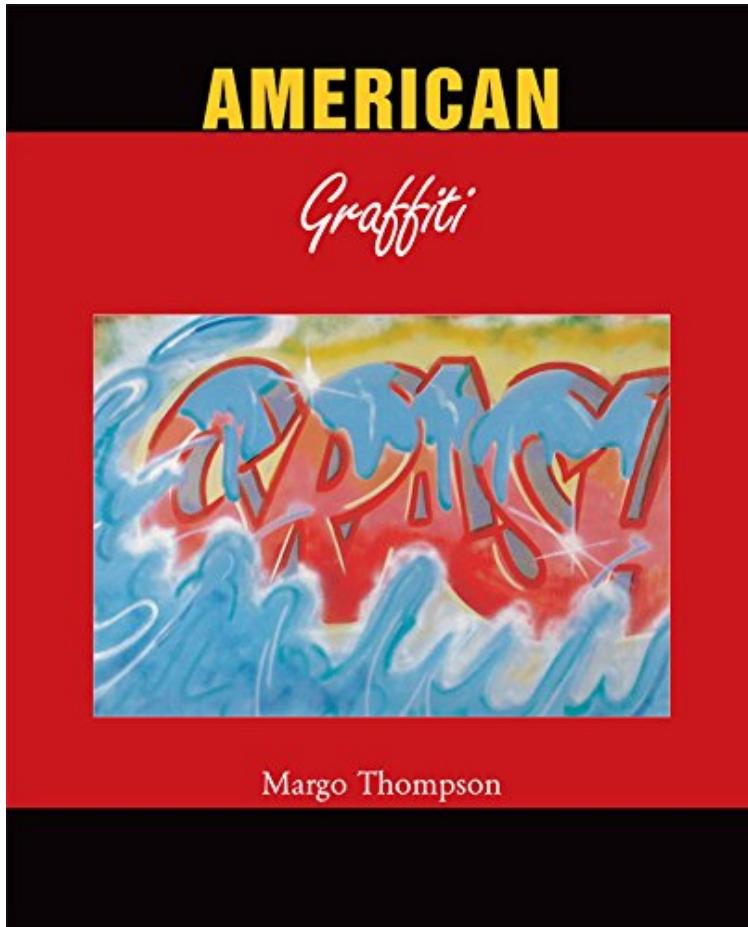


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American Graffiti

Margo Thompson
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The first appearances of graffiti “tags” (signatures) on New York City subway trains in the early 1970s were discarded as incidents of vandalism or the rough, violent cries of the ignorant and impoverished. However, as the graffiti movement progressed and tags became more elaborate and ubiquitous, genuine artists emerged whose unique creativity and unconventional media captured the attention of the world. Featuring gallery and street works by several contributors to the graffiti scene, this book offers insight into the lives of urban artists, describes their relationship with the bourgeois art world, and discusses their artistic motivation with unprecedented sensitivity.

About the Author Margo Thompson teaches 20th-century art history at the University of Vermont, with an emphasis on critical theory, race, gender, and sexuality. Her interests in African-American art history, contemporary art, and public art intersect in her research on graffiti art in New York in the 1980s.