#### PORTOSCRIPT: FIND YOUR NORTH

A VISUAL AND LINGUISTIC STREET ART AND GRAFFITI RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

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The Research Project was implemented under the guidance of Full Professor Clara Maria Laranjeira Sarmento e Santos, Director of Centre of Intercultural Studies (CEI) at Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administracao do Porto (ISCAP)

## **ABSTRACT**

 The following text describes my field research of Graffiti in the streets of Porto, some of the theoretical findings I was drawn to, the article and visual essays I elaborated and #Portoscript: Find the North, a Practical Design Tool I developed for an enhanced experience of the urban traveler – a graffiti and street art flash card set. It also describes some of the methods I used and the outcomes I achieved.

### **INTRODUCTION**

From February to July 2023, I explored Porto City and the surrounding areas, using it as a research field, deciphering the information found in the city streets: the walls, pipes, lampposts, pavement, electrical enclosure cabinets and more.

Coming from a distant place and not knowing the local language I approached it as an unknown territory ready for discovery.

I searched for new paths in the cobweb, climbed the hills, avoided certain streets and extensively used others. I looked at street art as a portal to enter deeper levels of collective consciousness.

I examined graffiti, stickers, wall paintings, posters, marks, stencils, drawings, scratchings etc.

I wanted to find repeating patterns, hidden meanings, encrypted messages, and traces of journeys into the beyond.

I noticed that there were some words, that would repeat more and others – less. took many photos. I did field research, based on an ethnographic approach and creative research methodology.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

- One of my principal sources of inspiration for the research was REPOSITORY: 49 Methods and Assignments for Writing Urban Places (Cristea et al, 2023)
- I also studied the ideas of resistance as a driving force behind many graffiti worldwide. For Awad et al. (2017) resistance appears in their research as both a highly personal act and one that necessitates and employs collective methods.

## RESEARCH STRUCTURE

**RESEARCH AS A TREE** 

If we look at the totality of my Research Process as a tree with roots, trunk, branches, needles, cones, and seeds, we can imagine its evolution, the ideas it is stemming from, the methods applied, the different branches it evolves into, and the final products it produces – cones with seeds.



# RESEARCH TOPIC

I chose the broader research topic: Street Art and Graffiti in Porto due to my artistic background and interest in different types of visual expression.

I also chose it because of my linguistic interests, which I am currently pursuing in Translation Studies, as writing and text has a major role in this creative path.

I am genuinely interested in different forms of resistance, as I firmly believe that people should voice their opinion more actively, if and when possible, and graffiti is about that.

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO LEARN PORTUGUESE FROM THE STREETS?

WHAT ARE THE MOST PROFOUND IDEAS HIDDEN IN THE STREETS?

HOW CAN THE USE OF AI IMPROVE GRAFFITI, STREET ART AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS NOT IMPACTING THE RESISTANCE SPIRIT?

#### RESEARCH

**METHODS** 

Creative Research; Linguistic Research; Visual Research; Qualitative Research Theoretical data studies (reading) Data collection (sampling) in the streets (field research) Data processing (image processing, text processing, translation) Data distillation (leaving the essence and removing the unnecessary) Interviews (formal and informal) Dialogues with the Project Supervisor and PhD students Contemplation of ideas Dialogues with ChatGPT

# RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Image Bank (IB) 365 Quotation Samples + their translations on POST-Its **Original Artwork** Al based artwork Interview, Scientific Article, and Poster **Visual Route Essays Open Studio Event Graffiti Glossary** Street Vocabulary A-Z (online prototype for printed version)

?	IMAGE BANK	SAMPLES	POST-ITs	VISUAL ESSAY #1
RESEARCH BASED ART	IDEA TEXT	AI IMAGES	TALKS WITH CHAT GPT	INTERVIEW WITH AI
MAQUETTE	OPEN STUDIO	INTERVIEW WITH M. AMERIKA	POSTER	RESEARCH ARTICLE
VISUAL ESSAY #2	GRAFFITI GLOSSARY	STREET VOCABULARY	PORTOSCRIPT GAME	FUTURE IDEAS
PLANNED ROUTE				

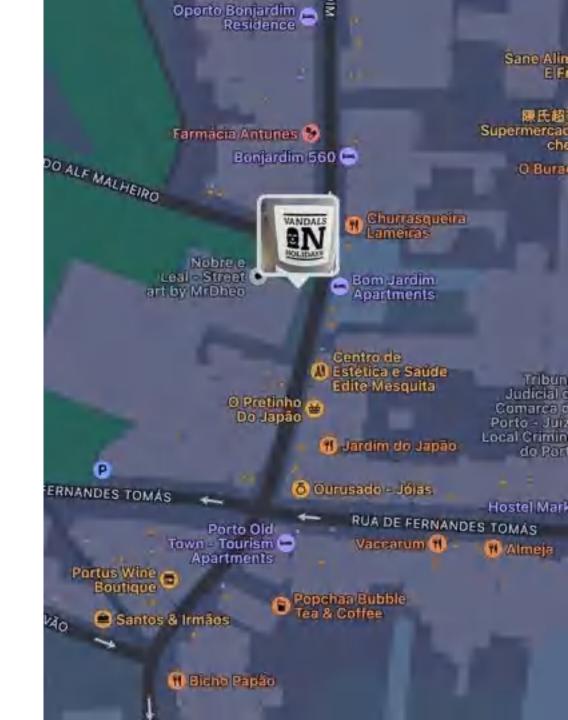
#### **IMAGE BANK**

- I have collected these images throughout my research process. It is a wild mix of strong and weak art, meaningful and pointless text etc.
- Being an eclectic collection, it serves most of my visual and linguistic needs. It is a resource of visual data that nourishes my work.
- As the images were obtained in the streets of Porto it is also a mirror of a certain era in the city.





 All the images also have a geographic location included as part of the data, which helps to locate the points of interest



### SAMPLES OF TEXT

- From the images of the Image Bank, I have been extracting the text-dominant samples.
- Part of them do not have a big value in terms of how the information is presented, yet others do.
- They range from profound truths to sheer acts of vandalism and include everything in between these extremes.





## 365 POST-ITS

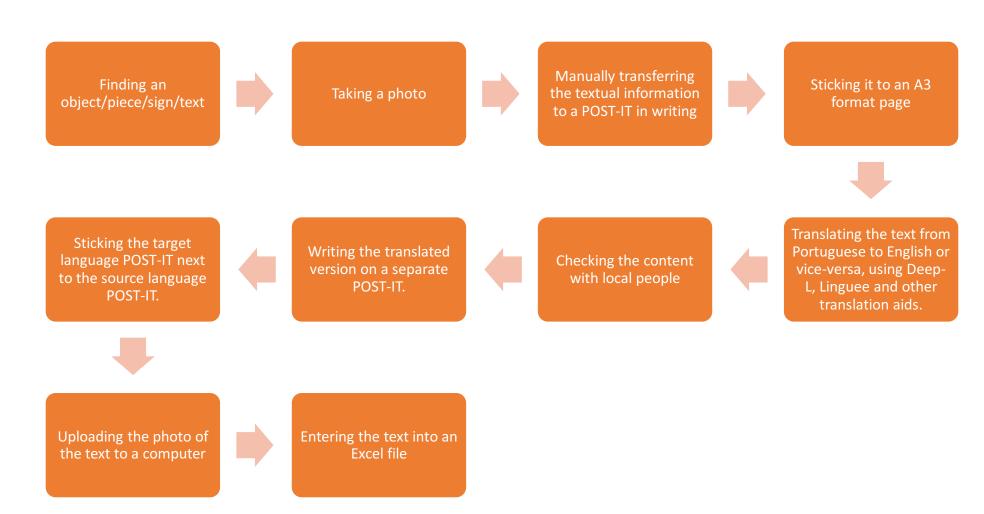
- From these text images I have chosen 365 noteworthy samples of word-based information, which I have included in my analog text collection written on tiny Post-It sheets.
- To collect 365 quotations/words/texts from the streets of Porto was my initial goal. A conceptual task, it took several months to complete and was a hard mission.



### AIM OF POST-ITS

- A self-developed method to delve deeper into understanding the Portuguese language and culture served this purpose quite well.
- Being a distilled version of the image bank, it focuses both on the fiction and non-fiction parts of the street works.
- The written word is central here.
- In the beginning, writing was also a complicated task, because I was not familiar with the Portuguese language, and largely had to rely upon my knowledge of Spanish
- Later, as I acquired also some formal and informal knowledge of Portuguese the process started to improve.

## Work-flow (Distillation)



#### VISUAL ESSAY

The Visual Urban Essay is one of the first methods I tried from the "Repository of Methods" (Christea et al, 2023) and it is also the principal method I chose to work with.

According to Powels, "Today the term 'visual essay' is used for a variety of formats which have moved far beyond the paper-based pictures and text combinations or linear short movies. They vary in length and breadth from concise articles to book length contributions, from short clips to full length films on DVD or the web, from poster size compositions to room-filling exhibitions and art installations. In principle, a visual essay may consist of any type of static or moving visual or multimodal representation".

#### VISUAL ESSAY #1

In this essay I used the following approach: I combined the images from my Image Bank and the extracted text-samples or their English translations into a narrative remixing and "gluing" together the different layers of information, the different voices heard on the streets, producing a personal story, told in the first person singular (mostly) and plural (sometimes) form.

# From Marqués to Rua do Monte Cativo

a visual essay



Making some detours.

Opposite direction. 444. The number of

the Marques da Silva Foundation.

0303... eternamentemente.

Trempacamente.

