

# BLOODWARS

THE MAGAZINE FOR GRAFFITI WRITERS & STREET LOVERS  
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APRIL 2007 ISSUE TWENTY FOUR



## Forward

Bloodwars is a Pdf Magazine.  
Print it out pass it along.  
Bloodwars intention is to  
expose the various forms and  
styles of Street Bombing and  
what ever else I find stimulating  
out in the world.

## Contributors Page designs

N/A

## Photo contributors

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20-38

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40-45

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52-55

David Stehle

56-63

Maria Imaginario

68-74

Zonenkinder

All other photos and pages  
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# MiddleEasttension

## The Chai series

The Chai series are made by a few groups (jews and non-jews), the first writes Graffiti (over 3000 in Tel Aviv only) with the phrase "The People of Israel Lives" together with the Star of David, and the other groups add words, signs, or convert the word Lives into another word, changing the whole meaning of the phrase, with a deep social and political content.

## List of Pictures of the Chai series (by file name)

1. Chai1..... "The People of Israel Lives"
2. Chai2..... "...lives in a Movie"
3. Chai3.... "lives in Palestine"
4. Chai4.... " lives by the Sword"
5. Chai5.... "smells like Conquest"
6. Chai6.... "?"
7. Chai7.... "lives on whose account?"
- 8 Chai8.... "?" "!"
- 9 Chai9.... equals this drawing
- 10 Chai10.... "is a Snail"
- 11 Chai11.... "lives" "is Dead" "Anarchy"

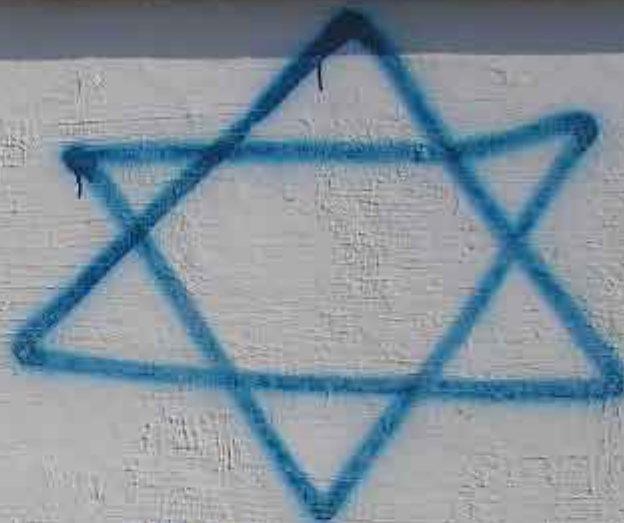




Handwritten blue text on a textured surface, appearing to be the word "rod" written upside down.





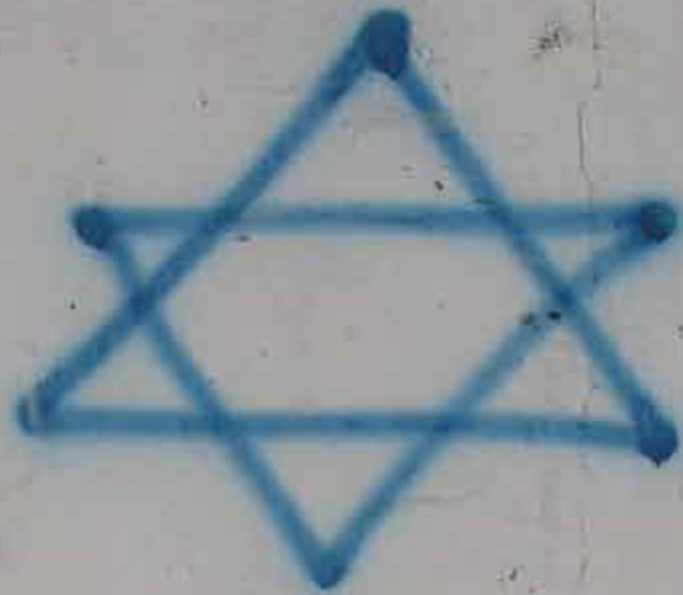


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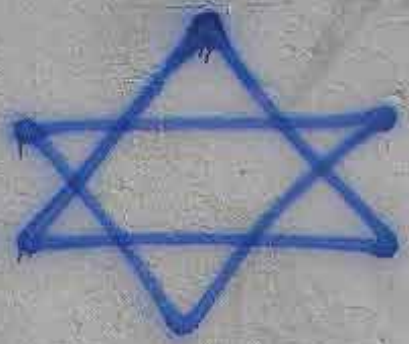






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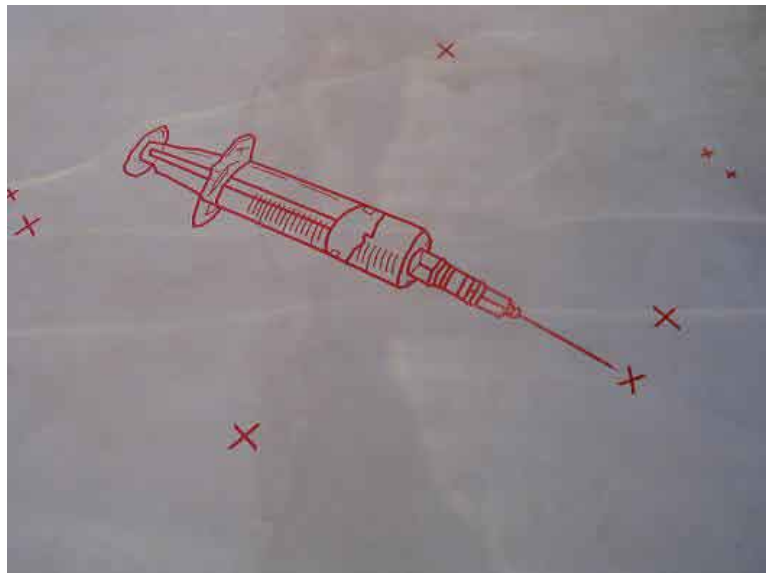
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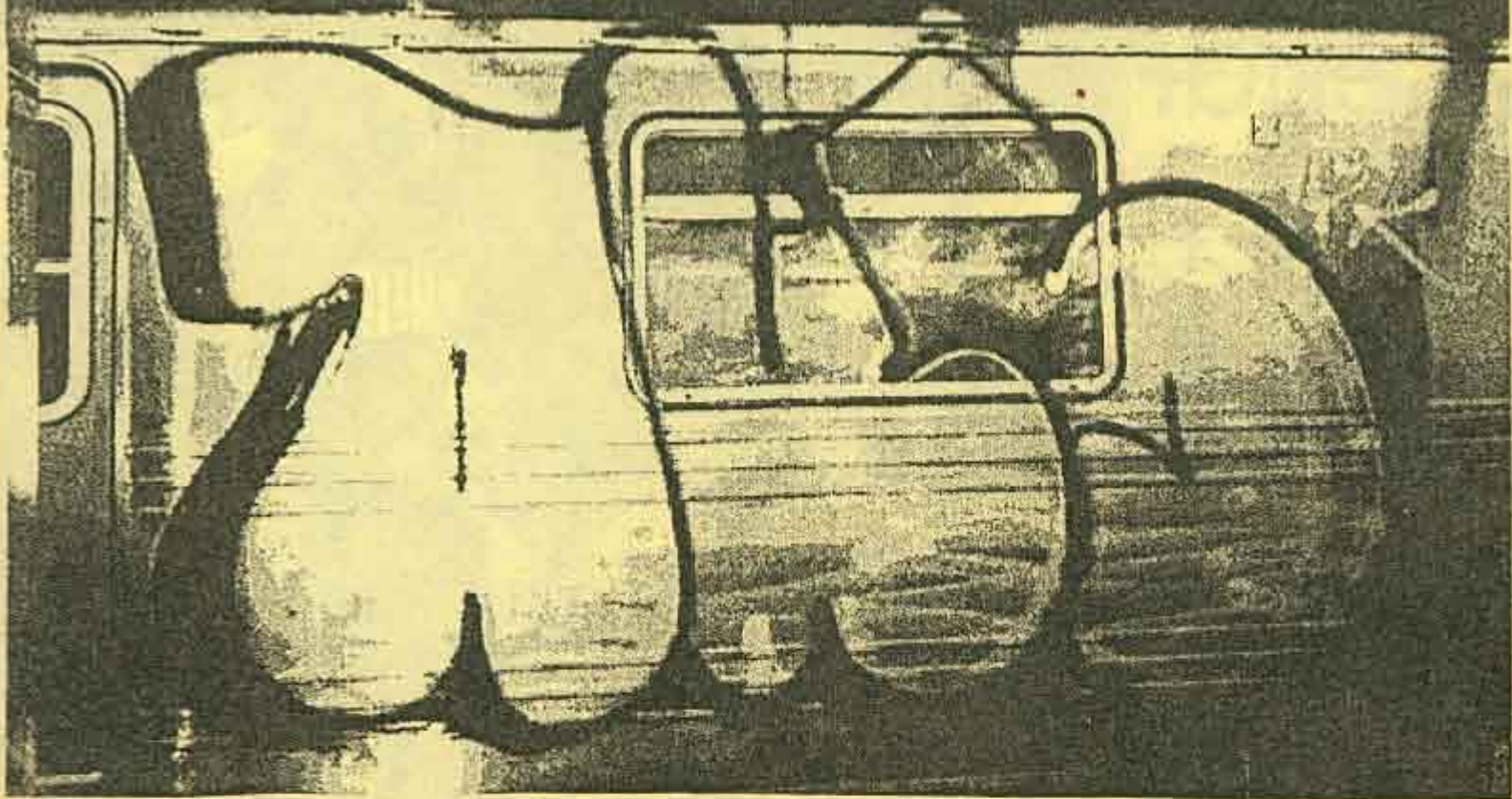


