

# GRAFFITI ART

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In a place where freedom of speech and individuality is available to all, not only available but encouraged, expression is a very important thing. Young people having the ability to express themselves is very important. The art of graffiti is misunderstood, even to the point where people hear the word and automatically look down on it. Some people see graffiti as a pest or as vandalism which means something to try and get rid of. They may have a point, but the fact is, it just won't go. Just like everything else, graffiti is there for a reason, and that reason comes down to young people being able to express themselves. No matter what you think of graffiti, you must admit, something like this takes skill and it takes talent!

This is not mess, it is art! It is expression! And so many youths express themselves in this way. Why is it that if you choose this way, you have become a criminal? We're walking around showing graffiti on our clothes and even on our shoes. How much louder do we have to shout to show that we need somewhere to do this?

I think we should be able to have a legal graffiti area in Kingston. Legal graffiti provides a constructive alternative for artistic talents. If there was a place, then there would be no need to damage public property (even though you shouldn't damage public property anyway!). That way everybody wins! Young people are happy because they're being appreciated and understood. Older people are happy because young people aren't making their marks and damaging people's property.

## INTERVIEW WITH THE DJ:

**DO YOU TEND TO WORK MORE WITH YOUTHS LIKE THIS OR DO YOU DJ FOR ADULTS AS WELL? “**

I DJ for adults as well but I like to do a lot of these nights for younger people.”

**DO YOU PREFER TO WORK WITH THE OLDER OR THE YOUNGER CROWD?**

“The younger crowd to be honest. With a younger crowd you can test a tune out, and if you get a good reaction from them then you're most probably gonna get a good reaction from the older crowd. You can only do that with the younger crowd, it doesn't work the other way round.”

**IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR KIND OF MUSIC YOU PREFER?**

“Hip-Hop and R&B is what I prefer.”

**IS THERE A REASON WHY OR IS IT JUST A PERSONAL FAVOURITE?**

It's a personal favourite for me” (-other DJ adds-) “Well that's the in thing at the moment isn't it – it's what's most popular with the crowd, a lot about being a DJ is to please the crowd.”

**SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DJING FOR THEN?**

“About 15 years”

**HOW DID YOU GET SO SUCCESSFUL AND IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO ANYONE WANTING TO BE IN YOUR POSITION?**

“God, that's a tricky question. You've just gotta keep putting yourself out there, getting in touch with promoters, just keep yourself known. There's no real guide on how to be a successful DJ but if you're dedicated enough then go for it!”