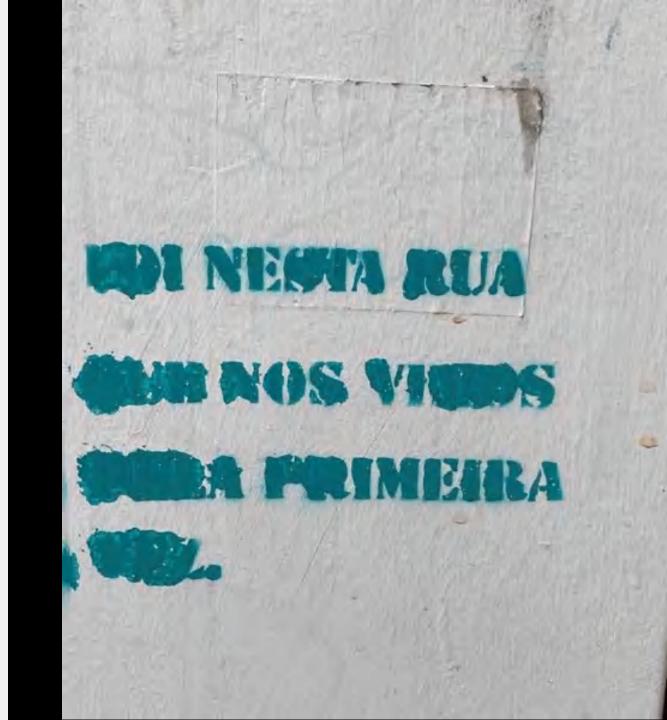
Doing a flash tattoo. Robinnude.

Obsession.

By a guy who loves Cristina.

"Lule" means "floral" in Albanian. Screw this speculation.

Close the gymnasiums, and teach
personal defense. This is THE street we
Saw each other for the first time. Contact
us.





Watch the juggler on the crossing

As he drops a ball or two time

And again.

The angst, the tears, and Saudade.

An image by somebody

Named "the Caver".



(A skull face and another figure in blue)

War text. Vortex. Of letters. Off.

It is not normal to be afraid

To walk alone on the street.

Or laugh.

Some choices of guitars, the pink one is the smallest.

Esta, eesta, esta. Paz. Capacidad.

More blue figures. Tightly together.

My name is hot.

24 HOR
a: 5 1 0 20 94

LOJAS · SAPATOS
ROUPAS · PERFUMES
PAPELARIA · BIJUTARIA
E OUTROS
NÃO COMPRO COISAS USADAS

COMPRO CARROS USADOS

926 184 809

11/10

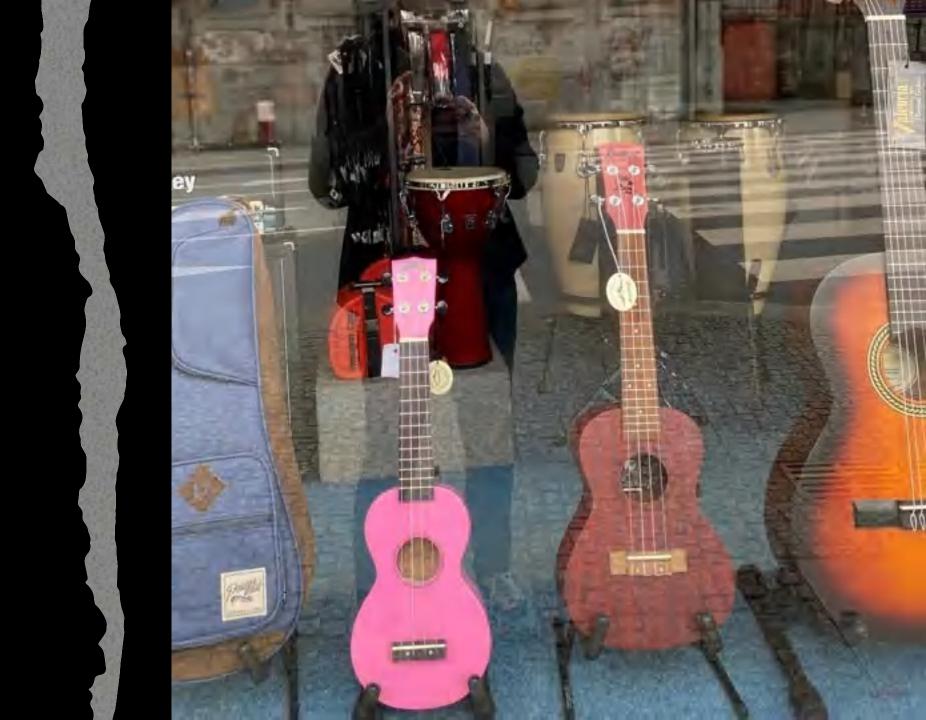
CRISTA NO PORTO

a a nós, s tar pela lo direito à Habit pao sera um símbolo de união

acesso à saúde e à educação, reivindicamos o democrático de todos a uma habitação digna.

H bitação não pode ser mercadoria! Ter uma casa digna nã pode ser um privilégio, todos precisamos de um tecto pra viver, para ter acesso a todos os outros direitos.

Junto te a nós, vamos lutar pela Habitação, Hoje!



A blue lego cross.

**Estripadores malditos.** 

Lynx, a green mouse next to a

green tree, and more graffiti

It is spring H284JE

Paci en cia. Paciencia. Patience.

**Performing Patience.** 

Recharge the energies. Hoje Fasco por mim. Are you **Suffering from eviction?** Fuck money, get likes! And go To Clube de Campismo do Porto. Buy socks. Or stocks. And smile. Luster. Faces of the security.



A city as a giant scrapbook. A phasis. Abrasion.

In case of rain, the sun is here!

Behind these doors the sun.

Tiles. Fortune teller of love.

All people loved

Get a 3-day warranty.



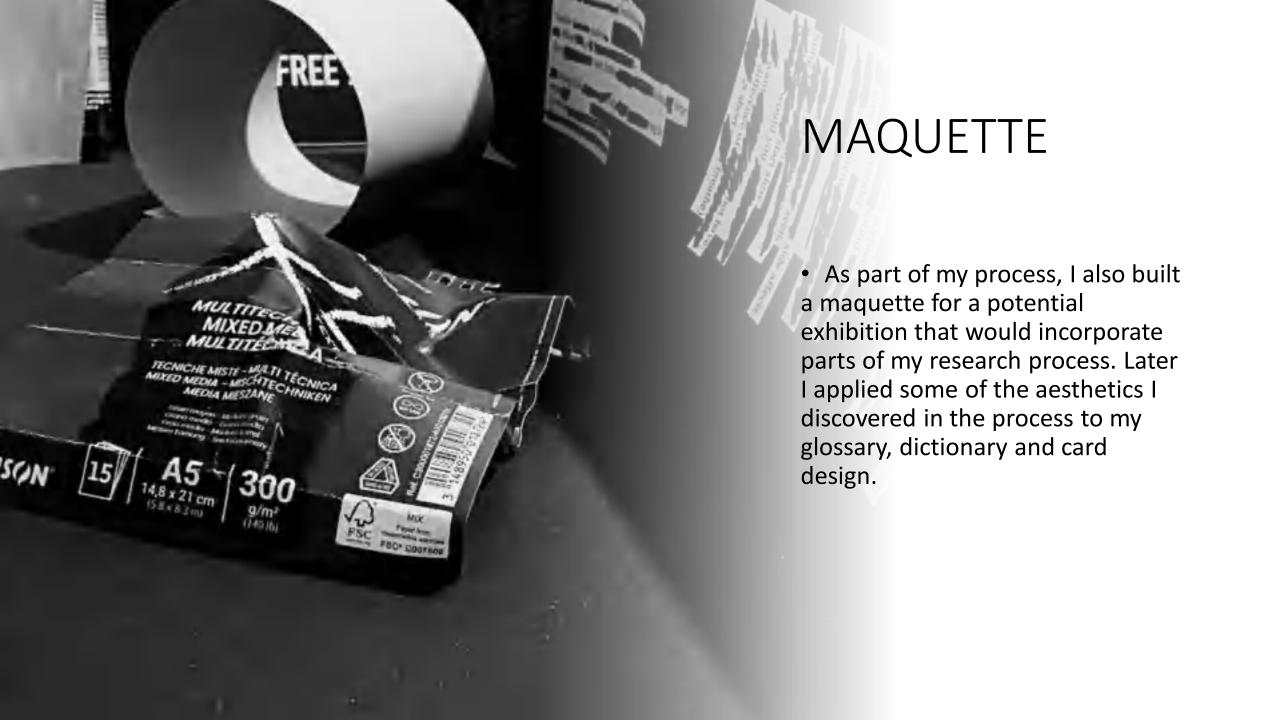
Fresh strawberries.

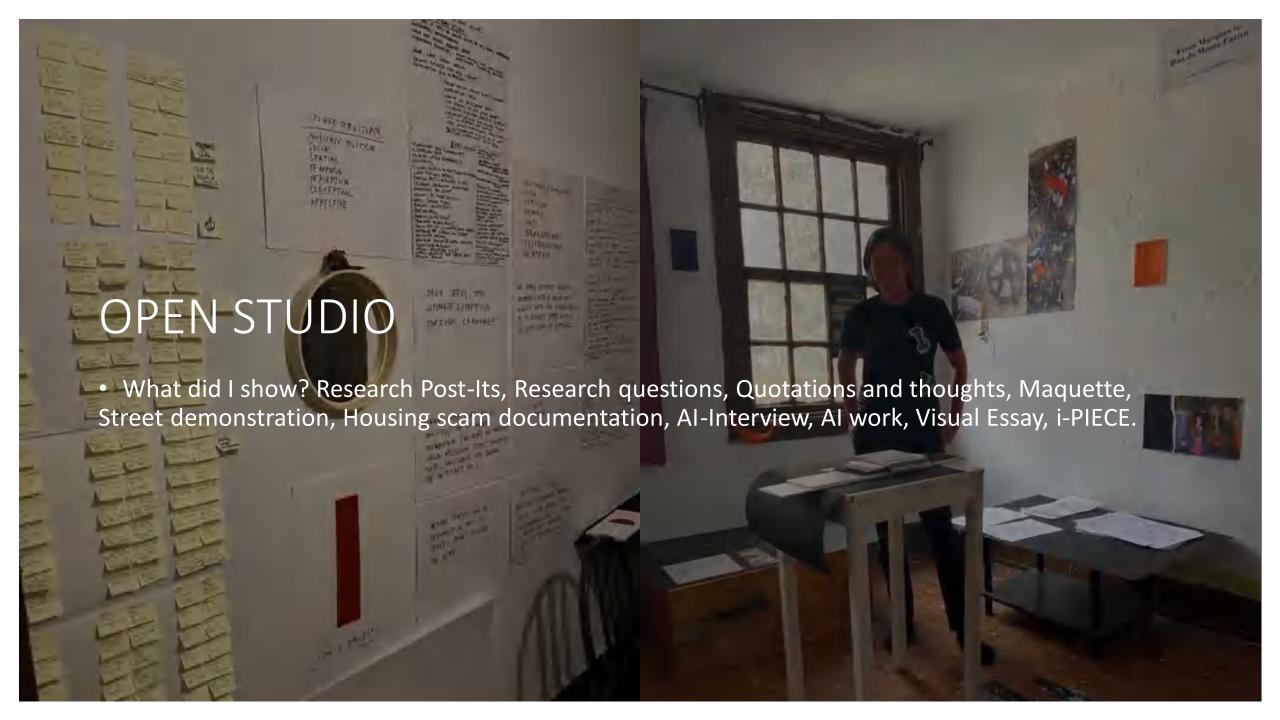


# ART RESIDENCY DE LICEIRAS 18

During this time period at DE LICEIRAS 18 Art Residency, I surrounded myself with all the results of my research I had at that point, actually living in the same space.