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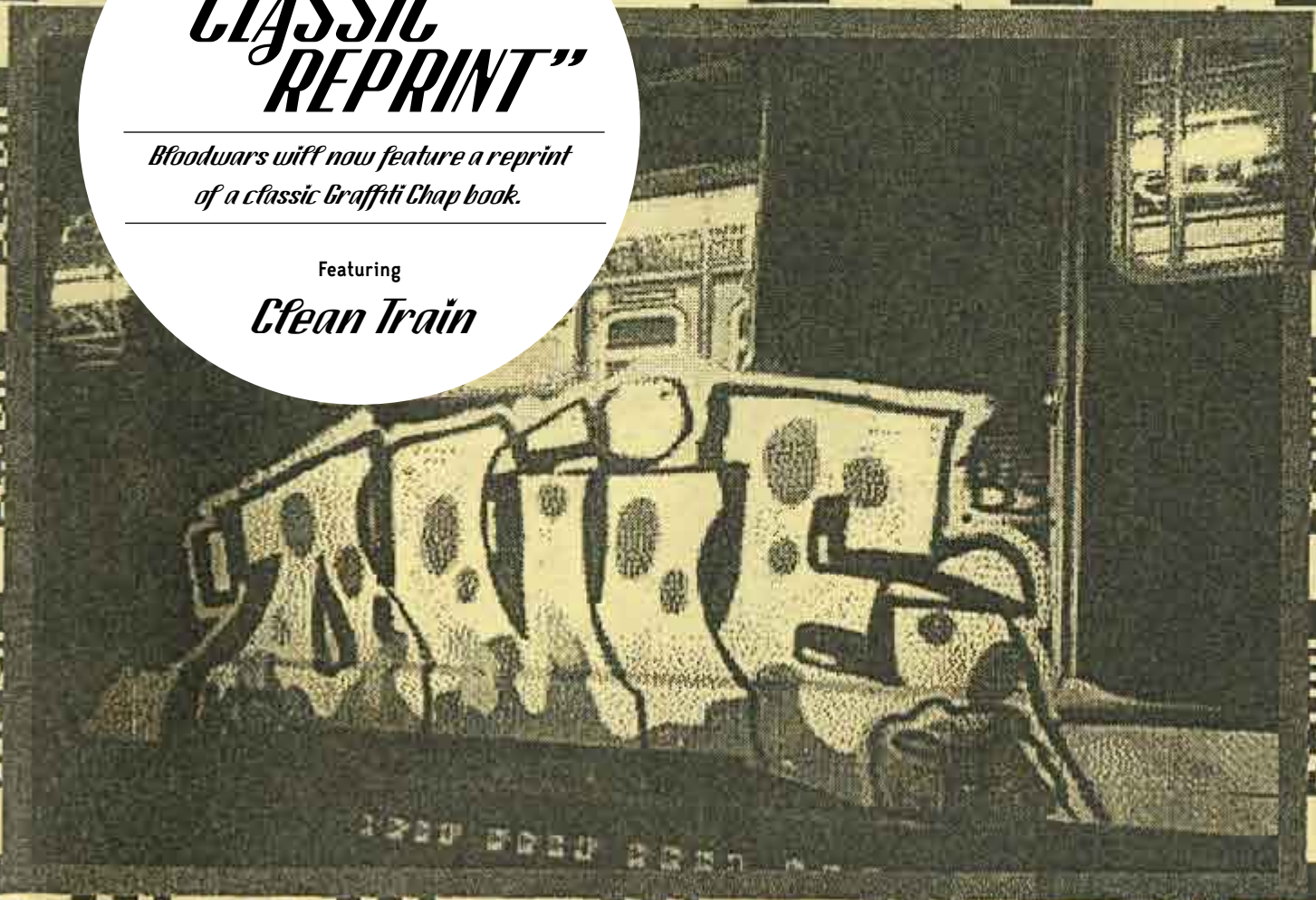


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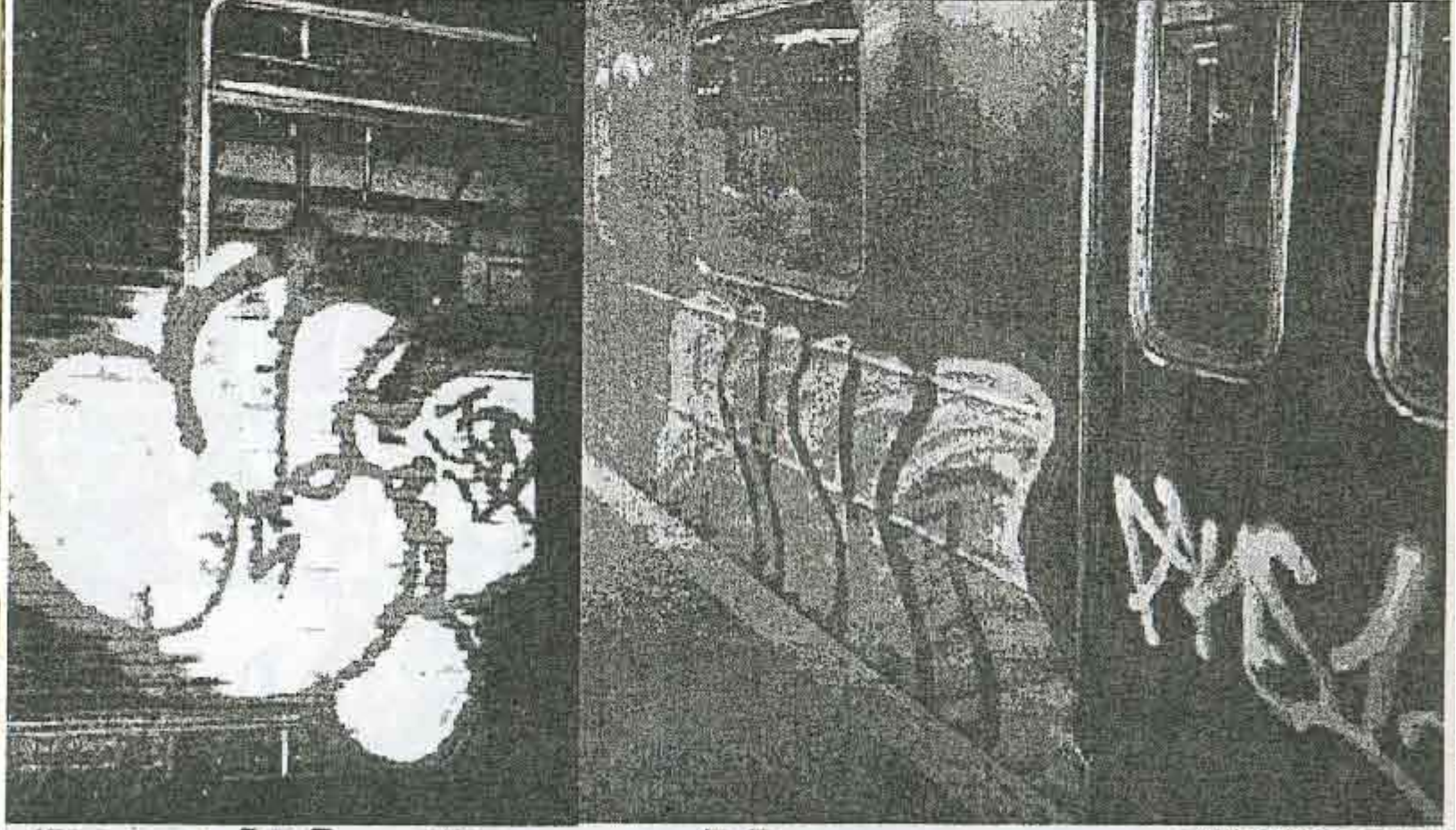
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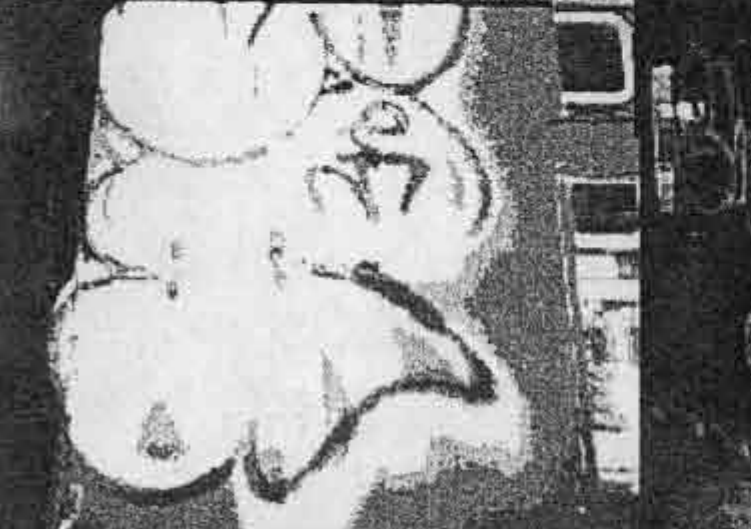
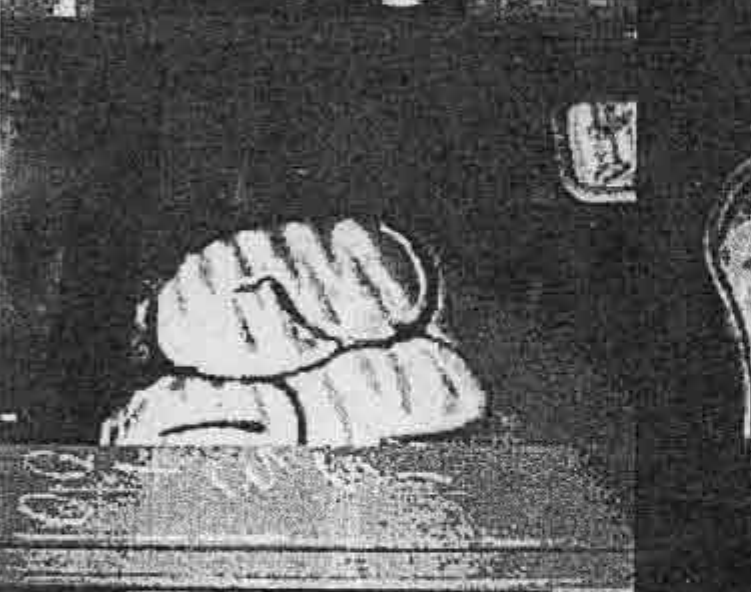
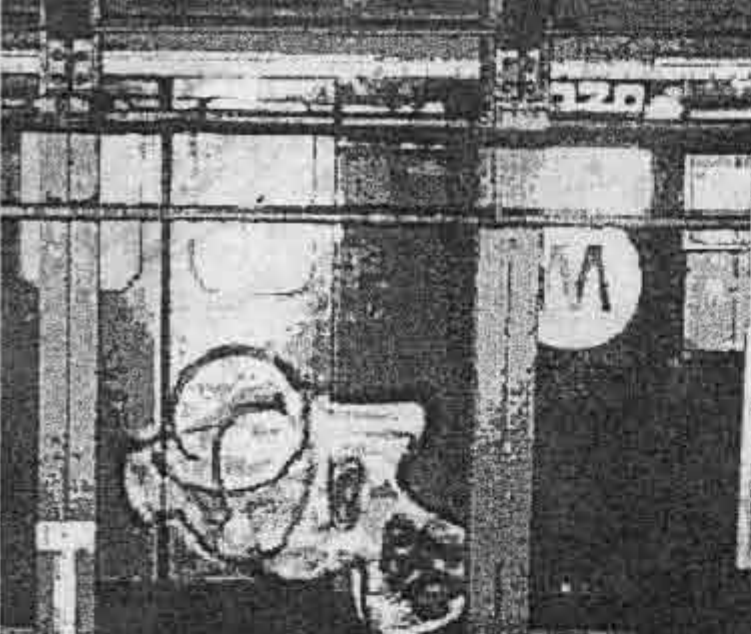
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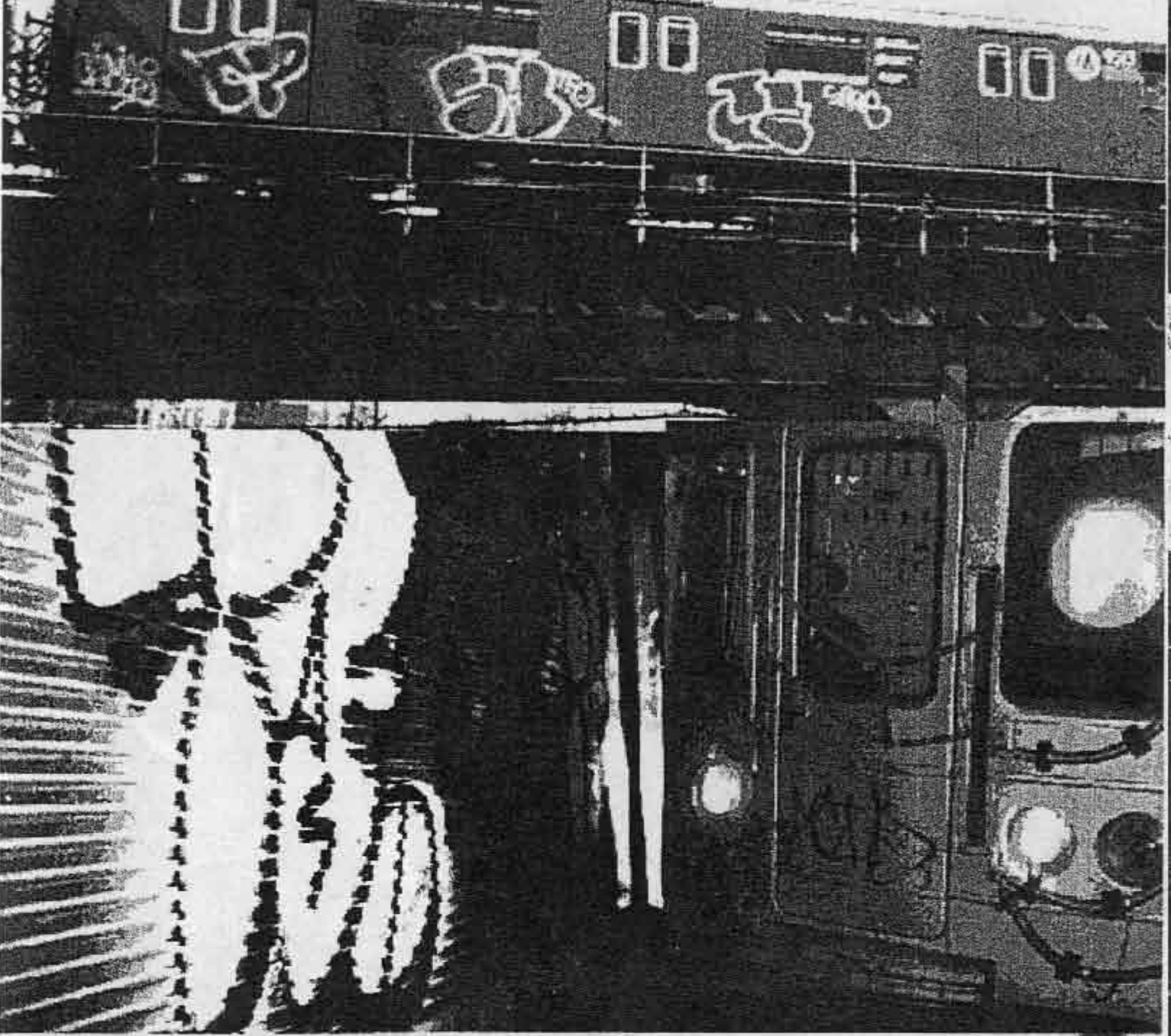








