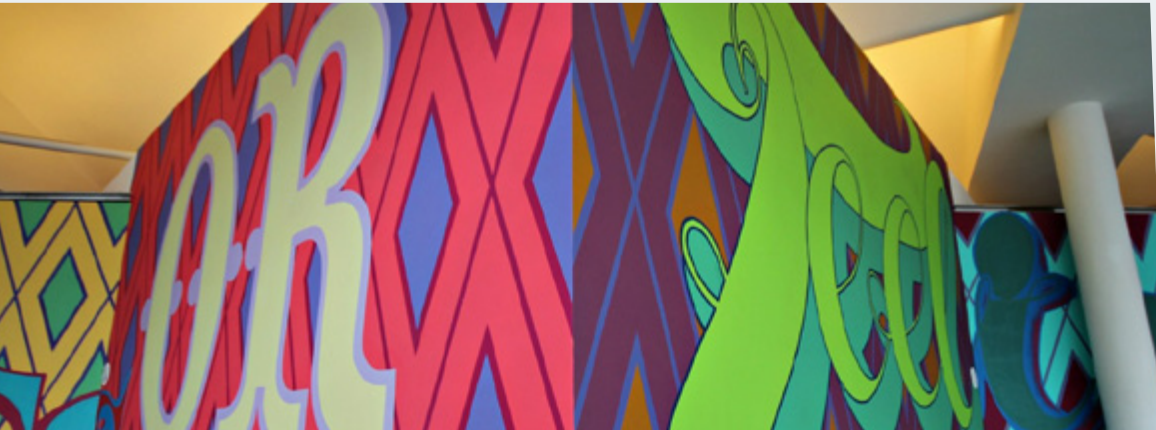




Vandalism

The Star Store presents the art of
Greg Papagrígoríou & **Ben Eine**





Vandalism

Greg Papagrigoriou & Ben Eine



What is the difference between vandalism and art? Is it having permission, or paying fines verses being paid? You can paint the line where you like, but in this exhibition we recognize Greg Papagrigoriou and Ben Eine as artists. They work primarily on sidewalks and ladders when nobody is looking. After they finish, their work is left behind for everyone to see. Papagrigoriou and Eine are artists among a medium of vandals.

“It is the master who establishes the rules and not the pupil, and the master is permitted to break the rules, even his own.”

— Jan Tschichold

Jan Tschichold held strong opinions on how type should function and look. In the case of Papagrigoriou, his calligraphy is nearly impossible to read and is used for the shapes rather than words. His technical precision and restrictive colors might have gone over well with Tschichold though. Eine’s large colorful letters are far from any neutral sans serif, but the short phrases and tall letters are quickly and easily read.

Before Papagrigoriou ever painted a wall he studied graphic design at the School of Graphic Design in Athens, Greece. Here his education of form and composition developed. Now he uses his education and experience to deliver visually intriguing pieces of art to sidewalks and galleries across Europe. His calligraphy, geometry and typography are the result of careful planing, patience, and practice. A perfect example of this is on page 9.

Ben Eine started his painting career by scribbling his tag all over signs and walls. Something he now considers vandalism. He liked seeing his tags, but everyone else thought they were trash that littered their neighborhood. Eine began painting large colorful letters on the shutters of closed stores instead. People enjoyed them even though they were illegal. He continues to paint bigger and brighter letters and words. One of his most massive paintings is on page 18.

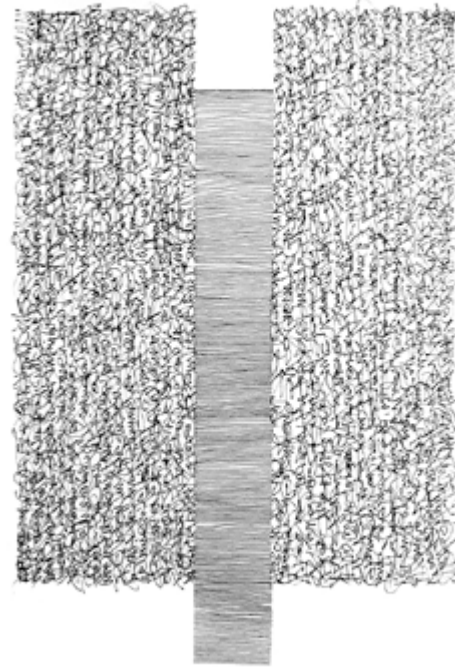




Greg Papagrígoriou

Before he emerged as a street artist in the early 2000's, he studied at the School of Graphic Design in Athens. That is where he first developed an interest in typography. He uses the complete environment for his work, striving to place his art organically into spaces. For example, he covers a dilapidated building, but keeps the surface of the architecture in mind and incorporates it into the art. The result is an installation that lives with it's surroundings.