It was a live-in science installation involving blending the borders between found text and images and other work I created or planned to create. It gradually turned into an idea cube where I was both a maker and an observer.







#### GRAFFITI GLOSSARY

This glossary examines the key graffiti terms and shows images from Porto with actual samples of the terms. An English and Portuguese version is provided where applicable, but mostly the terms are used in English. I have also created an English/Latvian version of the same material.

# STREET ART AND GRAFFITI TERMINOLOGY



## **Definições** Lei n.º 61/2013, de 23 de Agosto GRAFITOS, AFIXAÇÕES, PICOTAGEM E OUTRAS FORMAS DE ALTERAÇÃO

Para efeitos do disposto na presente lei, entende-se por:

- a) «Afixação» a fixação, com a utilização, designadamente de autocolantes, cartazes, posters, placards ou de outros meios, ainda que tenham caráter artístico, decorativo, informativo ou outro, efetuados através da utilização de técnicas que permitam, de uma forma duradoura, a sua conservação e visualização por terceiros, colocados nas superfícies a que se refere o n.º 1 do artigo anterior e que defrontem com a via pública, sejam elas de acesso público ou de acesso restrito, ou nela se situem;
- b) «Grafitos» os desenhos, pinturas ou inscrições, designadamente de palavras, frases, símbolos ou códigos, ainda que tenham caráter artístico, decorativo, informativo, ou outro, efetuados através da utilização de técnicas de pintura, perfuração, gravação ou quaisquer outras que permitam, de uma forma duradoura, a sua conservação e visualização por terceiros, apostos nas superfícies a que se refere o n.º 1 do artigo anterior e que defrontem com a via pública, sejam elas de acesso público ou de acesso restrito, ou nela se situem;
- c) «Mobiliário urbano» os objetos ou equipamentos instalados na via pública ou em espaço público, para uso dos cidadãos, ou que sejam utilizados como suporte às infraestruturas urbanas essenciais, designadamente de saneamento básico, de energia, de telecomunicações e de transportes;
- d) «Picotagem» a alteração da forma original de superfície a que se refere o n.º 1 do artigo anterior, por meio de perfurações ou impactos, ainda que tenham caráter artístico, decorativo, informativo, ou outro, efetuados através da utilização de técnicas que permitam, de uma forma duradoura, a sua conservação e visualização por terceiros, realizados em locais que defrontem com a via pública, sejam eles de acesso público ou de acesso restrito, ou nela se situem.

#### TAG / TAG

ASSINATURA SIMPLE do nome ou apellido do grafiteiro

- Geralmente em uma cor
- Forma mais primitiva

The signature of a writer — a line graffiti in one color with calligraphic and/or styled letters. Many famous sprayers use short synonyms — like "Daim" or "Seen".



# THROW-UP (THROWIE)

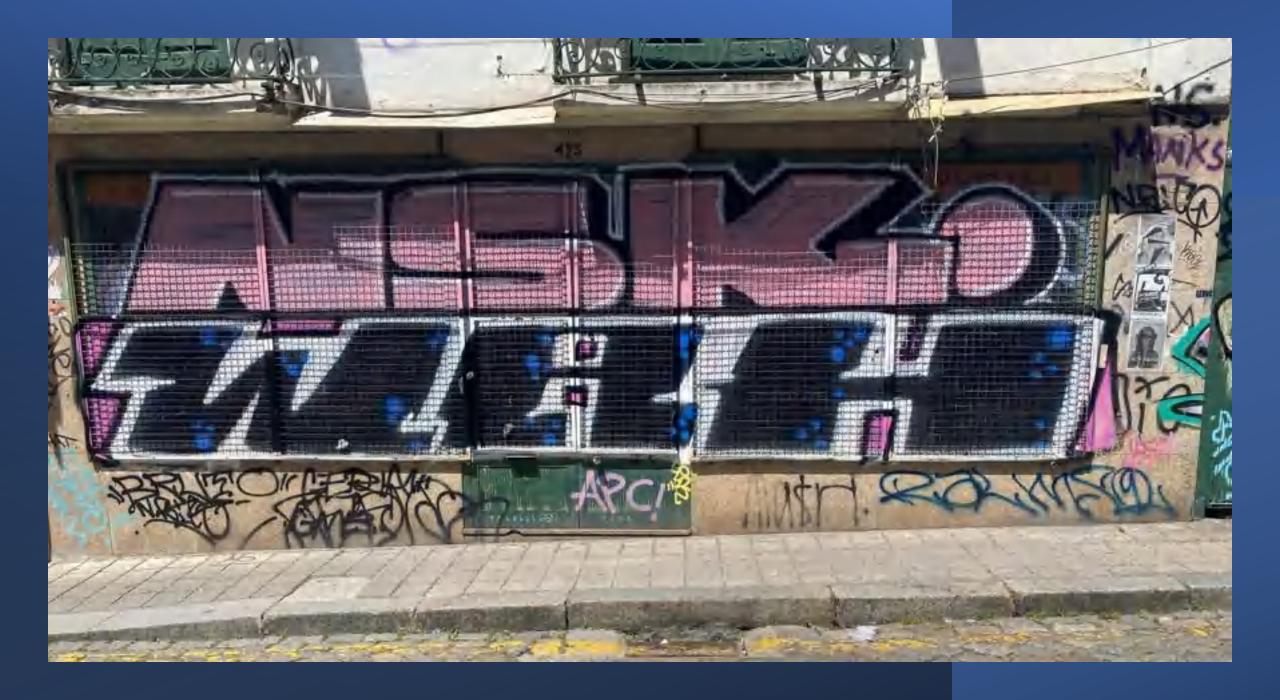
- 'Vomit'
- Done rapidly
- Rounded, deformed letters
- Little variation in colour
- Usually in 2 colours



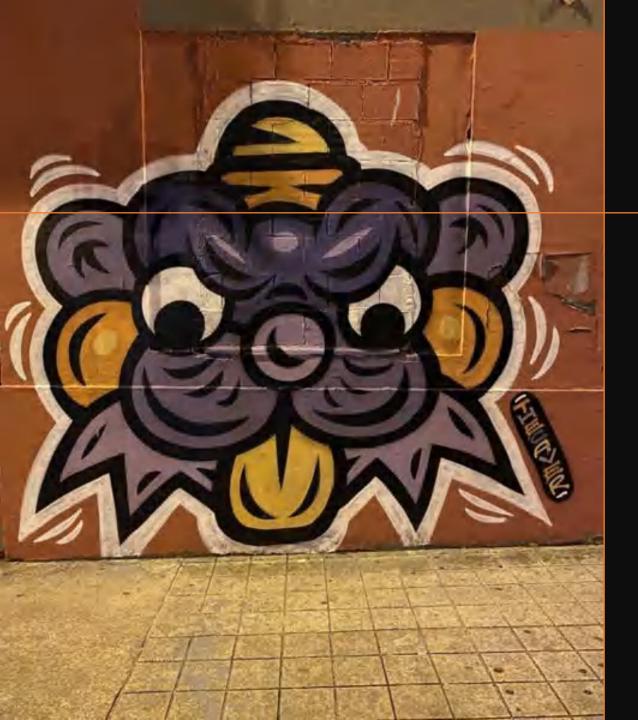
#### BLOCKBUSTER

- Utilizado para cobrir o máximo de área num corto tempo
- Letras grandes e em formato de bloco
- 2/3 corres de tinta
- Pode ser conseguido com rolos de pintura

- A blockbuster goes up one more level of sophistication from a throw up. It is much bigger and often fills up an entire space, such as a wall
- However, like a tag and a throw-up, a blockbuster is still produced in a relatively short period
- The lettering of a blockbuster is often created in a block style, and the writer may use rollers







