

A History of Street Art

Art in the streets (including graffiti, murals, stickers, and paste-ups) gives voice to marginalized communities, shapes urban environments, and challenges institutional norms. This course explores graffiti and street art in the U.S. and around the world, examining their histories, motivations, and social impact. Participants will consider the rise of global mural movements, efforts to preserve and present street art, and its evolving role in activism, community identity, and social change.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Heather Shirey, PhD



Heather Shirey, PhD, is a Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Her research explores race and identity, migration and diasporas, and the role of monuments, memorials, and street art in shaping public space. As part of the Urban Art Mapping team, she co-created the George Floyd and Anti-Racist Street Art Database. Her work examines how street art documents collective experience and functions as activism, healing, and critical engagement.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 6

8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, April 1
- Wednesday, April 8
- Wednesday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 6

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.