



Metagraffiti

Graffiti Art and the Urban Image in Latin America

by Chandra Morrison Ariyo

DESCRIPTION

Focusing on graffiti scenes from São Paulo and Santiago in Chile, this innovative visual ethnography examines diverse forms of self-reference and metareference that appear in Latin American graffiti art. Chandra Morrison Ariyo works across multiple scales of contemporary graffiti production—from tags to massive murals—to show how painting the city enables individuals to reimagine their own position within the material and social structures around them. *Metagraffiti* reveals how practitioners such as Tinho, OSGEMEOS, Grin, and Bisyo use metagraffiti features to influence public perceptions about this art form and its effect on the urban environment. Ultimately, *Metagraffiti* proposes a novel conceptual framework that highlights graffiti's ability to forge alternative forms of movement, sociality, and value within Latin American cityscapes. These urban images invite us to imagine what the city could be, when seen as a site for action and imagination.

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