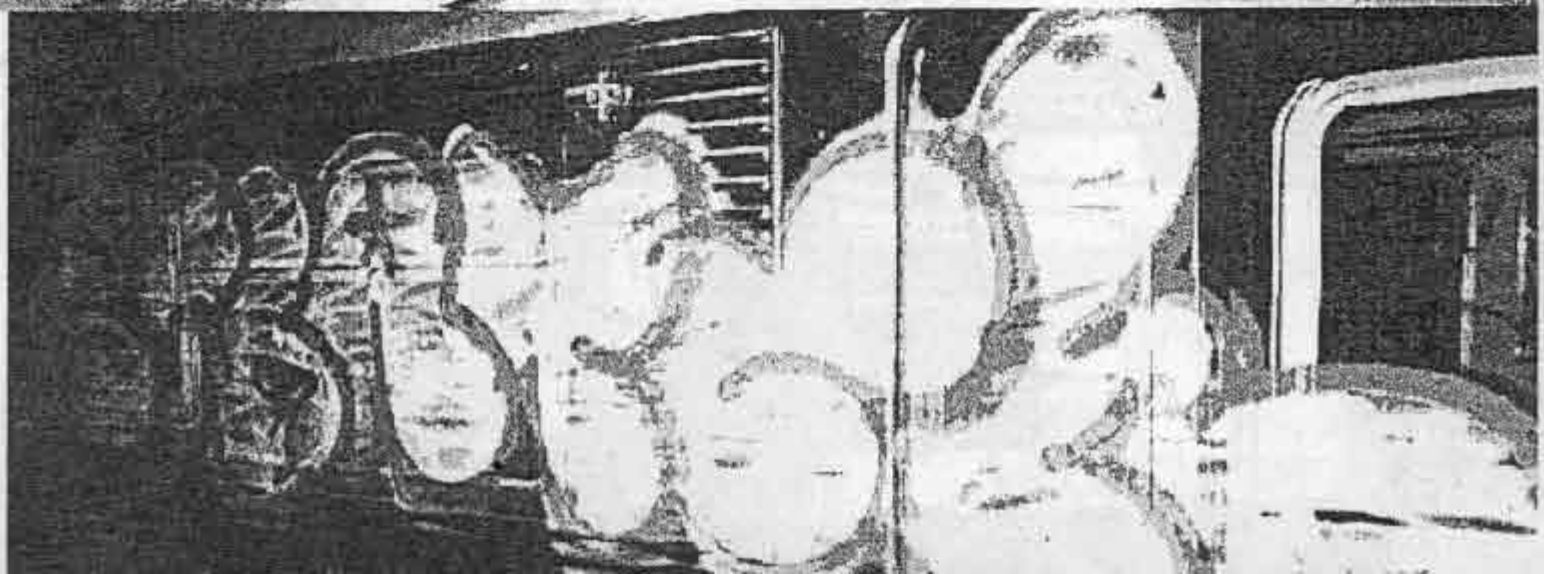




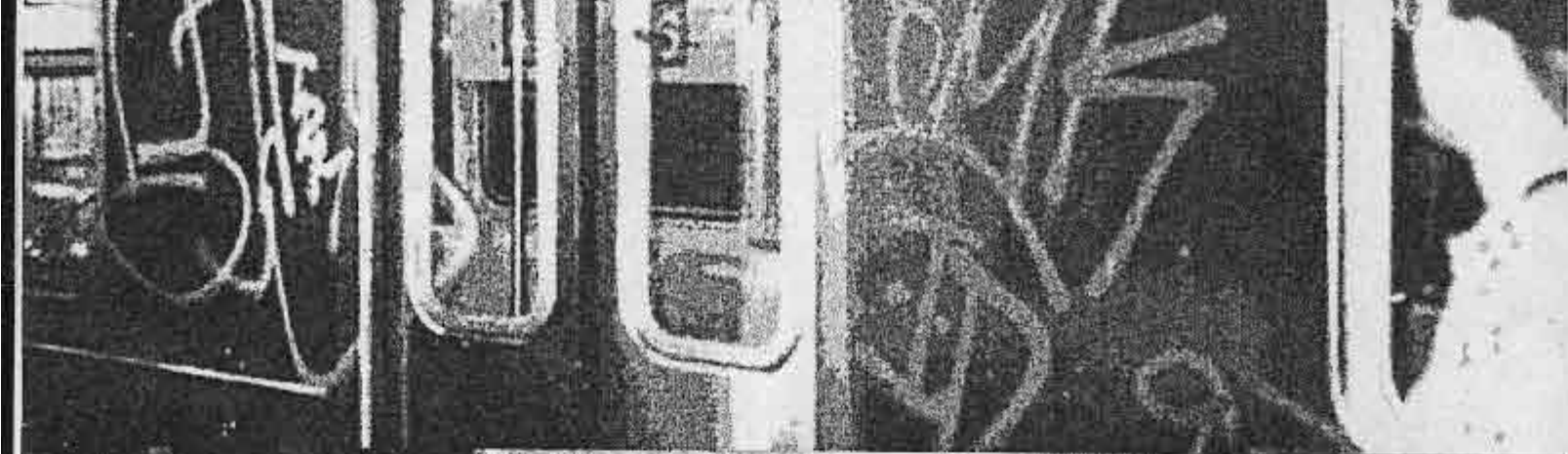




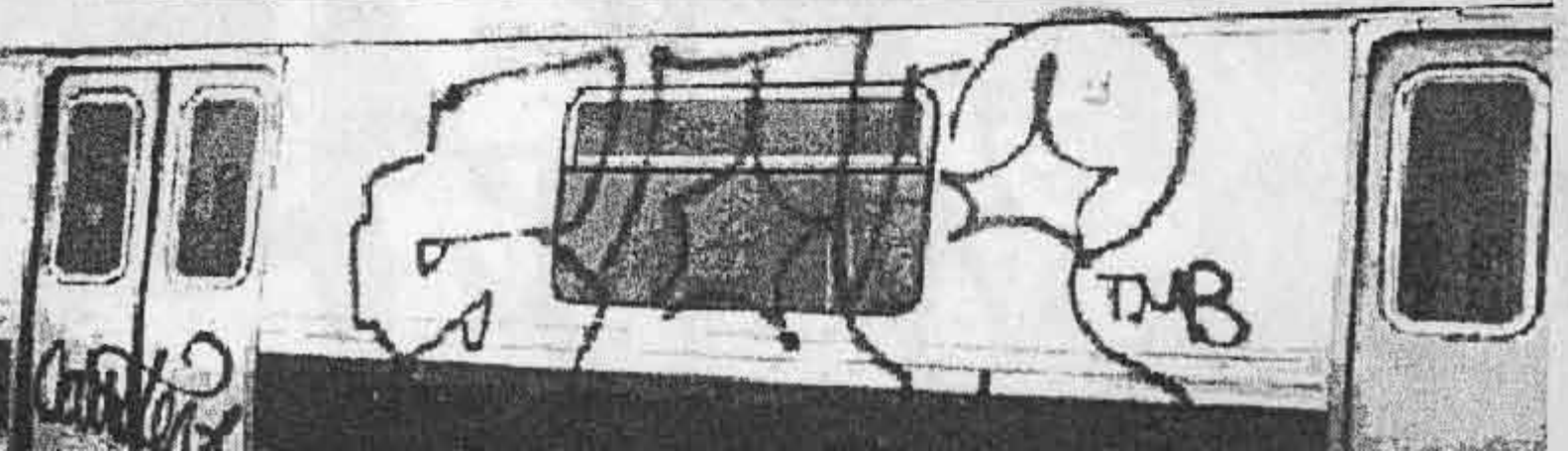




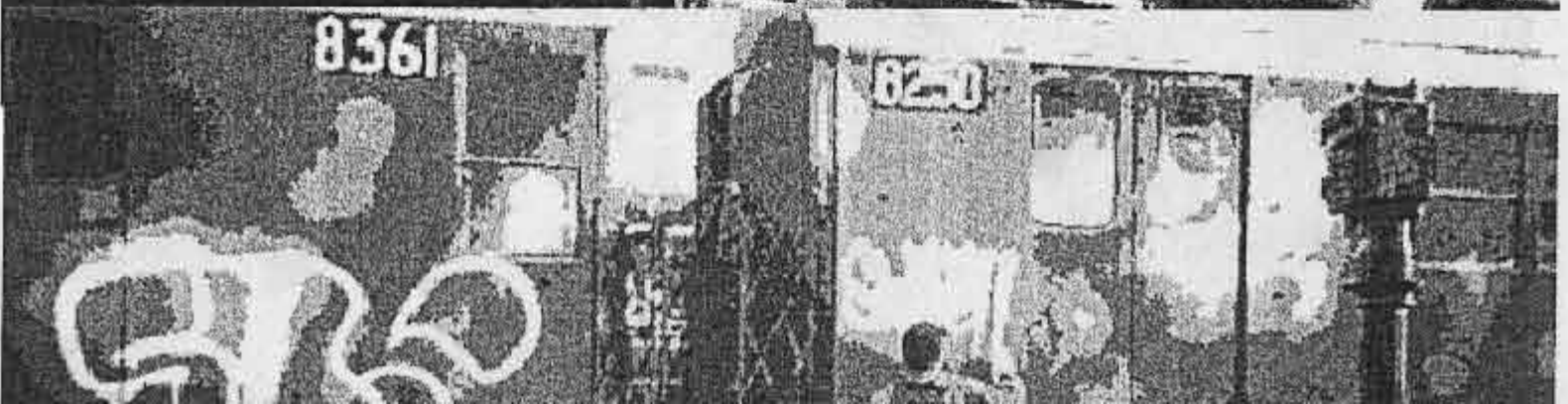




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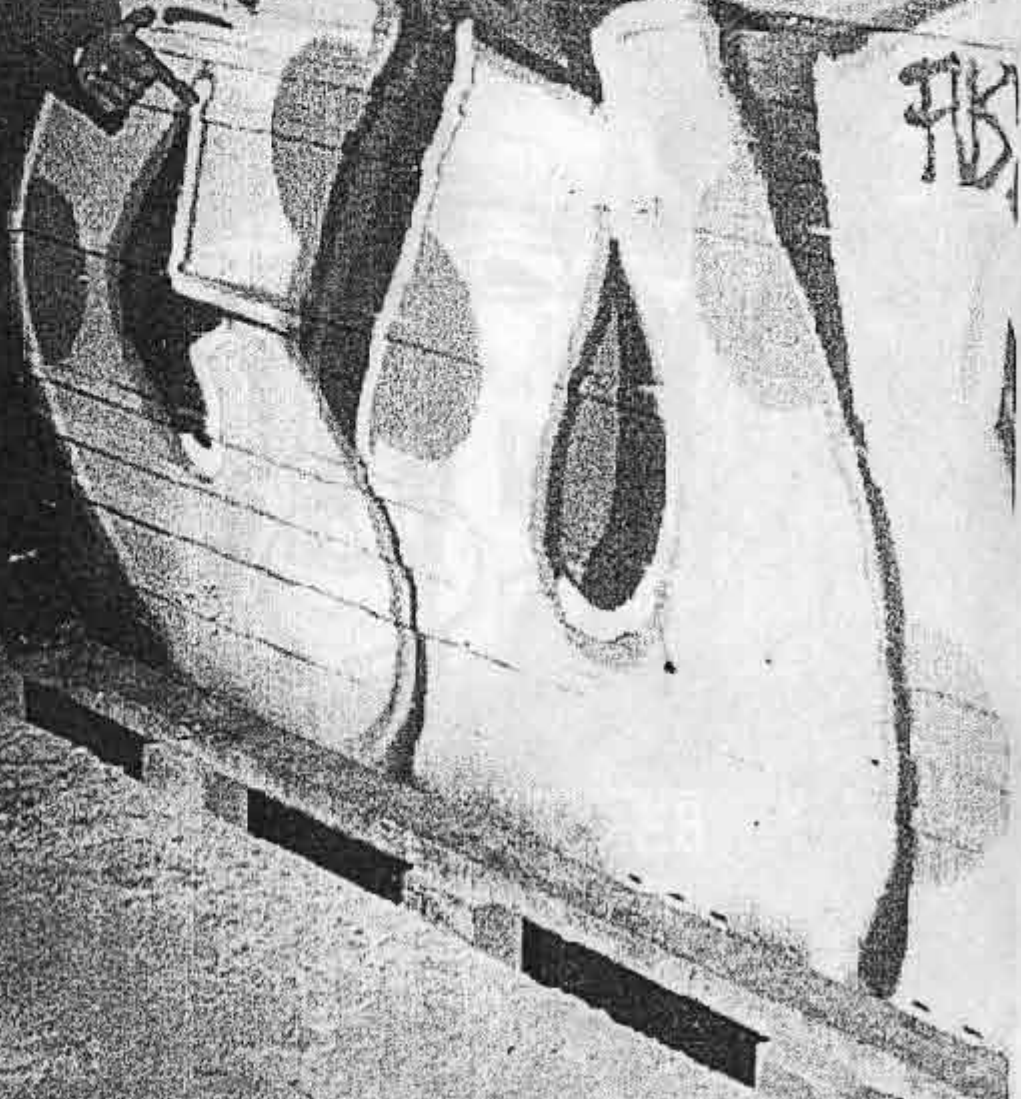