#### PIECE/PEÇA

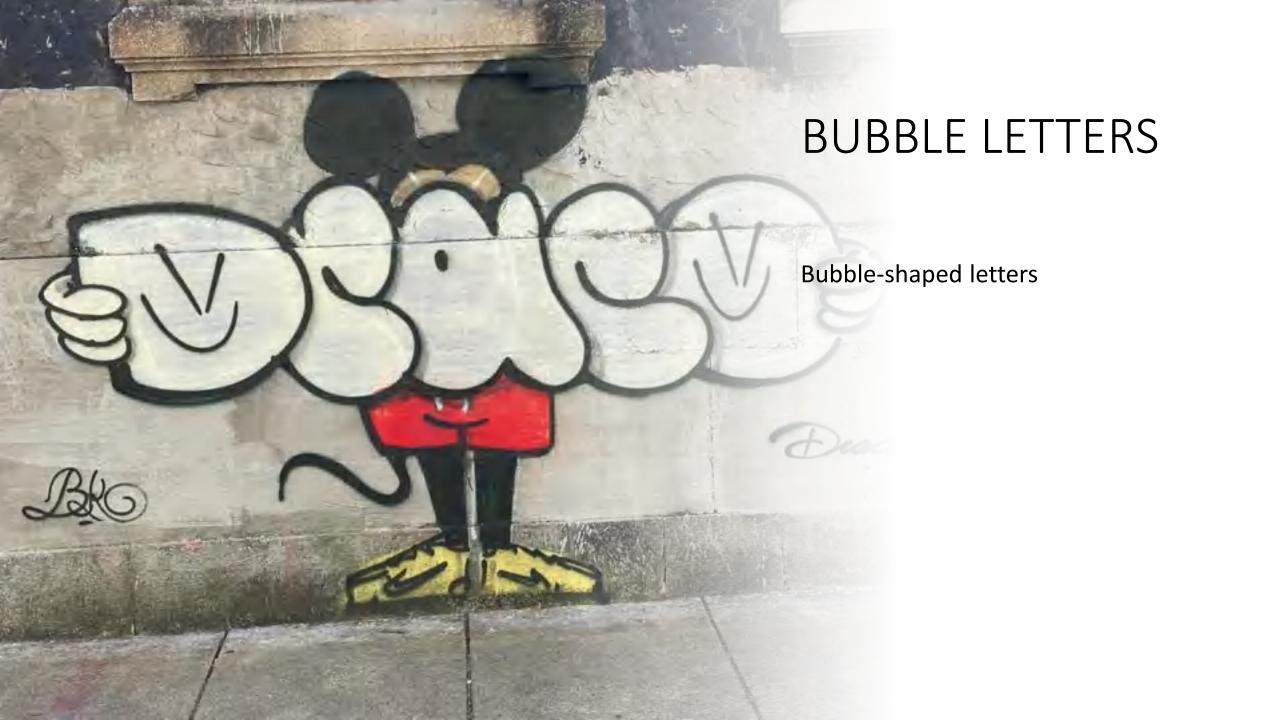
- Abreviation of "master-piece"
- A piece done by a specific artist
- Uses more than 3 colours

#### PIECEBOOK / BLACKBOOK / WRITER'S BIBLE

• The graffiti writer's sketchbook

#### **OUTLINE**

A drawing done in the piecebook





BURNER

A high quality graffiti



## CHARACTER / BONECO

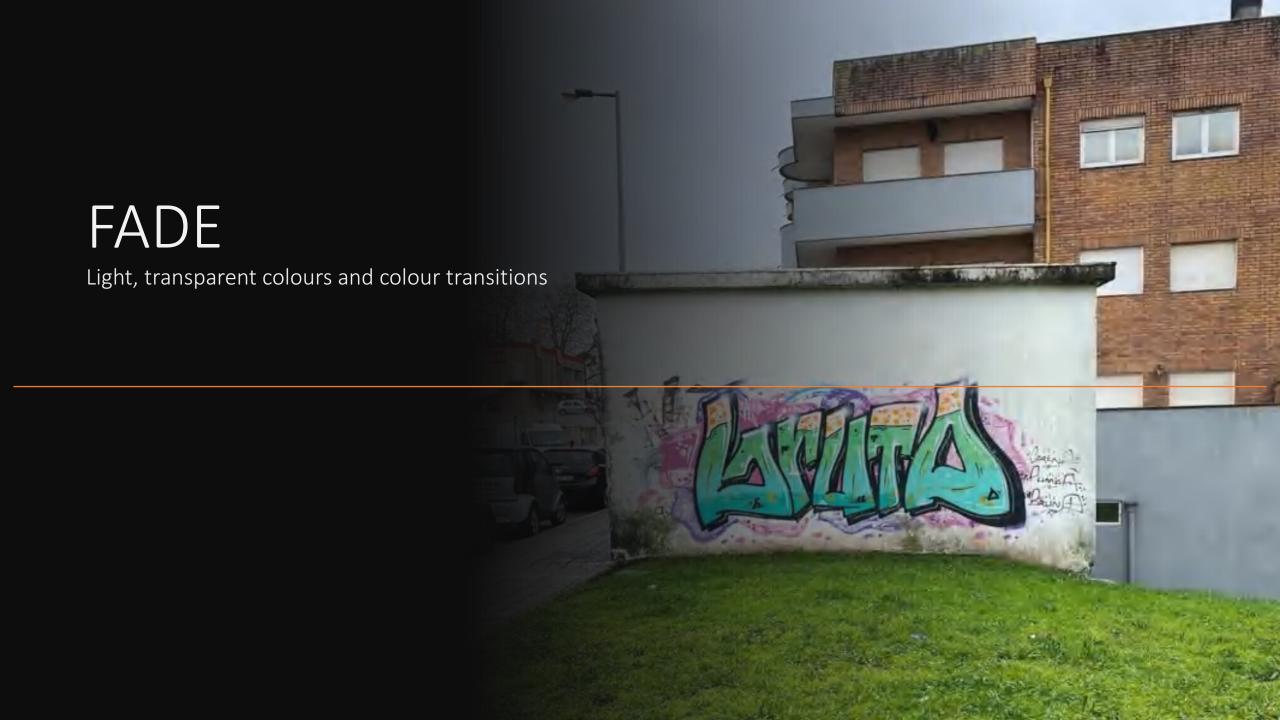
 A piece showing a living being/ character

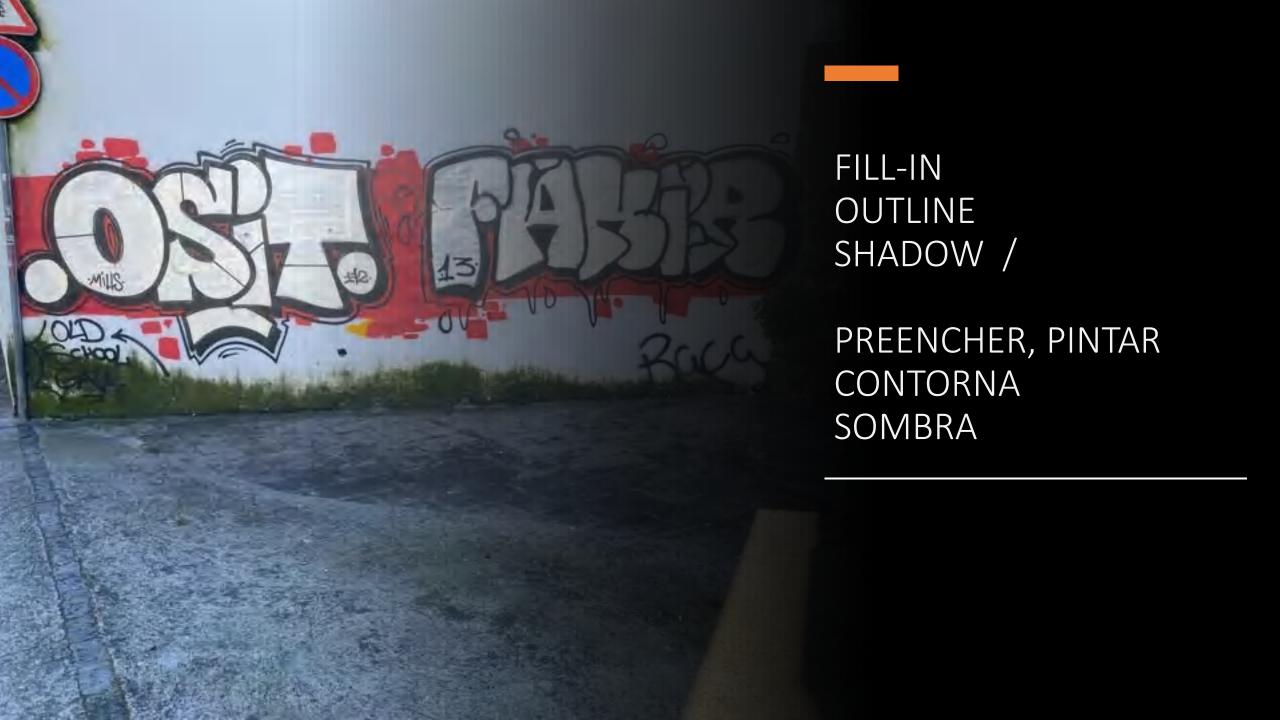


#### WHEATPASTING/ PASTE-UP

- It is a technique that street artists use to quickly put ap their works
- Posters, drawings and paintings on paper are pasted on the walls
- It involves the use of a paste composed of flour (preferably wheat flour)







#### STENCIL ART

- Stencil is a painting technique used to apply a design to any surface
- Cut from paper, plastic, metal or acetate



#### BOMBING

Doing Illegal graffiti

#### STICKER BOMBING

A type of 'bombing' in public space using stickers



## YARN BOMBING / YARNBOMBING /

• Handicraft work with yarn, adorning bridges, trees, bicycles etc.



Done by a a writer or a crew. Often involves some characters

#### MURAL

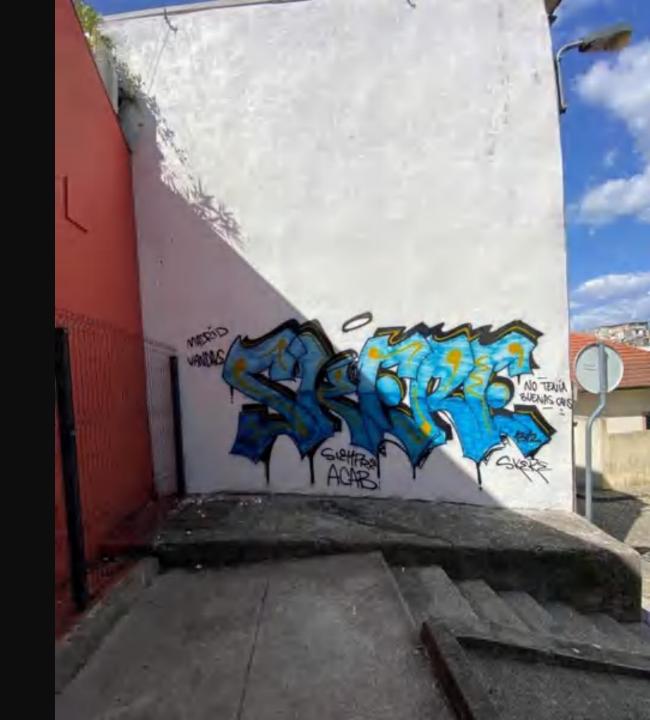
## STREET ART / ARTE URBANA

• Arte Urbana ou Street Art é a expressão que se refere a manifestações artísticas desenvolvidas no espaço público, distinguindo-se das manifestações de caráter institucional ou empresarial, bem como do mero vandalismo. A princípio, um movimento underground, a street art foi gradativamente se constituindo como forma do fazer artístico, abrangendo várias modaldades.



