

Notes

1. Interviews with artists were conducted from 2013 to 2021. Being one of the main sources of this monographic volume, we choose to include numerous excerpts within the text. Specifically, artists from the Beijing scene were interviewed by A. Iezzi and M. Merenda, those from Shanghai by M. R. Bisceglia, while those from Chengdu by M. Merenda.
2. As stated by graffiti writer Rae (See Mininno 2008, p.166).
3. A documentary entitled *Great Walls of China* (Pearl Channel, 2007) highlights the presence of several writers in Hong Kong before the mid-1990s. (See Valjakka 2011, p. 74).
4. The competitions were held annually both at the national level, with the participation of Chinese crews only, and at the international level, with crews from the Philippines, Singapore, Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan. The winning crew of the Chinese contest was entitled to participate in the international competition. The ABS crew's (see Ch. III) victory in the Pan-Asian contest in 2011 shows the high-level technical skills achieved by the Chinese crews.
5. *Art from the Streets (The History of Street Art - from New York to Beijing)* is the title of the exhibition by the Department of Mural Painting of the Central Academy of Fine Art (CAFA) and the CAFA Art Museum, in collaboration with Shanghai's Magda Danysz Gallery, held at the 3B Exhibition Hall of the CAFA Art Museum from 1 July to 24 August 2016 (<https://www.cafamuseum.org/en/exhibit/detail/530>). Curated by Tang Hui and Magda Danysz, the exhibition welcomed international graffiti writers from Brazil, China, France, Italy, Portugal, Senegal, the United States and the United Kingdom and presented the catalogue *Street Art, a Global View* available at: https://issuu.com/magdagallery/docs/digital_catalogue_3.
6. The term *tuya* derives from the verses *Hu lai an shang fan mozhi, tumo shishu ru laoya* 忽来案上翻墨汁，涂抹诗书如老鸦 (And suddenly, the ink was poured over the table, and poetry was smeared in raven black).
7. Zhang Dali worked in several studios: first in Yuanmingyuan in Beijing, then in Bologna, and then again in Beijing in Dongsi Shier Tiao 34 (during his graffiti period), Liulitun, Maizidian, Caochangdi – which was one of the most important, Heiqiao and now in Zhubaotun 1-3: <http://www.zhangdaliart.com/en/studios.html> (last accessed in February 2024).
8. The wall was established on 11 December 2005. According to Lys, before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in 2014, it was entirely painted in red, covering all works created since 2005.
9. Lys affirms that the China-Japan Friendship Hospital became a graffiti wall in 2005. This is confirmed by an article about Su Bin 苏滨 in the art magazine *Sculpture*.

10. This can be read on their official website, while their ZCool page states that the Tuns crew was founded in 2014 and consists of Zhao, Mage, Fasto, Snake, Zstar and Joke. Consequently, according to this composition, it would not be all-female crew.

11. The running or semi-cursive script (*xingshu*) is one of the five fundamental styles of the Chinese art of calligraphy, along with regular script (*kaishu* 楷书), seal script (*zhuan-shu* 篆书), clerical script (*lishu* 隶书) and cursive script (*caoshu* 草书).

12. In this *chengyu* the character *zhi* 志 (will, aspiration) was replaced by the homophone *zhi* 支 (to support, sustain, bear) precisely to emphasise the juxtaposition of intent and help.

13. The *Shehui* often collaborates with brands related to hip-hop, street culture and graffiti. The company organises independent concerts, promotes hip-hop music, designs skateboards, has recorded several music albums on skateboard culture in China and designs hip-hop themed clothing, CDs, billboards and other merchandise. Over time, it has become central to China's underground culture and its related brands: <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/ndjrvhNpMFqG9DzEOBFpg> (last accessed in February 2024).

14. The studio is no longer active. However, Li Qiuqiu and other members of the crew have opened their own private studios where they continue to create graffiti for commercial purposes.

15. The record was surpassed in 2008 by a Kwanyin Clan work on a 20m high tower.

16. Furthermore, there was no reimbursement for the canisters, nor compensation for the work done.

17. An interview with Liu Qiuqiu reported by Wang 2016 reads: "Numerous times, he was stopped by the city's *chengguan* [city inspectors], fined, and ordered to paint over his tags."

18. In the same interview (Li 2016), Li Qiuqiu affirms that the comics of Otomo Katsuhiro and Kim Jung Gi were further sources of inspiration for his art. On the other hand, his music references are 2pac, Nan, Wu Tang, Bob Marley, Mozart and Paquito (D'Rivera), and he is a fan of the literary works of Wang Shuo, Jin Yong and Gu Long. His family and friends also had a strong influence on his style.

19. US journalist Lance Crayon, who was sent to report on the event in 2011, was so impressed that he came up with the idea of the first documentary on graffiti in Beijing: *Spray Painting Beijing. Graffiti in the Capital of China*.