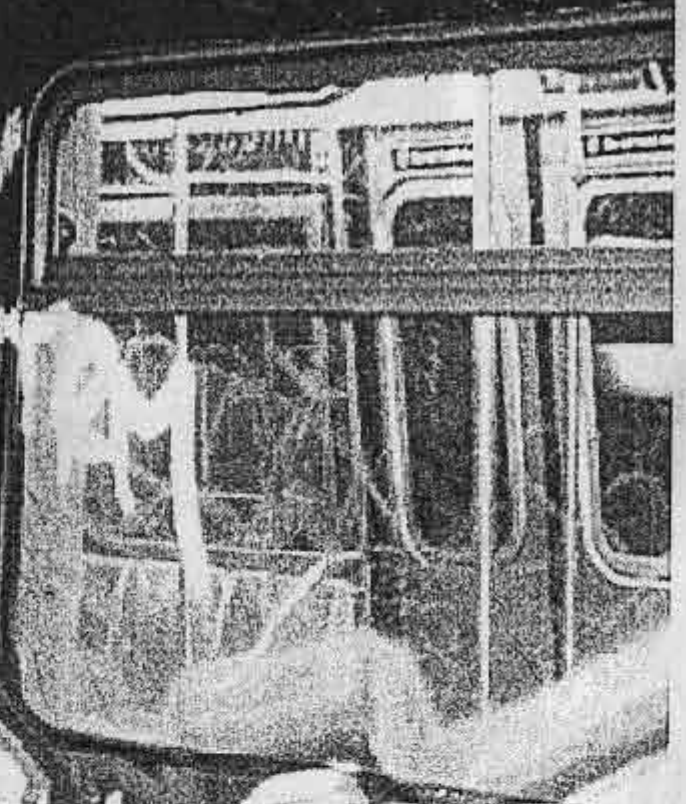
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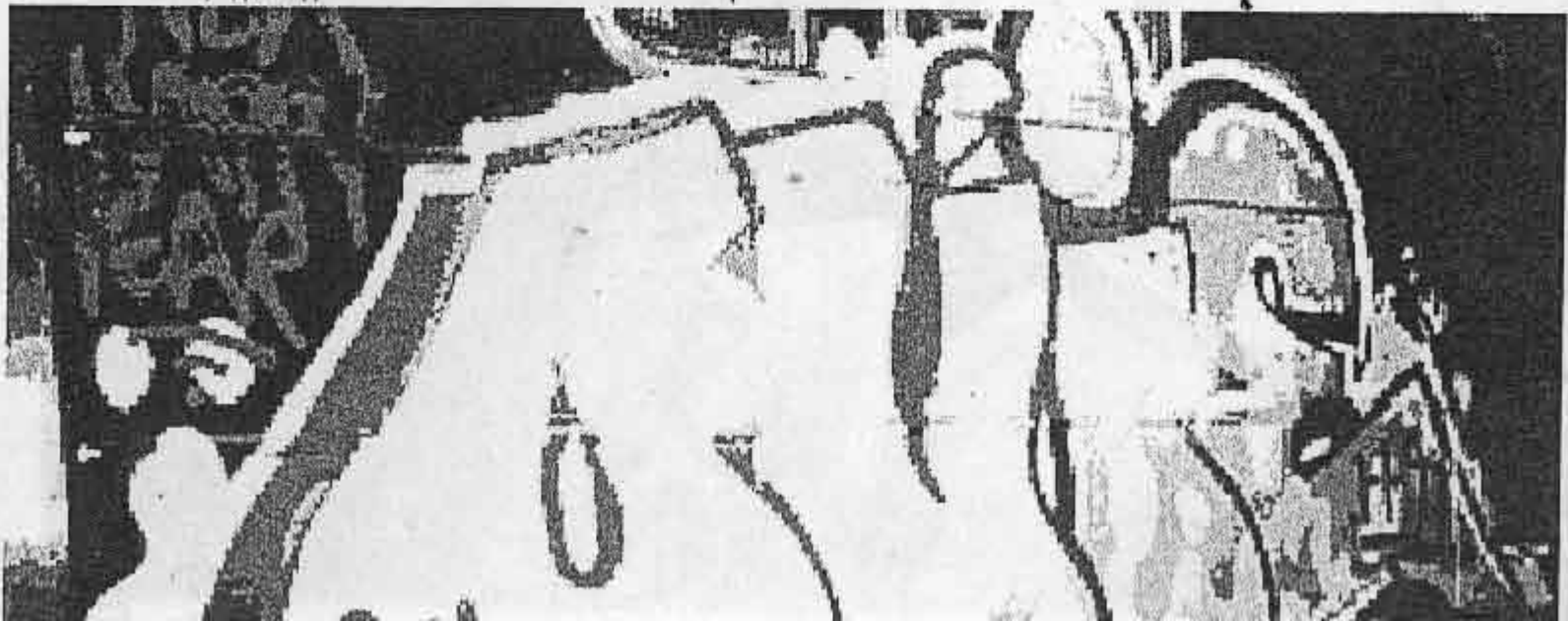
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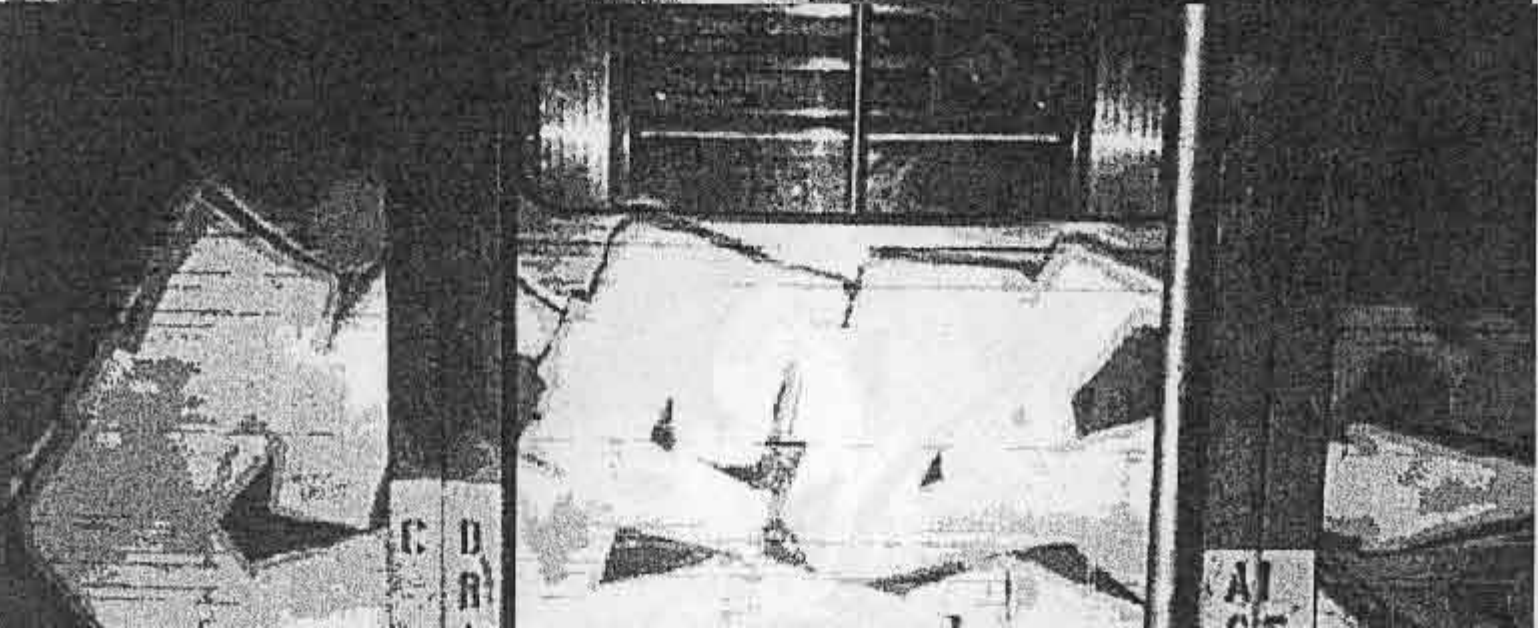