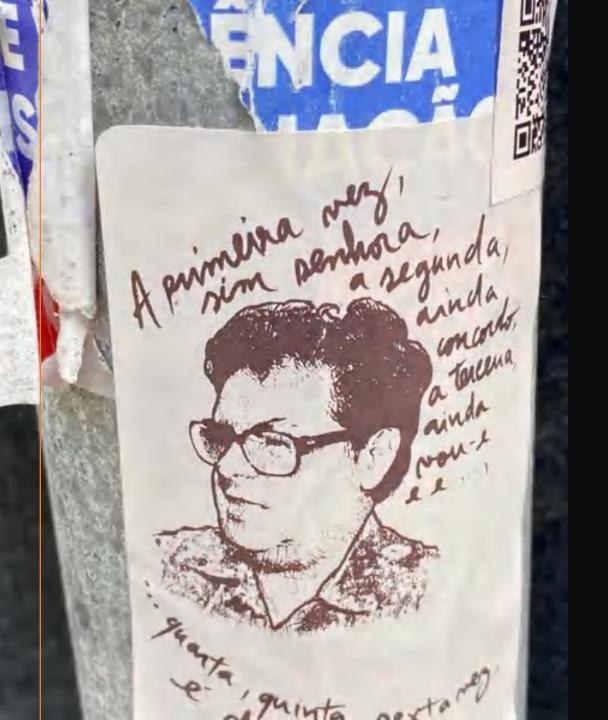
#### FAT CAP / SKINNY CAP

- The Fat Cap is used for making wide lines (min. 3 cm)
- The Skinny Cap is used for contouring, fine lines



## GUERILLA ART / ARTE DE GUERRILHA





#### STICKER ART / GRAFFITI DIGITAL E STICKERS





#### KING

A graffiti artist who is on the top of the hierarchy



#### **CREW**

• Group of graffiti artists coming together to paint at the same time and place



#### TOY

- Beginner graffiti artist, inexperienced
- Someone who does graffiti just because it is trendy
- 'trouble on your system'

#### **BUFF**

• A term used when a piece or a 'bomb' is removed

#### **BUFFER**

• A person who removes a piece

#### AZULEJOS/ TILES



# BITE

To imitate or copy the stye of another graffiti artist

#### HANDSTYLE

Handstyle is a term in graffiti culture that denotes the unique writing style or signature/mark of a graffiti artist.

# CALLIGRAFFITI / KALIGRAFITI

• GRAFFITI + CALLIGRAPHY

# ETCHING / SCRATCHING

#### **SCRATCHITI**

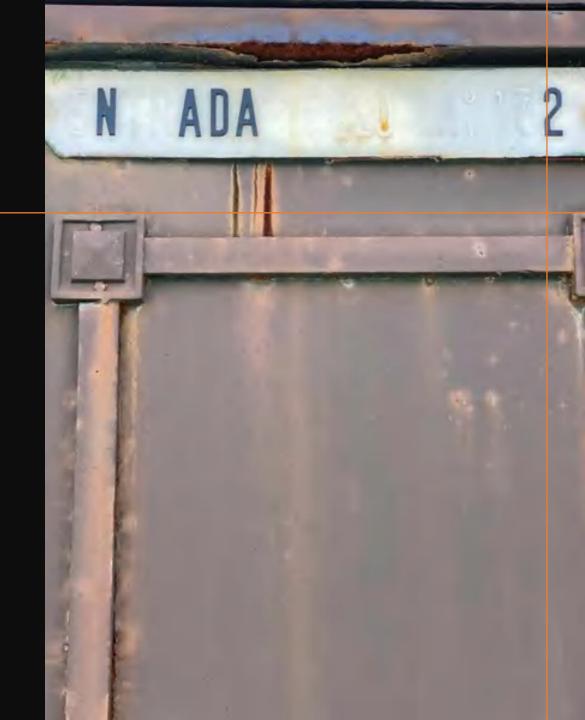
Type of graffiti in which an image is etched/scratched into a surface (glass or plexiglass).

# REVERSE GRAFFITI GRAFFITI REVERSO

- Reverse graffiti is a simple method: "removing" existing elements from a surface to form images.
- The drawing on the wall or other surfaces is formed by removing dirt from it (for example, writing WASH ME! on a dirty car)

?

REMOVING (letters) / Remoção de letras



# BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY /TEORIA DAS JANELAS PARTIDAS

- "Se apenas uma janela de um prédio fosse quebrada e não fosse imediatamente consertada, as pessoas que passassem pelo local e vissem que a janela não havia sido consertada concluiriam que ninguém se importava com isso, e que em um curto espaço de tempo todas as demais janelas também estariam quebradas, pois as pessoas começariam a jogar mais pedras para quebrar as demais janelas. Em pouco tempo, aquela comunidade seria levada à decadência. Abandonado, o local seria ocupado por pessoas viciadas, imprudentes e com tendências criminosas. A comunidade seria abandonada e tomada por desordeiros"
- The broken windows theory states that any visible signs of crime and civil disorder, such as broken windows (hence, the name of the theory) vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking, and transportation fare evasion, create an urban environment that promotes even more crime and disorder (Wilson & Kelling, 1982)





## $\supset \bigvee$

 Visual pollution refers to the visible deterioration and negative aesthetic quality of the natural and humanmade landscapes around people and to the study of secondary impacts of manmade interventions

 A poluição visual é um tipo de poluição moderna, encontrado nos grandes centros urbanos, uma vez que designa o excesso de informações contidas em placas, postes, outdoors, banners, cartazes, táxis, carros e outros veículos de anúncios, além da degradação urbana fruto do excesso de fios de eletricidade e acumulo de resíduos.



## REFERENCES / REFERÊNCIAS

- <a href="https://www.eden-gallery.com/news/graffiti-styles">https://www.eden-gallery.com/news/graffiti-styles</a>
- https://gembh.wordpress.com/2009/05/21/205/
- https://academia.lndb.lv/ftp/200/balode\_elna\_20113 406.pdf
- <a href="https://blog.grancursosonline.com.br/teoria-das-janelas-quebradas-broken-windows-theory/">https://blog.grancursosonline.com.br/teoria-das-janelas-quebradas-broken-windows-theory/</a>
- Pointdaarte.webnode.come.br
- <a href="https://agrcanelas.edu.pt/ambiente/poluicao-visual-sonora/">https://agrcanelas.edu.pt/ambiente/poluicao-visual-sonora/</a>
- https://www.historiadasartes.com/nomundo/arteseculo-20/arte-de-rua/

## VISUAL ESSAY #2

In this essay I used the following approach: I combined the images from my Image Bank and the extracted text-samples or their English translations into a narrative remixing and "gluing" together the different layers of information, the different voices heard on the streets, producing a personal story, told in the first person singular (mostly) and plural (sometimes) form.

## A Walk from Matosinhos to Foz



It is an ordinary day in Matosinhos

The weather is fine, and I play some beach tennis

There are waves

There is some wind

After a few hours of playing beach tennis I decide to have a walk

- I go along the beach.
- I see cliffs, I see boats, I see waves



There are some people



Some walk, others have bikes



The sun is very bright, so I try to find some big trees.
I am looking for a shade.

I see a big wall with graffiti
It is something between wildstyle and blockbuster
The colours are white, pink and red
There are some lines and dots

It looks good





And there are a few more

Looks like blockbuster style

And there is another.

It is in a spot that is not easy to access



Further on there are some simple tags

I also see a monument



It is a big poster. A WORLD WITH A VIEW TO ANOTHER WORLD, it says





And a jetty



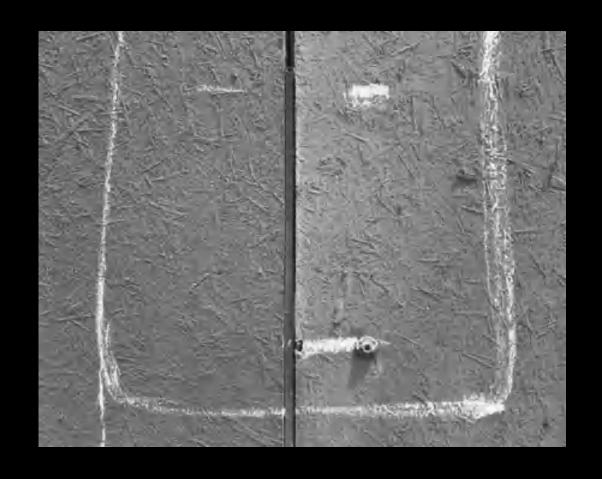


I find a nice old house It looks a bit magic NORDICO say the letters on the nearby wall