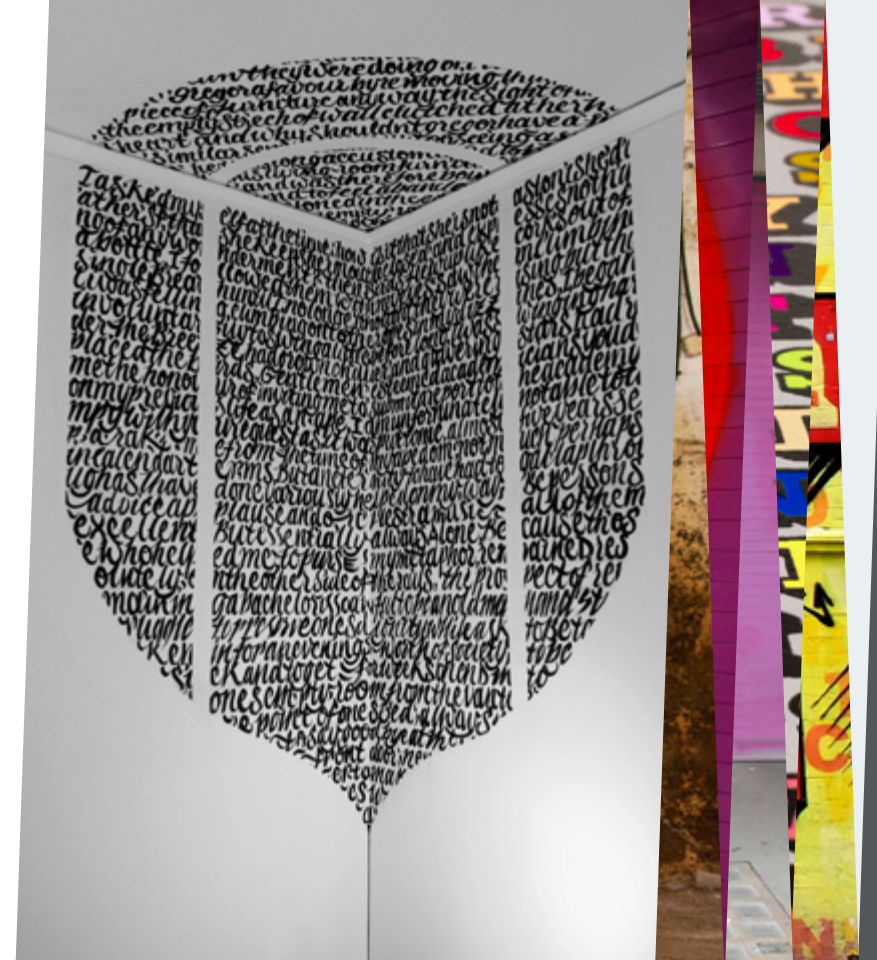


Papagrigoriou's artwork is more evolved than the typical street art and is influenced by calligraphy as opposed to the New York style of lettering that dominates the genre. His style has spurred some bloggers and critics to refer to his work as "calligraffiti", placing his work in a genre of its own right. His work is influenced by both western and Arab styles of calligraphy, which further contributes to his style. Papagrigoriou likes to paint with fellow design graduate Simek under the joint moniker of Blakq. He does not limit himself to just street art. His work is in demand in the fine art, street art and graphic design worlds.





My first contact with letters began when I was a student at the School of Graphic Design in Athens. During this time, I discovered the area of typography, which became the key piece of my interest. At the end of school, I attended a calligraphy workshop and it turned out to be one of the major motives that changed my way of thinking. From that point on, I worked by hand and experimented with all different types of surfaces including walls. I was always attracted to graffiti. And that is how I ended up combining typography, calligraphy and graffiti.







Ben Eine

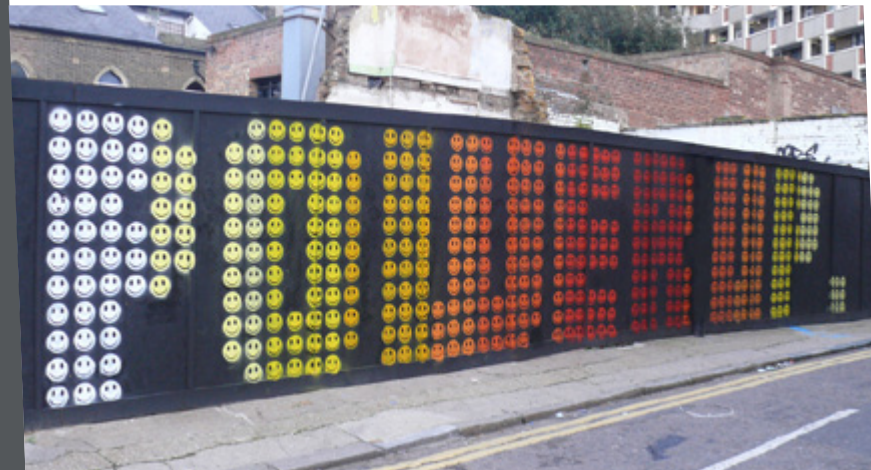
Eine has been busy painting the England streets and fine art galleries. He is best known for shutter paintings and they can be found throughout London and are considered a cultural landmark. Recently, his work was a gift sent from the Prime Minister David Cameron to President Obama. Jessica Pike sits down with Eine for an interview to discuss Eine's past, present, and the thin line between street art and vandalism.