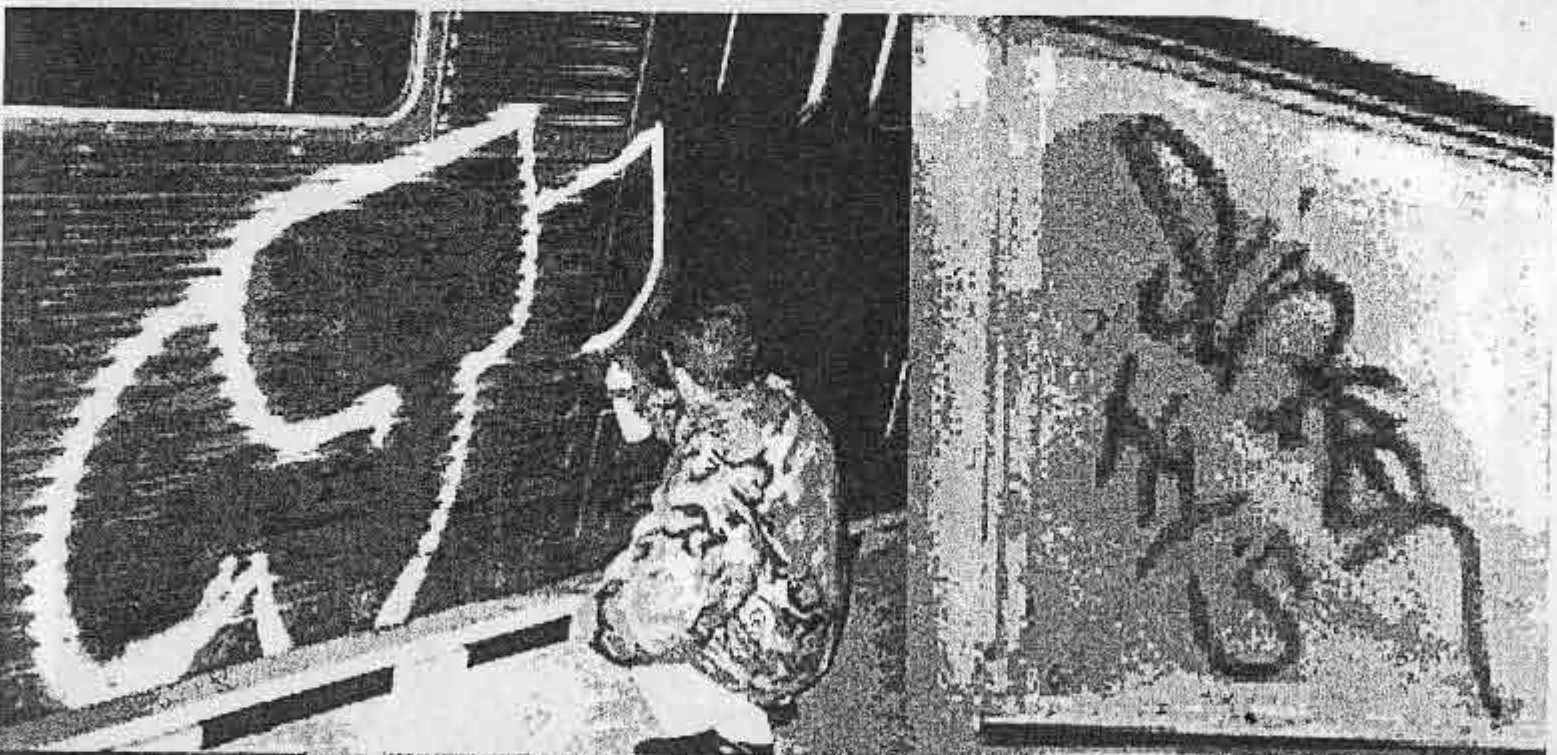
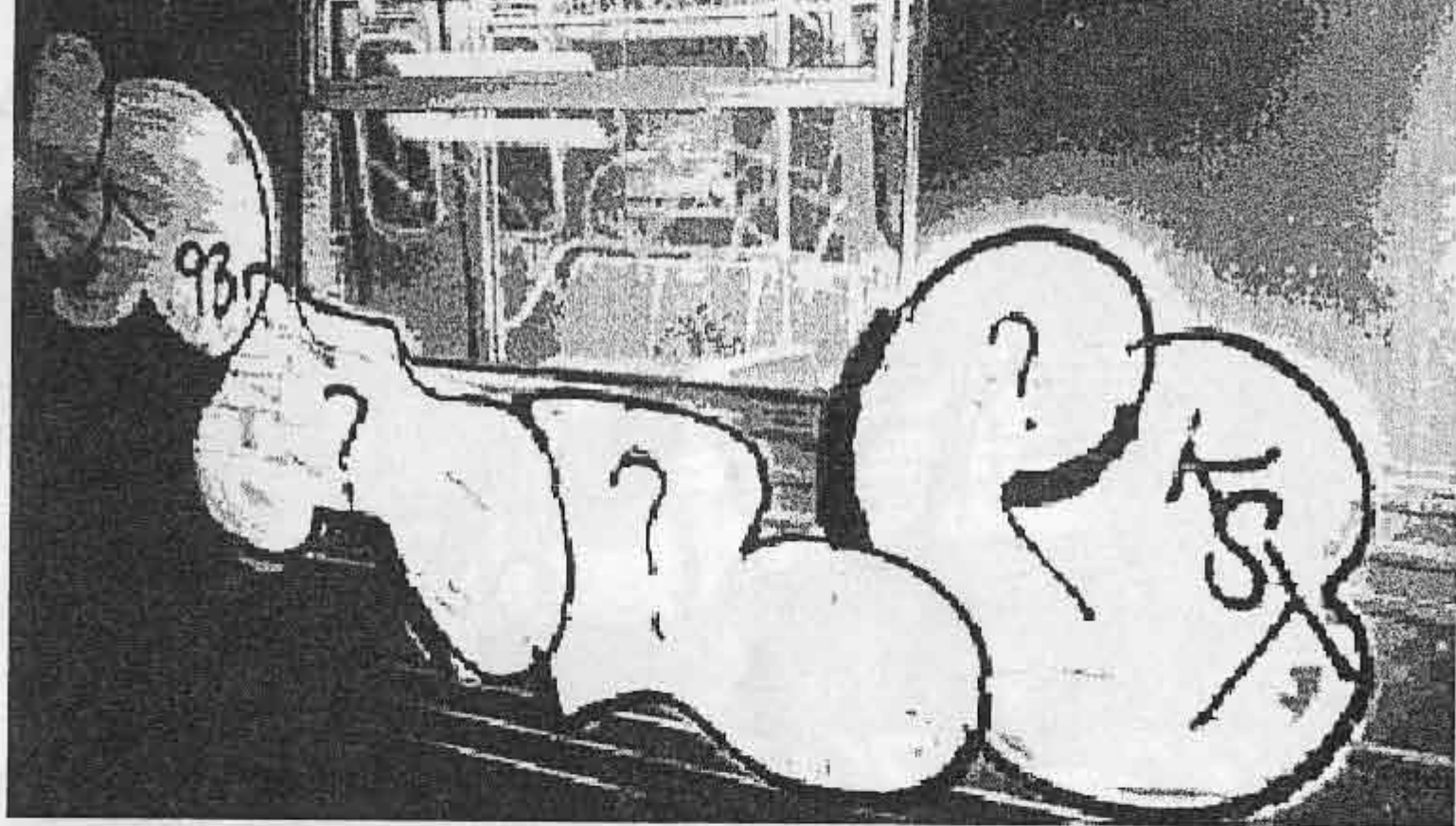
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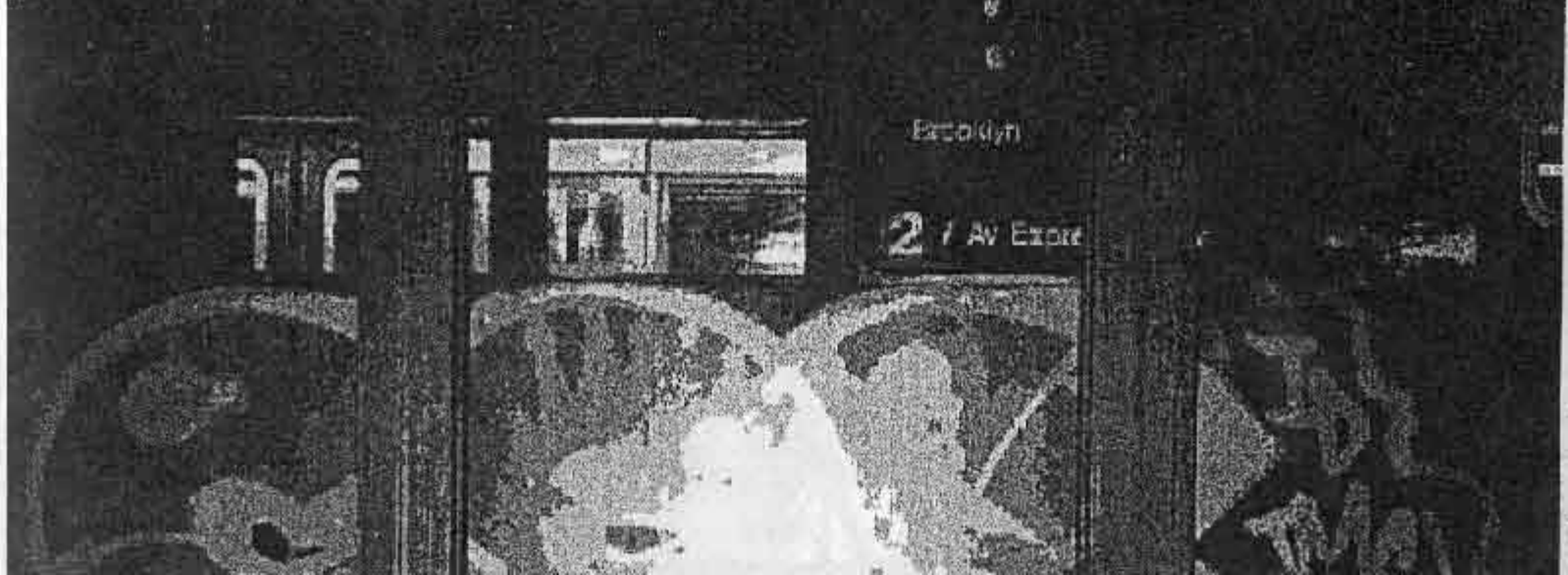