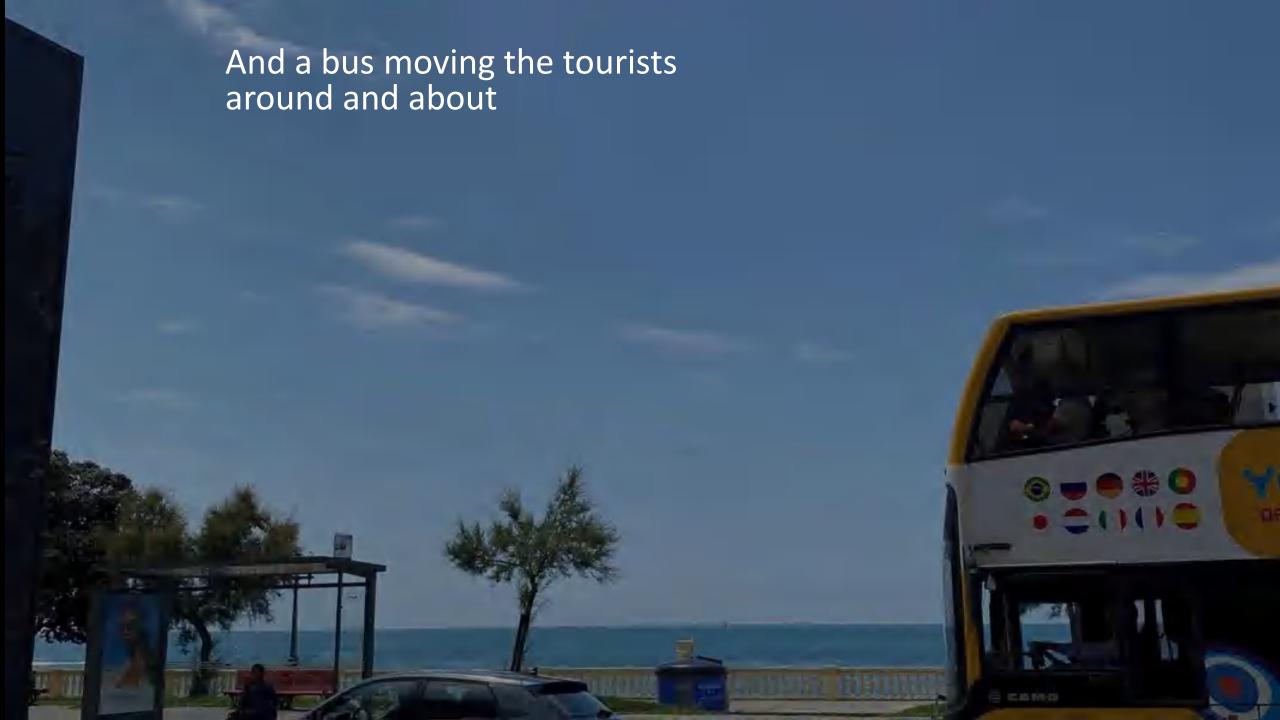
Peut etre. Peut etre

An abstract block-face looks at me and I look back at the face



There is a poster in blue







Priority mail from the states. We live in difficult times







Somewhere between the legal and illegal

Sometimes I think geometry can save the world





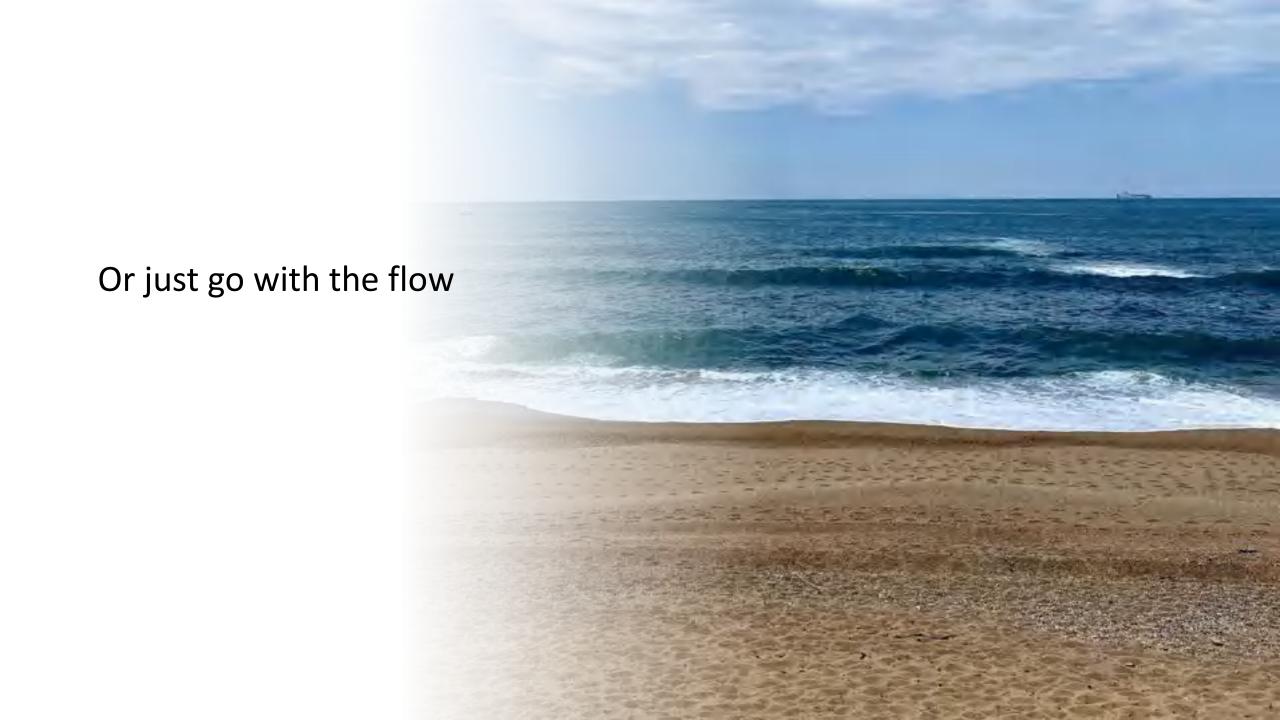
Or may be art?



And not to walk with eyes closed



To be strong like the sea or the fortress





Be physically fit



Take some time to smile



Or go and dig some gold

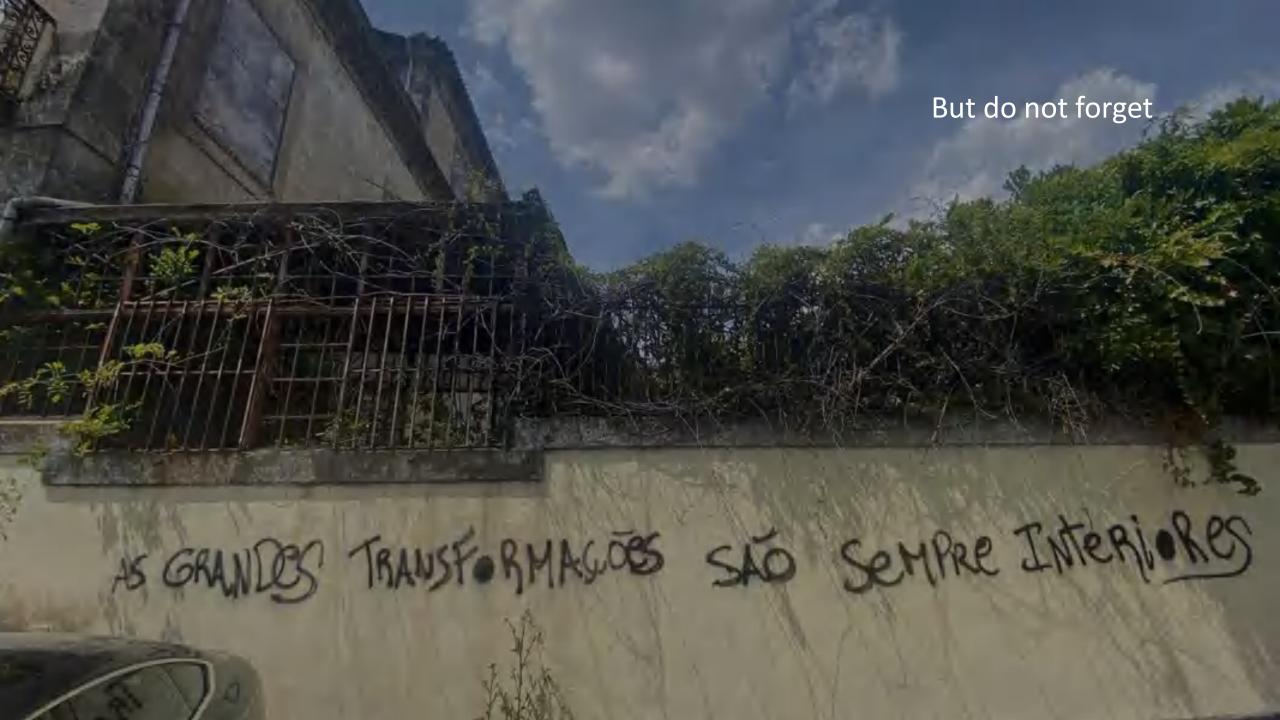




It is great to communicate with the city

And to let the city communicate with you





And it is important to know, what you want to build.







• This is the next stage of distilling the primary images. After obtaining the 365 text samples I started analyzing which letters are more represented on the city walls and which less. I understood that certain letters like P, L, R have a wide vocabulary to choose from while X, Z, K are heavily under-represented.

ABRIL / APRIL

AMOR / LOVE

AQUI / HERE

ARRENDAMENTO / RENT

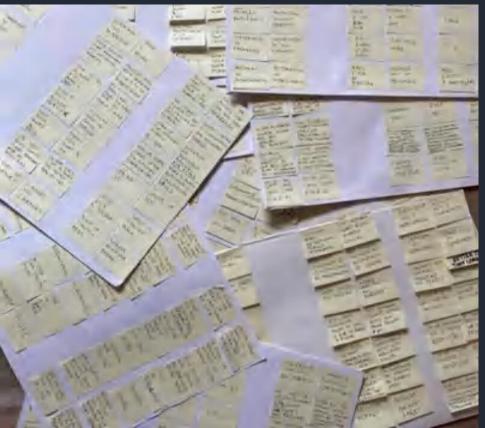
AUMENTO / INCREASE

#### **Word selection process and criteria**

#### Objective criteria

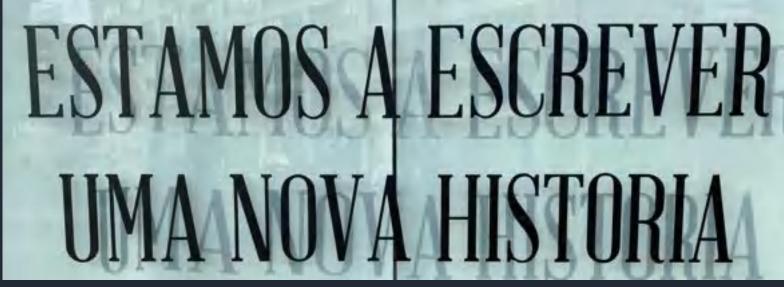
- all these words have been found in the streets of Porto (graffiti, stickers, writings on walls, etc.)
- words that are frequently repeated are given priority (rua, vida, habitar, futebol, amor, etc.)
- they cover different areas of life (politics, housing, relationships, emotional reactions to events, resistance to and criticism of the existing order, resident insights/ messages to the world, the process of growing up, the impact of tourism on urban life)
- they serve as today's footprint of life in Porto and beyond, local and universal issues meet





#### Subjective "poetic" criteria:

- rare and untypical words which may seem useless, but are necessary to add to the overall feel of the dictionary
- words evoking strong associations
- words that do not have a specific meaning, but look or sound good



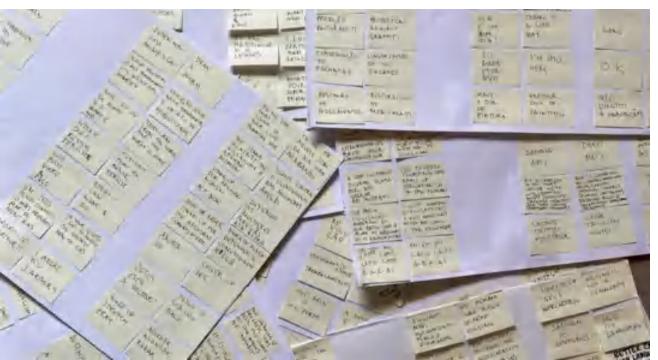


#### **Thought selection process and criteria**

- The thoughts are the verbal part of the data collected in the streets. Each thought contains a word starting with the appropriate letter of the alphabet. The scope of thought source material is wide, ranging from primitive marks left on the wall or simple stickers to text contained in stencils, pieces and murals.
- Although I appreciated a lot some of the more elaborate and well-crafted solutions, I paid particular attention to find interesting ideas in places that are not that obvious or instantly prominent.







