I think the city first started allotting walls for graffiti six or seven years ago. I've already secured a few walls and \$30,000 from the city for Graff-X.

Graff-X is an enriching experience for me. I've never led anything before. I've always been at the bottom of the heap. I remember when I was a vagrant living in the streets, how badly the homeless would be treated. It wasn't easy for me to get off the streets. Luckily I met some people along the way, in youth centres, who lent me a helping hand.

Since last autumn I have been working on ways to get everybody together. It's not easy to negotiate a position between the establishment and the graffitiists and it can be stressful at times. My life was less stressful when I was homeless – I had nothing to worry about, but then I had no identity either. A person needs an identity and Graff-X gives me that. And that's what I'm trying to do for the kids, too.

Society is already showing signs of accepting us. The man who runs the tattoo shop across the street wants us to do the windowpane for him. He's not going to pay us anything, so I'll have to find sponsorship for it, but we're excited. I see it as a sign of things to come.

Odločite se, ali so spodaj navedene trditve glede na prebrano besedilo Street Art In Montreal pravilne (T) ali napačne (F).

According to David, graffitiists attack the society that doesn't accept them.

David became a graffitiist by chance.

David and his friends didn't care where they painted.

David tolerates the kids who create graffiti on monuments, for example.

The Graff-X association promotes legal graffiti among street kids.

David's opinion is that graffiti are like murals in all respects.

The cooperation between Graff-X and the city authorities is good.

David is well acquainted with the life of the homeless.

David is optimistic about his further work at Graff-X.

Rešitve - glej nalogo 2: <https://www.ric.si/mma/P123-A221-1-3/2013100914310494/>