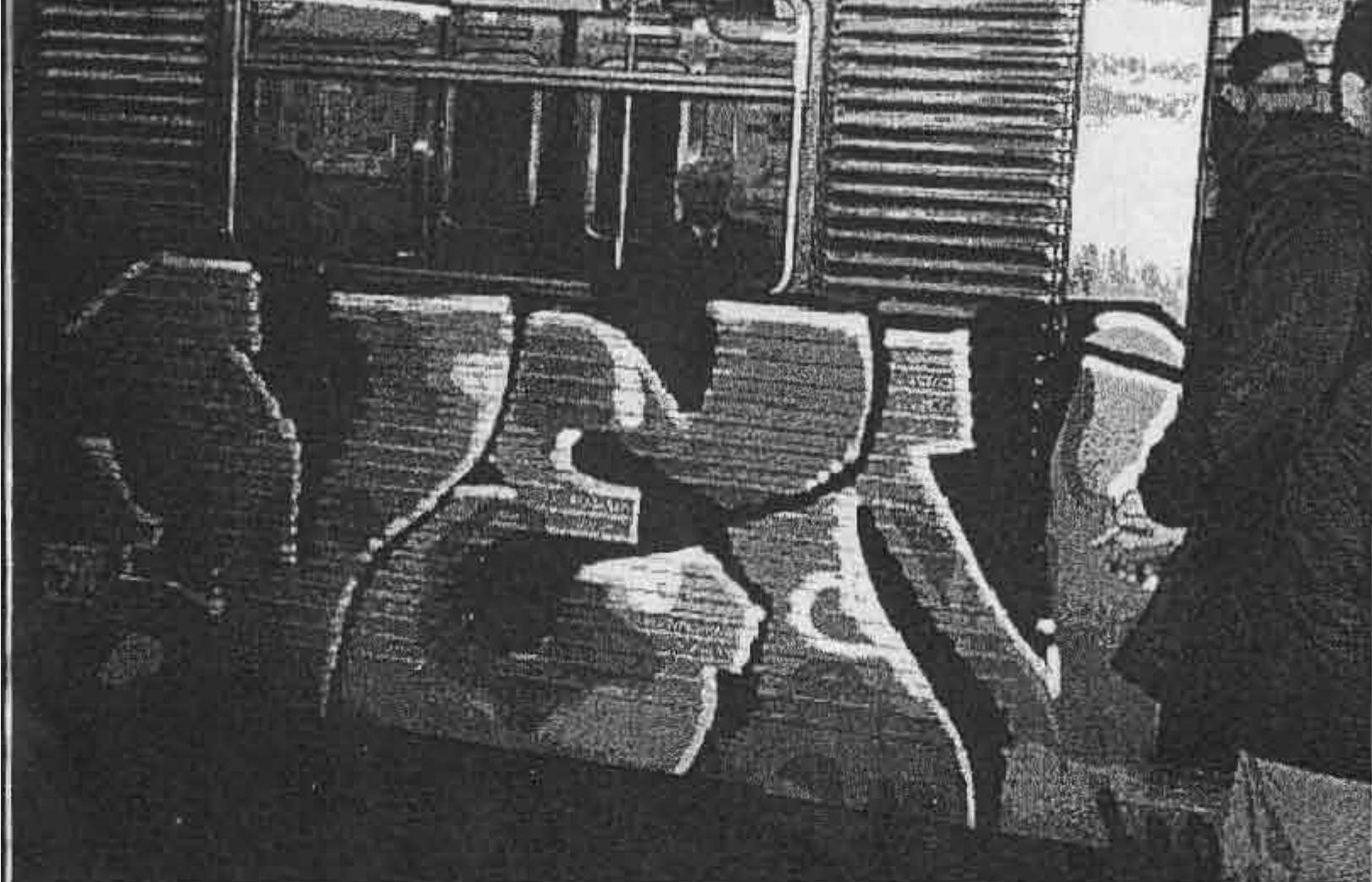








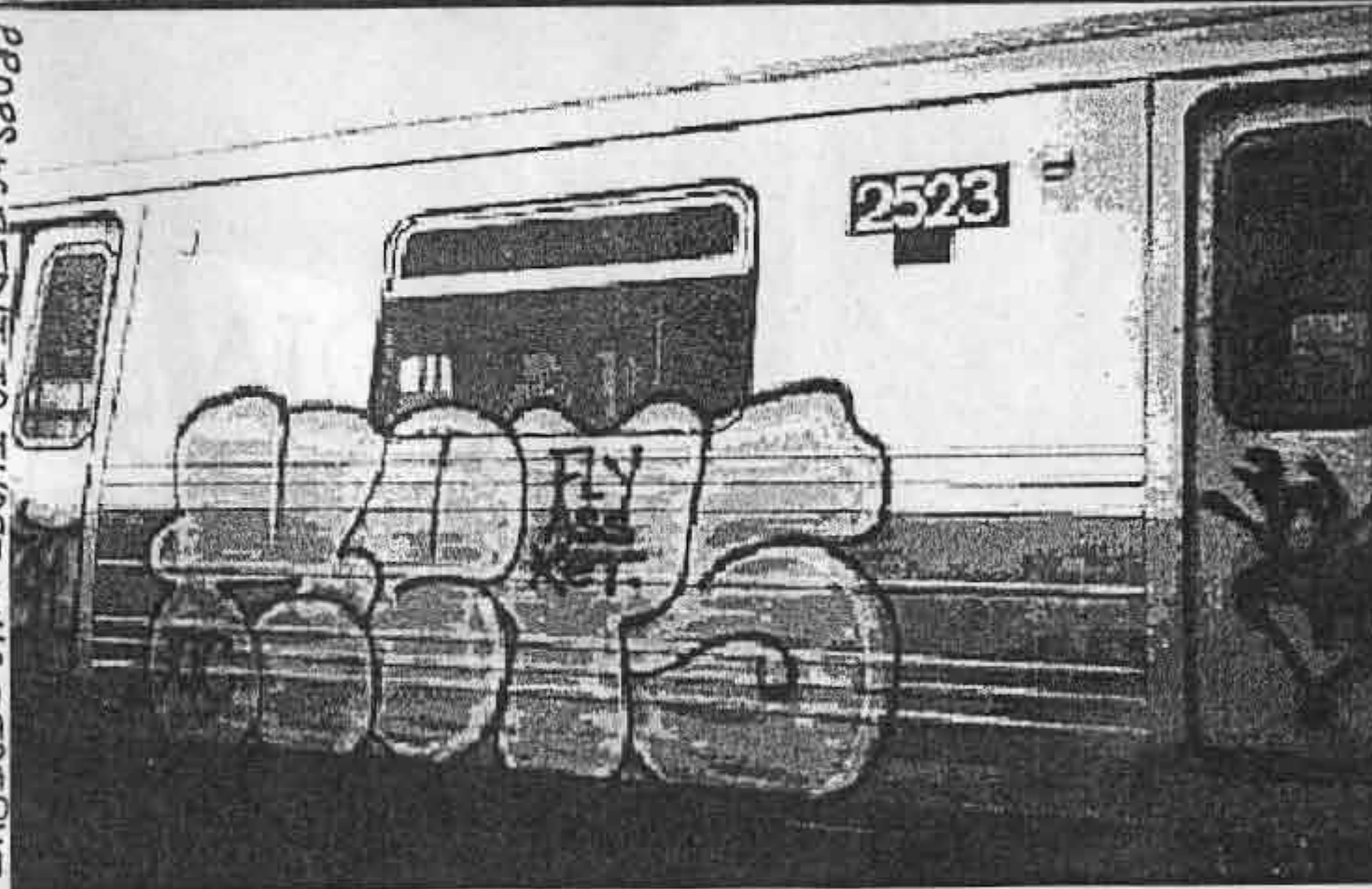




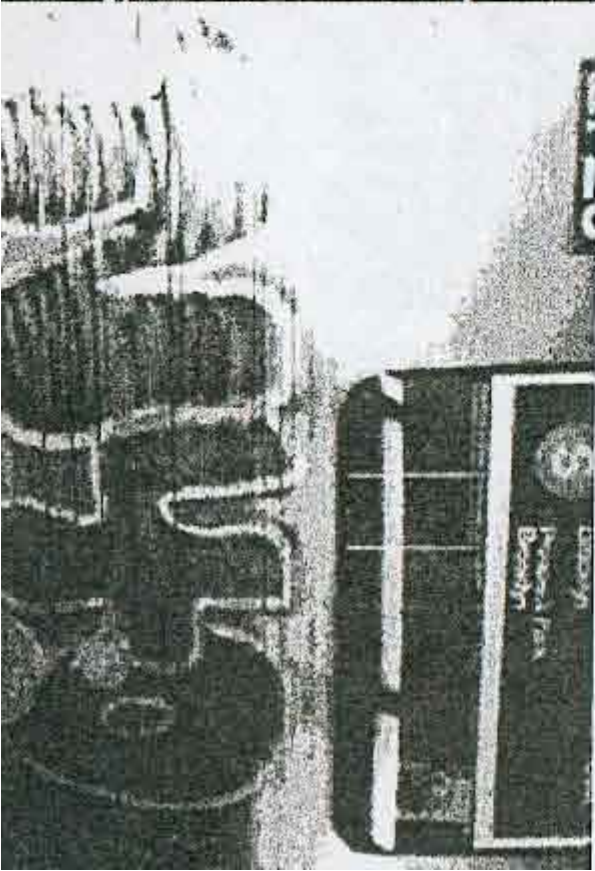
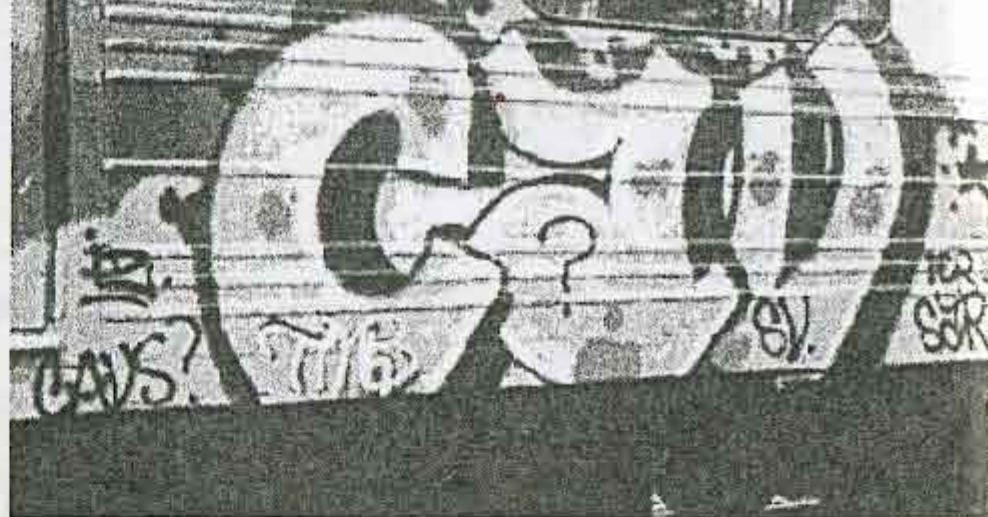
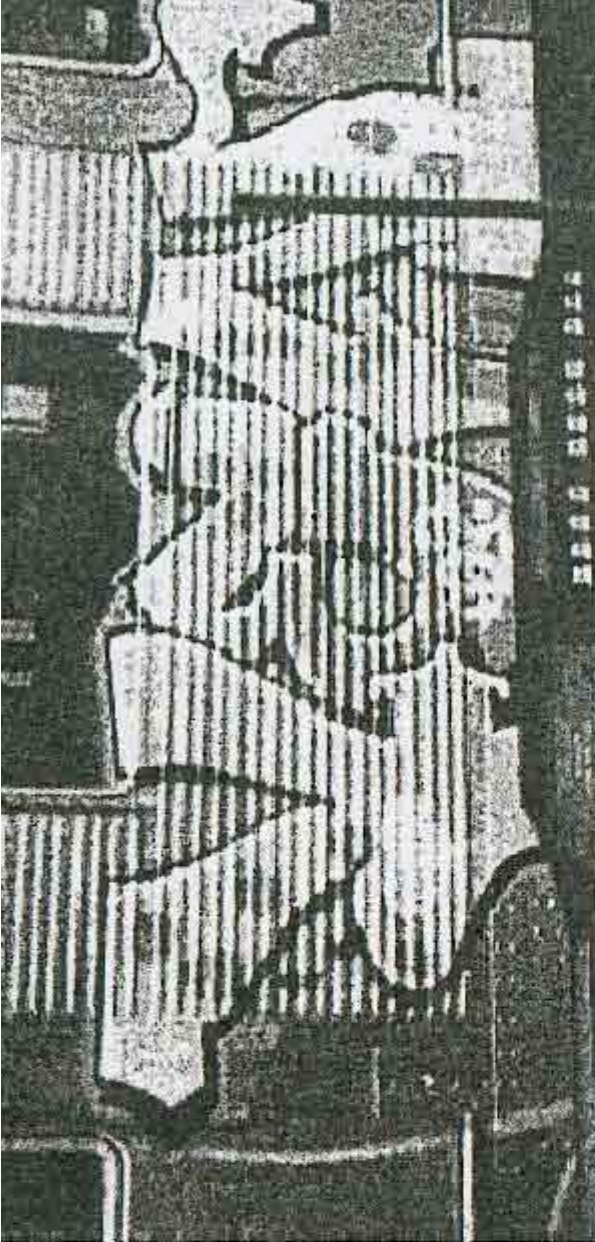




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## *Skill with a spray can became his calling card.*

The city walls speak to Detective Daniel Sullivan. They tell tales of the current and former rivalries between feuding crews, gangland thugs and rising showboats. The stories that are told across the city's walls are scrawled in the script of the street — graffiti.

"The walls talk loudly," said Detective Sullivan, one of three officers who make up the city's Graffiti Taskforce.

With a cast of characters such as "Rael," "Move," "Joker" and "Ghostface," perhaps none of the players has captured more attention from jealous "taggers," concerned community groups and law enforcement than the self-penned, brown-eyed artist down with the "Jive Young Kids" crew — Daniel Montano.



Graffiti Taskforce Detective Daniel Sullivan measures graffiti by Daniel Montano in an alley on Melwood Avenue in Oakland.

He was and still is "MFONE," a moniker and persona that over time found itself on 87 sites in Lawrenceville, Schenley Farms, East Liberty, Bloomfield and Shadyside. Last year, in another graffiti case, Mr. Montano admitted MFONE was his tag. It has evolved over time as his skill with a spray can became his calling card. Investigators in the Graffiti Taskforce came to know him as "Mad Fly One" and "Mad Fresh One."

The tracking of the elusive 21-year-old Colombian-American from Highland Park took more than 100 hours of police work, involved numerous tips by citizens and culminated on St. Patrick's Day when Mr. Montano was arrested. If it is narcissism that drives graffiti vandals, then it was that same motivation that did in Mr. Montano. Inside a black Dickies messenger bag, Mr. Montano turned over evidence much more valuable than the five spray paint cans stuffed inside. He handed investigators the makings of a case that will likely go down as the largest graffiti bust in U.S. history, a case that could cost Mr. Montano \$560,764.50 in damages. Hidden in the small bag police found a video camera and a digital camera that documented and detailed the extent of Mr. Montano's damage to some of Pittsburgh's buildings and underpasses. The 80 minutes of video that show Mr. Montano applying elaborate script to large portions of walls and underneath overpasses, at one point even holding a spray can with one hand and videotaping with the other, will be the strongest evidence in the case against him.

Officers also obtained Mr. Montano's U.S. passport, limiting his ability to leave the country. Mr. Montano represented himself at his arraignment hearing and successfully requested a continuation. He then left Pittsburgh for his second home in San Francisco. "The case is overwhelming," said Detective Sullivan, the lead investigator on the Montano case. "It is probably the biggest case ever prosecuted because of the sheer amount of evidence of guilt." Only 50 percent of graffiti is reported in Pittsburgh. For years, the city was considered a blank slate for many in U.S. graffiti community. Enforcement was considered weak and the abundance of vacant warehouses and cramped hidden alleyways — many of them in the Strip District — offered a canvas for many miscreants wielding a spray can. Two years ago, under the pressure from Councilmen William Peduto and Alan Hertzberg,