#### **Image selection process and criteria**

- The images are the visual data I collected in the streets, and they may or may not contain text. They serve as a visual stimulus activating the senses of the viewer and contain a powerful visual element. For the images featured in the set of cards, I applied the following selection "filters":
- the image is vertical
- it has good resolution
- it interacts with the letter/word/thought, yet does not directly illustrate it
- both the image contained and the image itself is powerful

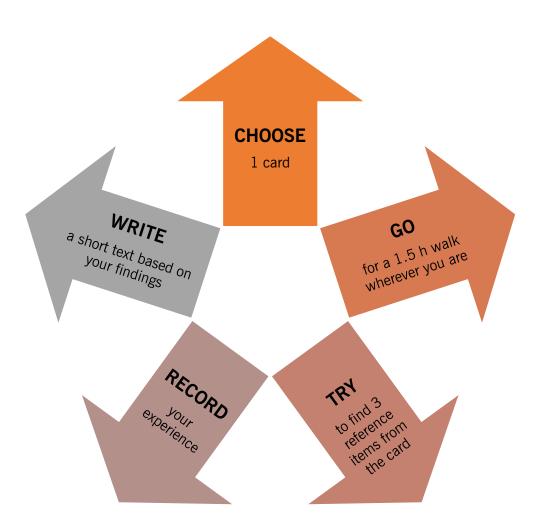
## PORTOSCRIPT: FIND YOUR NORTH

Based on the presentations I developed previously, I created a prototype for an urban exploration flash card game #PORTOSCRIPT. To develop it, I used the collections of graffiti and street art images I have collected, as well as the texts, thoughts and individual words I have extracted from these images. It is based on the extended Latin alphabet from A to Z.

# PORTOSCRIPT: FIND YOUR NORTH

The set of cards can be used in several different ways, serving as:

a language learning tool	
an aid for city exploration	
an object for inspiration or reflection	
an intellectual or visual stimulus	
or cultural studies	
a brief overview of Porto underground culture	
an anarchist's guide to places and ideas	
a (graffiti) writer's professional instrument for n content generation	ew
an art object	

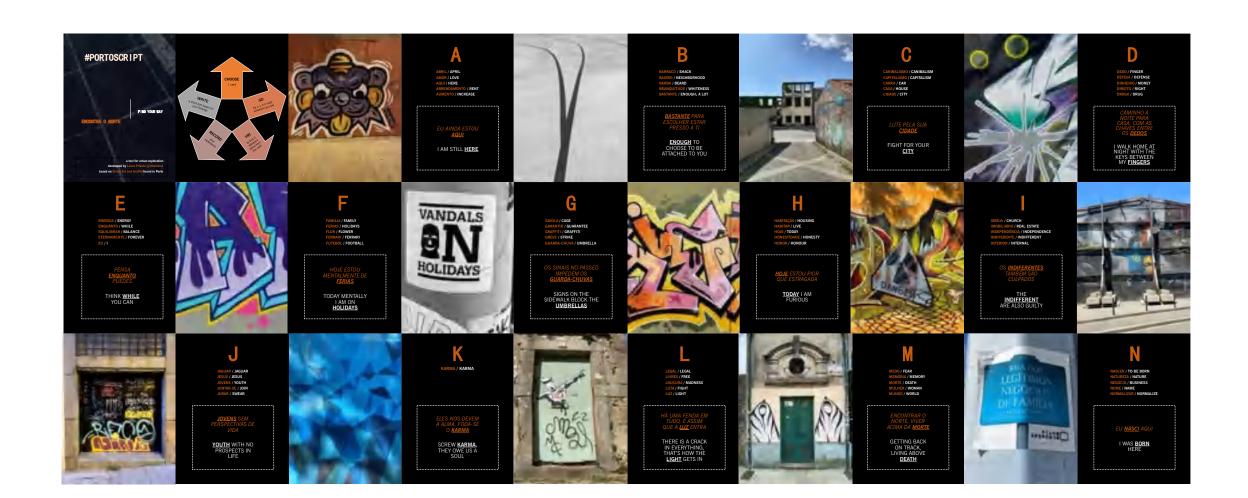


#### **Rules**

In this game you compete with yourself, to reach a better version of you.

You get 1 card (randomly) and explore the city, based on what you get. You can choose a type of walk that is appropriate for your aims and record your experience along the way.

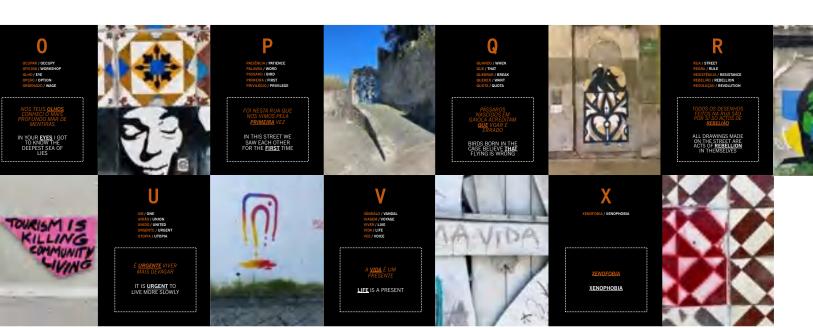
I would suggest taking a silent walk as a way to delve deeper into the city experience and restrict the senses.





Ostaliana.

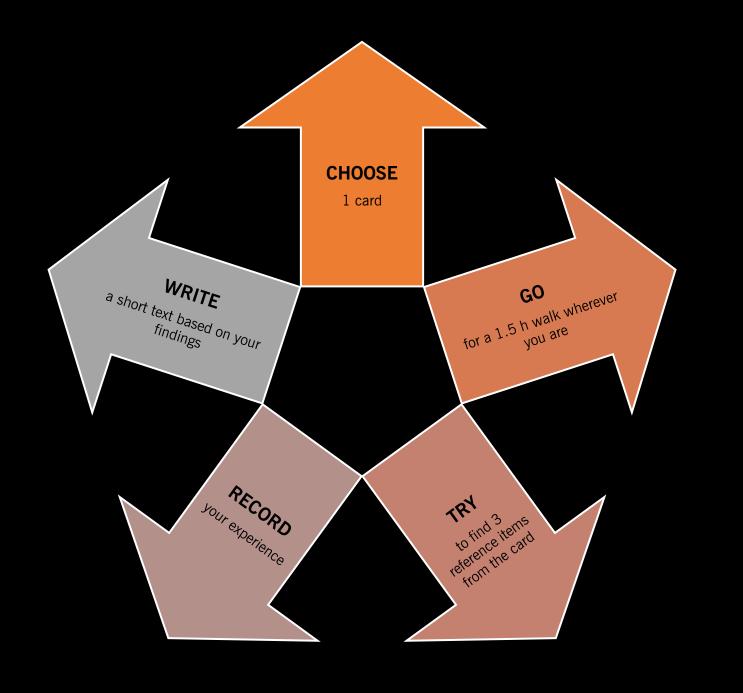
THE GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS ARE ALWAYS INTERNAL



FIND YOUR WAY

ENCONTRA O NORTE

a tool for urban exploration developed by Laura Prikule based on Street Art and Graffiti found in Porto