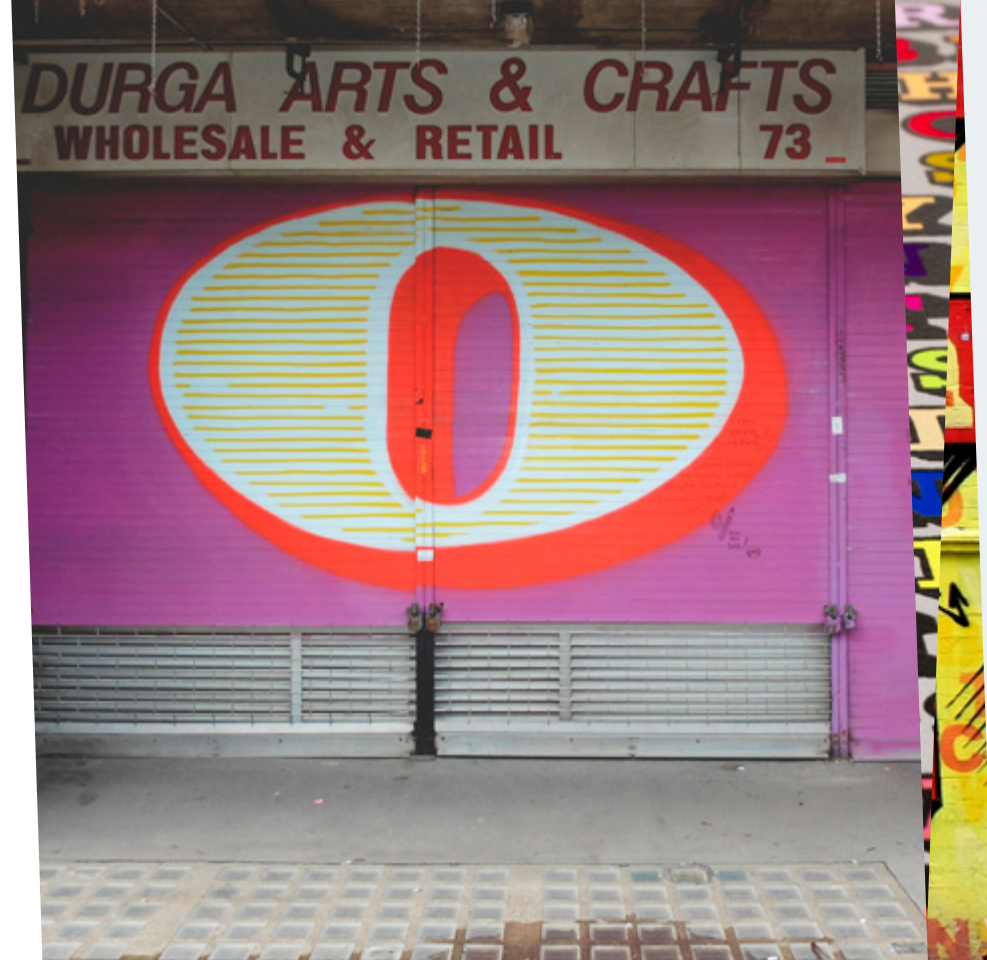
Where is the line between graffiti and street art?

I think it is changing but, when people see somebody with a can of spray paint they think graffiti, tags, find the police. People are afraid of graffiti, and that was why I painted "scary" and things in that way. People are scared if you can come down my road and do your tags, does that mean that you can come down my road and steal my car or break into my house? If you paint something without getting caught, what else can you get away with? So it is a reflection of how under policed or under cared for a neighborhood is. However, I don't think that is the case.



What inspired your name?

I used to use a different tag, but I had been arrested for it a lot so police knew who I was and were proactive in arresting me. So I couldn't write that tag anymore, so I started writing "one," "uno," and "eine." Different versions of the number one and eine just looked the best and fitted.





Why do you describe your style as "Happy Graffiti"?

I spent years and years tagging and vandalizing things, not that I really cared, but I was making the areas look worse. At some point when I stopped doing graffiti and really started painting street art I was kind of improving the towns. And it is still graffiti but it puts a big smile on people's faces. When you do a whole street it looks like some kind of crazy Eine town. It is bright and colorful and simple and they don't mean anything and yeah, that's Happy Graff.



Greg Papagrígoriou

Cover

BOOM '14, top

Inside Cover

The Sea Poster

3

R A G E, top left

~{||}~, top right

5

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6

Li

The Sea Poster

7

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8 & 9

~////~

10

Practice

11

Typographical Prism

Images are from

Behance.net/GregPapagrígoriou

Gregpapagrígoriou.tumblr.com

Ben Eine

Cover

Communication, bottom

3

Worth More, bottom

12

Old London

13

O

14

Scary

Power Up

16

Brilliant

Happy

17

Oranges - Grey

18

Extortionists

Worth More

19

ABC

Back

VANDALISM

Images are from

flickr.com/groups/

letters_from_eine/pool/

Colophon

Avenir, designed by Adrian Frutiger in 1988

Lighthouse, designed by Måns Grebäck in 2013

Rockwell, designed by Monotype foundry in 1934

VAND
ALISM