the city outfitted the police department with a computerized graffiti database that itemized graffiti by the business vandalized, address, tag name, neighborhood and police zone. For every instance of graffiti, officers now respond with a digital camera. They take measurements, take note of the neighborhood, evaluate the paints used and try to decipher the code of the intricate and signature penmanship of individual taggers. Those characteristics — color, length, neighborhood and artist — are then filed with the incident picture into the database.

Taskforce officers use the computerized system as a key, unlocking mysteries such as the link between a tagger named “Brown Eyes” and Mr. Montano. (Hint: They are the same person. It was Mr. Montano’s “e’s” that gave it away.) “Tagging is a mind-set within a certain subgroup of 20-something white males,” said Mr. Peduto. “To them they are expressing a part of a culture, but what they don’t understand is that it hurts people. If you meet the frightened grandmother whose garage you’re tagging and see it is not a victimless crime, then maybe that mind-set will begin to change.” Proactive law enforcement and a rapid city cleanup response unit were seen as the most effective methods of combating the effect of graffiti vandalism. By actively searching and removing graffiti while the paint is still fresh — the city’s Public Works Department’s Graffiti Busters handle cleanups — much of the allure of scrawling a tag across a wall is siphoned away. “The success is getting rid of graffiti quickly,” said Mr. Hertzberg, who is now Allegheny County Common Pleas judge. “The battle is very much psychological; these people go by and enjoy seeing their name. You can’t lose the psychological part of the battle by allowing the graffiti to stay.”

But enforcement and cleanup are only two parts of an equation that requires the most essential piece of the puzzle: prosecution. People familiar with Mr. Montano’s case are often angered by what they perceive as the light sentences he has received in the past. When he was arrested last year for three graffiti sites, he spent five days in jail, was fined \$1,001 and received no probation. Police and community action groups were livid that police were only able to charge him with three locales, considering one group had documented 81 locations tagged with Mr. Montano’s work. “Part of it is definitely the judicial system,” said Lt. Philip

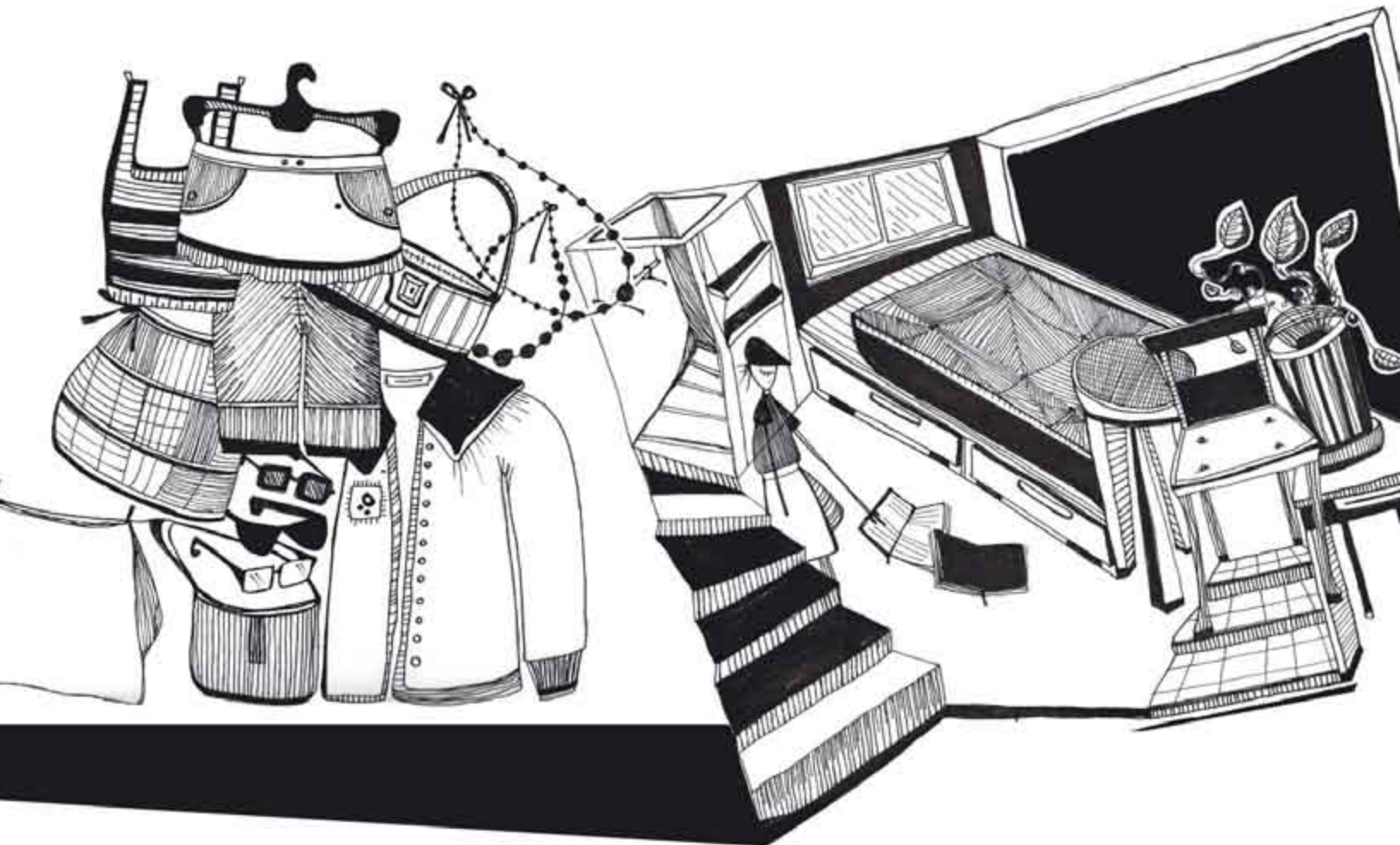
Dacy, whose Zone 5 East Liberty station officers helped nab Mr. Montano. Mr. Montano once taunted the zone officers when he tagged a vacant gas station on Negley Avenue two blocks from the station. The tag is a prominent display. Mr. Montano used at least four different colors for the work and it stretches the length of a wall.

