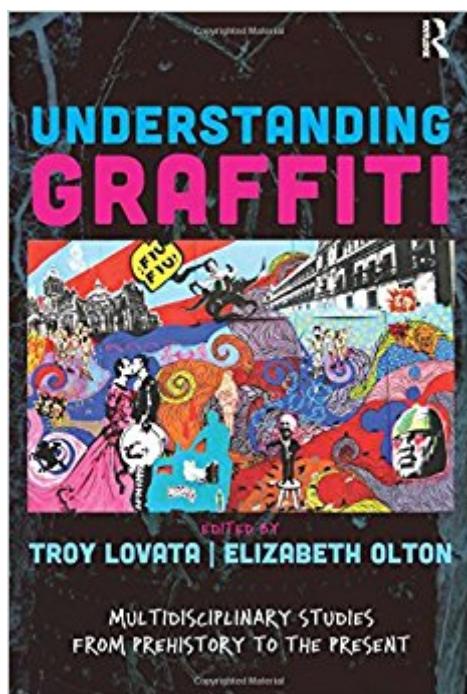


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Understanding Graffiti: Multidisciplinary Studies From Prehistory To The Present



Synopsis

This collection of original articles brings together for the first time the research on graffiti from a wide range of geographical and chronological contexts and shows how they are interpreted in various fields. Examples range as widely as medieval European cliff carvings to tags on New York subway cars to messages left in library bathrooms. In total, the authors legitimize the study of graffiti as a multidisciplinary pursuit that can produce useful knowledge of individuals, cultures, and nations. The chapters represent 20 authors from six countries; offer perspectives of disciplines as diverse as archaeology, history, art history, museum studies, and sociology; elicit common themes of authority and its subversion, the identity work of subcultures and countercultures, and presentation of privilege and status.

Book Information

Paperback: 278 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (October 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1611328683

ISBN-13: 978-1611328684

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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"The volume provides fodder to consider graffiti in one's everyday environment, as a guide to students and scholars exploring graffiti. In this sense, the editors have achieved what they set out to do, that is, provide an easily accessible, theoretically grounded text, appropriate to utilize in undergraduate classrooms." — David Fazzino, Anthropology News (American Anthropological Association)

Troy Lovata is Associate Professor in the Honors College at the University of New Mexico. For the last 10 years he has taught and researched topics in the Honors College related to public archaeology, the demarcation of public space, and the ways in which people mark the landscape.

His research includes: studies of the links between contemporary public art and prehistoric monuments; examination of how people use the past as currency in the present, and using landscape archaeology to study historic carved aspen trees in New Mexico and Colorado. Dr. Lovata has also served as the mayoral appointed Chair of the Albuquerque Arts Board. His book, *Inauthentic Archaeologies: Public Uses and Abuses of the Past*, was published by Left Coast in 2007. Elizabeth Olton teaches in the Department of Art History at the University of New Mexico, and is affiliated with the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe. With a Ph.D. in Art History from the University of New Mexico, she has also taught at St. Mary's Honors College in Maryland and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Through her dissertation research, Dr. Olton became fascinated with ancient Maya graffiti from the Central Acropolis at Tikal.

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