20. This is the translation provided by Li Qiuqiu. As he stated in a WeChat conversation with A. Iezzi (16 March 2021), he usually transliterates the term first and then translates the meaning.

21. Rice paper (*xuanzhi* 宣纸) is used in traditional Chinese painting as canvas.

22. Interview with Qui Zhijie by Walter Romeo: “The calligrapher is, in fact, like a dancer dancing with his brush, while the ink stroke records his movement” in Qiu Zhijie at work, Youtube video uploaded by Walter Romeo on 31 May 2008, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dtdbt4e68LM> (last accessed in February 2024).
23. The main formats of Chinese paintings are hanging scrolls, handscrolls, fans and albums.
24. The couplet reads: *Wei chutu qian xian you jie* 未出土前先有节 / *lingyun shen chu zong xuxin* 凌云深处总虚心.
25. The *chengyu* was confirmed by EricTin on the web forum *Graffiti – Hip Hop (Tuya ba 涂鸦吧)*: Kwanyin_Tin (2010), *Guanyin Kwanyin Clan Tin geng xin 'shengongyijiang' gengxin tupian* 观音 Kwanyin Clan Tin 更新”神工意匠”更新图片 (The new piece by Kwanyin Clan member Tin, *Shengong yijiang*, new pictures), *Graffiti – Hip-Hop Web Forum*, 19 June, <http://tieba.baidu.com/p/803633468> (last accessed in February 2024).
26. EricTin affirmed that the use of *chengyu* is a feature of Kwanyin Clan pieces (interview by M. Merenda, 4 November 2015).
27. Translated according to the annotated Chinese text found in Chen 1988, pp. 290-291, and the paraphrase of the poem in modern Chinese in Li Jing, 2009, p. 210.
28. Nike 706 Centre LeBron 6 Experience, *Bēhance*, 4 July 2010: <https://www.behance.net/gallery/565889/Nike-Lebron6-Interactive-Basketball-Training-Centre> (last accessed in February 2024).
29. The exceptions are *Shirupozhu*, the first *charactering* piece of this kind according to EricTin (interview, 2016), and the graffiti made in November for the New Silk Bay Media (*Xin si wan chuamei* 新丝湾传媒) on the internal walls of its headquarters in Beijing.
30. The Beijing Penzi and the Oops crew also created pieces inspired by this tragic event.
31. The Portuguese artist Alexandre Farto, aka Vhils, approached graffiti in 2000 and is now a world-famous street artist.
32. DaLeast was born in China in 1984 and started his artistic career as graffiti writer, joining the JEJ crew in Wuhan with the tag DAL. He currently lives and works in South Africa and is a world-renowned street artist. His nickname DALeast comes from the combination of “DA” and “east” (eastern).
33. Mode2 is a famous Mauritian artist who has been active since the 1980s.
34. Many artists use more than one tag: Jin Ye was formerly known as Huri or Read, while today his tag is Hali (interview by M. R. Bisceglia in Moganshan Road, 11 September 2014).
35. Rucker Park is a skate park in the Yangpu district, north-east of Shanghai.

36. In her e-mail interview with M. R. Bisceglia on 15 October 2017, Tin.G affirms none of them stopped their painting activity, but getting together became hard due to their respective schedules, therefore the crew temporarily split up.
37. It can be proven by another clue: it is common practice for graffiti writers to add the year in which the piece was painted. Most of the graffiti photographed by M. R. Bisceglia were dated 2014.
38. *Meeting of Styles* is a non-profit organisation that hosts and sponsors graffiti-related events around the world. The first Chinese event was held in 2011.
39. *Hot pot* is a traditional Chinese recipe. It involves a metal pot with boiling broth in the middle of the table, kept hot by a small cooker underneath. The pot may contain different types of broth separately, with various spices, and goes together with a variety of raw ingredients: meat, fish, greens, noodles and seasonings. Diners are supposed to cook the food the hot broth and then dip it in the seasoning, which is usually sesame oil.
40. Jackson Wang is a Hong Kong rapper, singer, dancer and tv host. He is a member of the Got7 South Korean band, and took part in South Korean reality shows like *Room-mate*. He is also active in China as solo singer and tv host.
41. The exhibition displayed the works of 22 artists: Akiza, Artiste Ouvrier, Fred Calmets, Codex Urbanus, Btoy, Hadrien Durand-Baïssas, Jadikan, Jérôme Mesnager, Les King's Queer, Kool Koor, Kouka, Levalet, Thomas Mainardi, Manser, Nikodem, Nowart, Paella, Pioc PPC, Sack, Speedy Graphito, Valeria Attinelli and Zokatos.
42. Optical art, or opt art, is an abstract art movement that started around the 1960s and further developed in the 1970s.