“The judges sometimes just don’t seem to be responsive to their communities,” Lt. Dacy said. “This kid thinks he is the future Rembrandt. It’s an ego thing where they think their artistic talents outweigh the rights of other people.” However, Mr. Montano may have escaped full prosecution for the last time. Under zero-tolerance orders from police force brass and city council members, officers are combing their files, documenting new tags unnoticed until recently to use as evidence against him. On a recent night, Mr. Sullivan drove around with several snapshots recovered from Mr. Montano’s digital camera with the intention of locating previously unreported “MFONE” tags. The result of the detective’s work added three new charges to a list in his police report already 14 pages long. During a routine patrol through the dark parking lots of the South Side, a call for graffiti in Mt. Washington blared across the police scanner. Mr. Sullivan, who was working the night shift, drove hurriedly to a residence at 300 Bigham St., where a pristine white fence had been vandalized. Calvin Perry, 73, greeted Mr. Sullivan outside his home holding a flashlight. Someone with permanent marker had tagged something nonsensical across Mr. Perry’s \$5,000 fence. As Mr. Sullivan measured the markings and documented the vandalism, Mr. Perry turned to ask what the detective could do to the people who had ruined his white fence.

“You can’t just break their legs?” Mr. Perry asked.

“No, sorry sir, we can’t,” Mr. Sullivan responded.

“That’s OK, just send them to me when you catch them,” Mr. Perry added. “I might be old, but I can take care of them.”















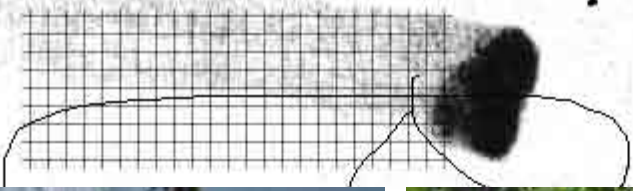
## San Jose graffiti hunters

DETERMINED VOLUNTEERS MAKE  
CLEAN SWEEP OF CITY'S STREETS

Not even a deluge from above could stop Graffiti Master. "It is special stuff," John Connelly enthused. With a little elbow grease and swipes of his sponge, he removed squiggles of spray paint on a utility box near his San Jose home. Graffiti Master, the city-supplied solvent, worked so well it took off a layer of regular paint and revealed an earlier graffiti tag that had once been painted over. The city's first official Anti-Graffiti Community Volunteer Day was essentially rained out Saturday, but that did not deter Connelly from his self-appointed duties. Armed with a spray bottle of the non-toxic cleaner, Connelly is one of the newest soldiers in the city's never-ending battle for a graffiti-free metropolis. He keeps the bottle in his truck - always at the ready. The former pipe installer heard his calling from a news report earlier this week that San Jose was recruiting volunteer graffiti clean-up crews. He headed to a

city office to pick up his bucket and the solvent. "I wanted to give back something and this seemed like a good thing to do," said Connelly, 37. He and son Jake, 7, spent the day before looking for graffiti near their Forest Avenue home. Connelly's fiancée, Roxanne Sheets, also joined in the Saturday morning scrubbing before the threesome headed off for breakfast at Flames. Since the late 1990s, the city has been recruiting volunteers, a force that's grown from about 200 at the beginning of the decade to some 3,500 now. Although the number of tags - public graffiti done by outlaw artists - is generally on a downward trend, it takes a steady flow of volunteers to keep up with the taggers. If Connelly is a soldier, "Bud" Courtney, 76, might be considered a mercenary of sorts. Driving his extended-cab Ranger truck, with a 25-foot ladder strapped on for hard-to-reach spots, Courtney scours the city looking for graffiti. He's been on the case since 2000 when he learned of the volunteer brigade from a friend over a Starbucks coffee. Virtually nothing will stop the former Marine and onetime FMC engineer, though he's more cautious after scaling a fence and ending up at Good Samaritan Hospital with a bleeding head. Courtney uses his boyhood nickname - "Bud" - out of fear that frustrated taggers might





track him down. He estimates he cleans up about 1,200 tags a month - more than 3,000 this year alone. He works eight hours each Monday and Friday, ridding the town of rampant, spray-painted images. In doing this work, Courtney has picked up some peculiar habits - like carrying a taser in case he runs into trouble. He says he's never stunned anyone, but pulled it out just once when he felt threatened. "It's a game between me and the taggers," Courtney said Saturday, "and I'm going to win." He admits to ignoring some city recommendations, including orders not to go on private property to clean a tag. He reasons with the owners, saying, "That nasty old tag makes you look bad." He boasts that once Caltrain threatened to have him arrested when they found him on its property. He said the agency worried about him working around moving trains. CalTrans, too, is not thrilled about his hanging around freeways.

Courtney carries business cards belonging to the San Jose mayor, police chief and district attorney, which he shows as evidence that his work is condoned by civic leaders. Once, when he was about to be nabbed for leaving his truck in a no-parking zone while on an anti-graffiti mission, he flashed the police chief's card and he claims it got him out of a ticket.

Courtney carries 13 different colors of paint in his truck - various shades to match freeway overpasses, light poles and utility boxes, because "I want my work to look professional." Lately, however, he's had to become more creative. Some innovative taggers use hydrofluoric acid to etch their criminal doodlings into glass store front windows. After experimentation, Courtney says he has come up with a way to get rid of 80 percent of the etchings - but he refuses to tell what he calls "a trade secret." Because he works days, and taggers usually work nights, Courtney said he only once saw a tagger in action. But he loves the notion of a tagger returning to the scene of the crime only to find the handiwork covered by a fresh coat of paint. "There are few people who can keep up with me," he said. Asked if it's fair to call his tactics mercenary, Courtney replied that mercenaries get paid. "I don't. But I do write my mileage off my taxes."

Last year, his determination amounted to 4,500 miles.



Classic San Francisco photos by Ian Lynam - part 2

















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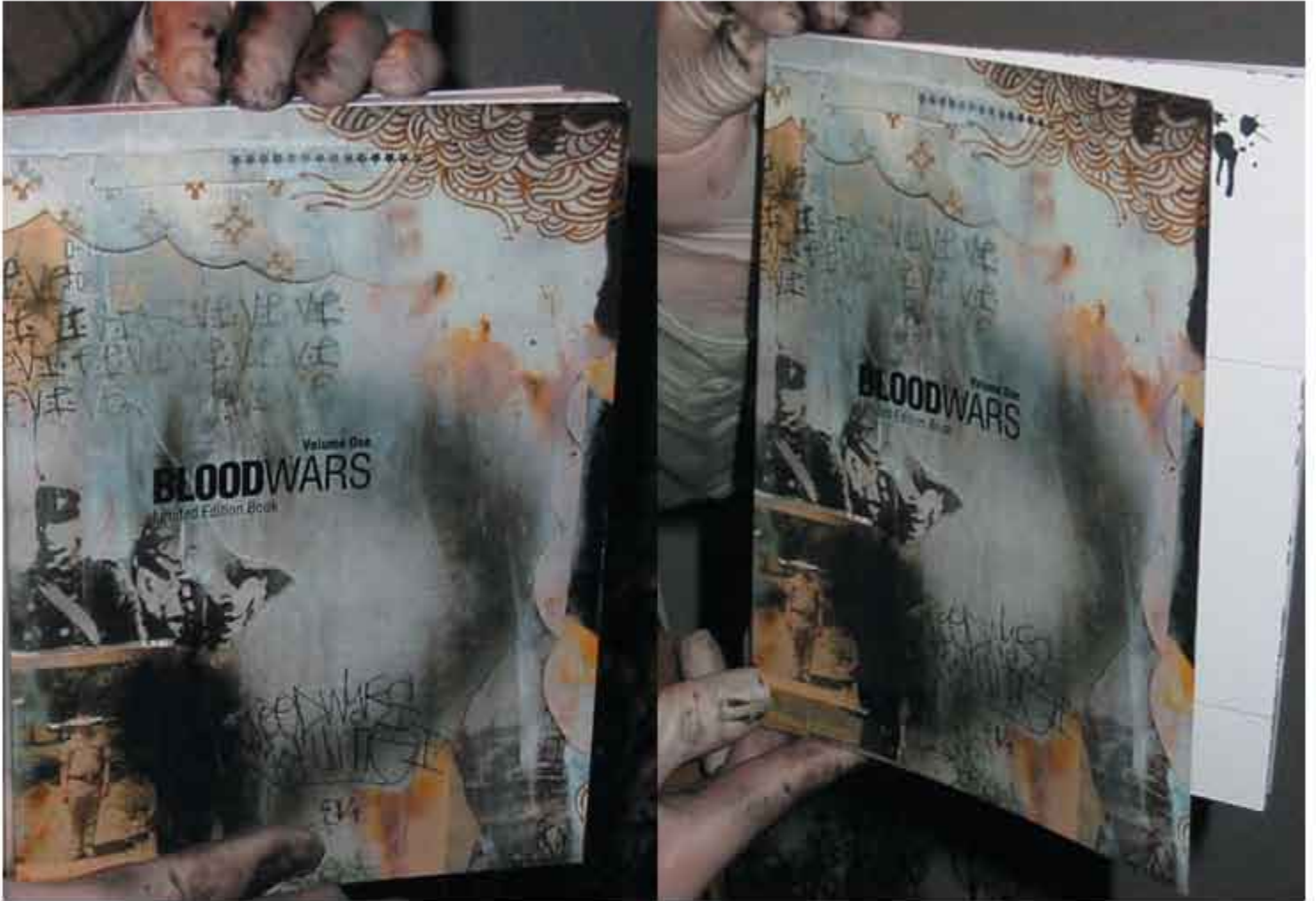


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