ABRIL / APRIL

AMOR / LOVE

AQUI / HERE

ARRENDAMENTO / RENT

AUMENTO / INCREASE

A

EU AINDA ESTOU <u>AQUI</u>

I AM STILL **HERE** 





BARRACO / SHACK
BAIRRO / NEIGHBORHOOD
BARBA / BEARD
BRANQUITUDE / WHITENESS
BASTANTE / ENOUGH; A LOT

BASTANTE PARA ESCOLHER ESTAR PRESSO A TI

ENOUGH TO CHOOSE TO BE ATTACHED TO YOU



CANIBALISMO / CANIBALISM
CAPITALISMO / CAPITALISM
CARRO / CAR
CASA / HOUSE
CIDADE / CITY

C

LUTE PELA SUA CIDADE

FIGHT FOR YOUR

<u>CITY</u>



DEDO / FINGER

DEFESA / DEFENSE

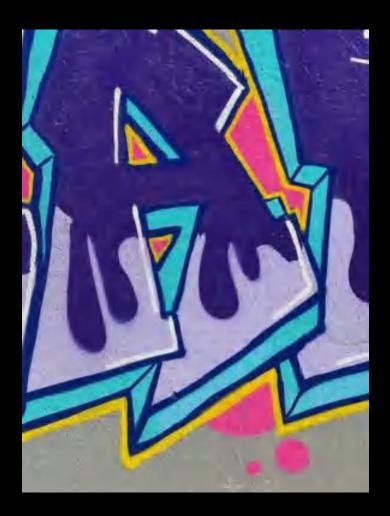
DINHEIRO / MONEY

DIREITO / RIGHT

DROGA / DRUG

CAMINHO A NOITE PARA CASA, COM AS CHAVES ENTRE OS **DEDOS** 

I WALK HOME AT NIGHT WITH THE KEYS BETWEEN MY **FINGERS** 



ENERGIA / ENERGY
ENQUANTO / WHILE
EQUILIBRAR / BALANCE
ETERNAMENTE / FOREVER
EU / I

## PENSA **ENQUANTO** PUEDES

THINK WHILE YOU CAN





FAMILIA / FAMILY
FIM / END
FLOR / FLOWER
FERRARI / FERRARI
FUTEBOL / FOOTBALL

HOJE ESTOU MENTALMENTE DE **FERIAS** 

TODAY MENTALLY
I AM ON
VACATION





GAIOLA / CAGE
GARANTIR / GUARANTEE
GRAFFITI / GRAFFITI
GREVE / STRIKE
GUARDA-CHUVA / UMBRELLA

OS SINAIS NO
PASSEO IMPEDEM OS
GUARDA-CHUVAS

SIGNS ON THE SIDEWALK BLOCK THE **UMBRELLAS** 



HABITAÇÃO / HOUSING
HABITAR / LIVE
HOJE / TODAY
HONESTIDADE / HONESTY
HONOR / HONOUR

**HOJE** ESTOU PIOR QUE ESTRAGADA

TODAY I AM **FURIOUS** 





IGREJA / CHURCH
IMOBILIÁRIO / REAL ESTATE
INDEPENDÊNCIA / INDEPENDENCE
INDIFERENTE / INDIFFERENT
INTERIOR / INTERNAL

OS <u>INDIFERENTES</u> TAMBÉM SÃO CULPADOS

THE **INDIFFERENT** ARE ALSO GUILTY



JAGUAR / JAGUAR
JESUS / JESUS
JOVENS / YOUTH
JUNTAR-SE / JOIN
JURAR / SWEAR

JOVENS SEM
PERSPECTIVAS DE
VIDA

YOUTH WITH NO PROSPECTS IN LIFE





ELES NOS DEVEM A ALMA, FODA-SE O <u>KARMA</u>

THEY OWE US A SOUL, FUCK KARMA



LEGAL / LEGAL
LIVRES / FREE
LOUCURA / MADNESS
LUTA / FIGHT
LUZ / LIGHT

HÁ UMA FENDA EM TUDO, É ASSIM QUE A <u>LUZ</u> ENTRA

THERE IS A CRACK
IN EVERYTHING,
THAT'S HOW THE
LIGHT GETS IN



MEDO / FEAR
MEMÓRIA / MEMORY
MORTE / DEATH
MULHER / WOMAN
MUNDO / WORLD

ENCONTRAR O NORTE, VIVER ACIMA DA <u>MORTE</u>

FINDING YOUR WAY IS TO LIVE ABOVE **DEATH** 

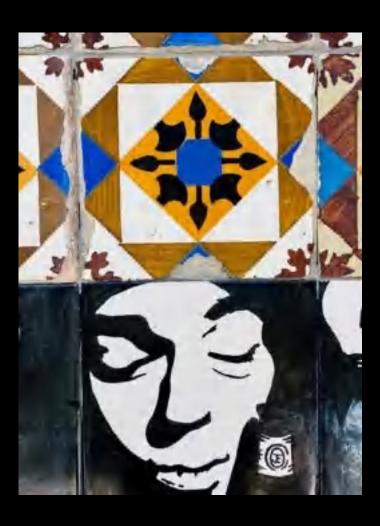




NASCER / TO BE BORN
NATUREZA / NATURE
NEGÓCIO / BUSINESS
NOME / NAME
NORMALIZAR / NORMALIZE

EU **NASCI** AQUI

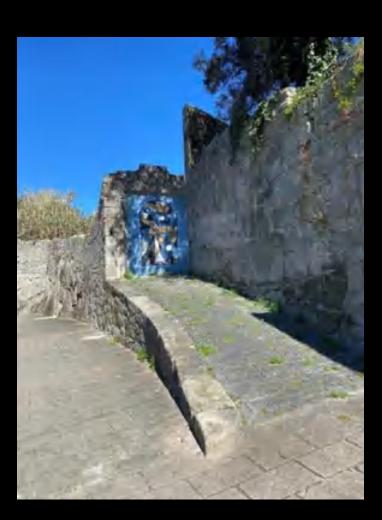
I WAS <u>**BORN**</u> HERE



OCUPAR / OCCUPY
OFICINA / WORKSHOP
OLHO / EYE
OPÇÃO / OPTION
ORDENADO / WAGE

NOS TEUS <u>OLHOS</u> CONHECI O MAIS PROFUNDO MAR DE MENTIRAS

IN YOUR **EYES** I GOT TO KNOW THE DEEPEST SEA OF LIES

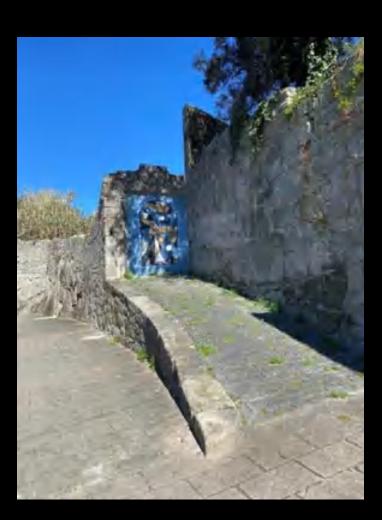


PACIÊNCIA / PATIENCE
PALAVRA / WORD
PÁSSARO / BIRD
PRIMEIRA / FIRST
PRIVILÉGIO / PRIVILEGE

FOI NESTA RUA QUE NOS VIMOS PELA **PRIMEIRA** VEZ

IN THIS STREET WE SAW EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME





PACIÊNCIA / PATIENCE
PALAVRA / WORD
PÁSSARO / BIRD
PRIMEIRA / FIRST
PRIVILÉGIO / PRIVILEGE

FOI NESTA RUA QUE NOS VIMOS PELA **PRIMEIRA** VEZ

IN THIS STREET WE SAW EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME





QUANDO / WHEN
QUE / THAT
QUEBRAR / BREAK
QUERER / WANT
QUOTA / QUOTA



PÁSSAROS NASCIDOS EM GAIOLA ACREDITAM **QUE** VOAR É ERRADO

BIRDS BORN IN THE CAGE BELIEVE **THAT** FLYING IS WRONG



RUA / STREET

REGRA / RULE

RESISTÊNCIA / RESISTANCE

REBELIÃO / REBELLION

REVOLUÇÃO / REVOLUTION

R

TODOS OS DESENHOS FEITOS NA RUA SÃO POR SI SO ACTOS DE REBELIÃO

ALL DRAWINGS MADE ON THE STREET ARE ACTS OF **REBELLION** IN THEMSELVES



RUA / STREET

REGRA / RULE

RESISTÊNCIA / RESISTANCE

REBELIÃO / REBELLION

REVOLUÇÃO / REVOLUTION

R

TODOS OS DESENHOS FEITOS NA RUA SÃO POR SI SO ACTOS DE REBELIÃO

ALL DRAWINGS MADE ON THE STREET ARE ACTS OF **REBELLION** IN THEMSELVES



SABER / TO KNOW
SAUDADE / LONGING
SENTIDO / FEELING
SOCIAIS / SOCIAL
SOL / SUN

S

EM CASO DE CHUVA, O <u>SOL</u> ESTÁ AQUI

IN CASE OF RAIN THE **SUN** IS HERE



TECTO / ROOF
TODO / ALL
TRABALHO / WORK
TRANSFORMAÇÃO /
TRANSFORMATION
TURISTA / TOURIST

AS GRANDES

TRANSFORMAÇÕES SÃO

SEMPRE INTERIORES

THE GREAT
TRANSFORMATIONS
ARE ALWAYS INTERNAL



UM / ONE
UNIÃO / UNION
UNIDO / UNITED
URGENTE / URGENT
UTOPIA / UTOPIA

É <u>URGENTE</u> VIVER MAIS DEVAGAR

IT IS <u>URGENT</u> TO LIVE MORE SLOWLY



VÂNDALO / VANDAL
VIAGEM / VOYAGE
VIVER / LIVE
VIDA / LIFE
VOZ / VOICE

A <u>VIDA</u> É UM PRESENTE

**LIFE** IS A PRESENT



## XENOFOBIA / XENOPHOBIA





**XENOFOBIA** 

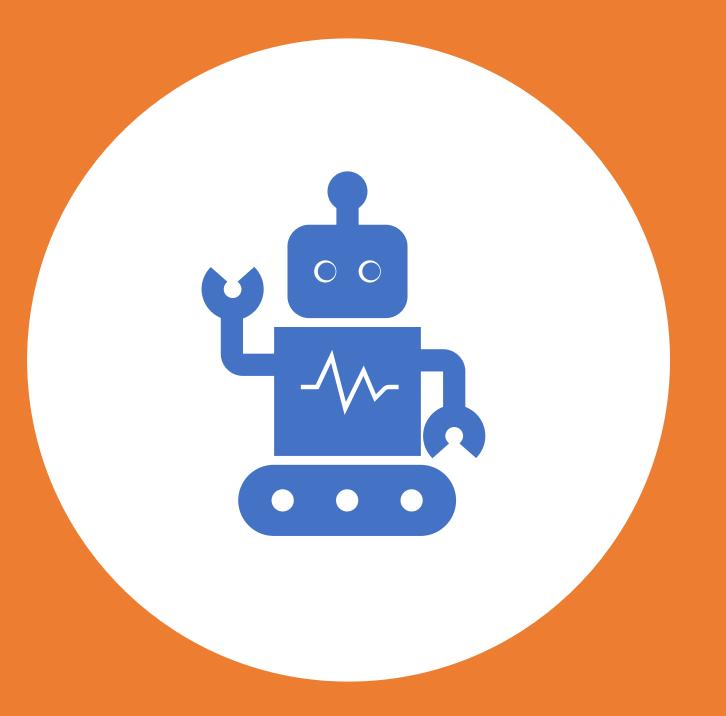
**XENOPHOBIA** 



OLHAR **ZEN** ENTEDIADO

BORED **ZEN** LOOK

# AI-BLOCK OF RESEARCH



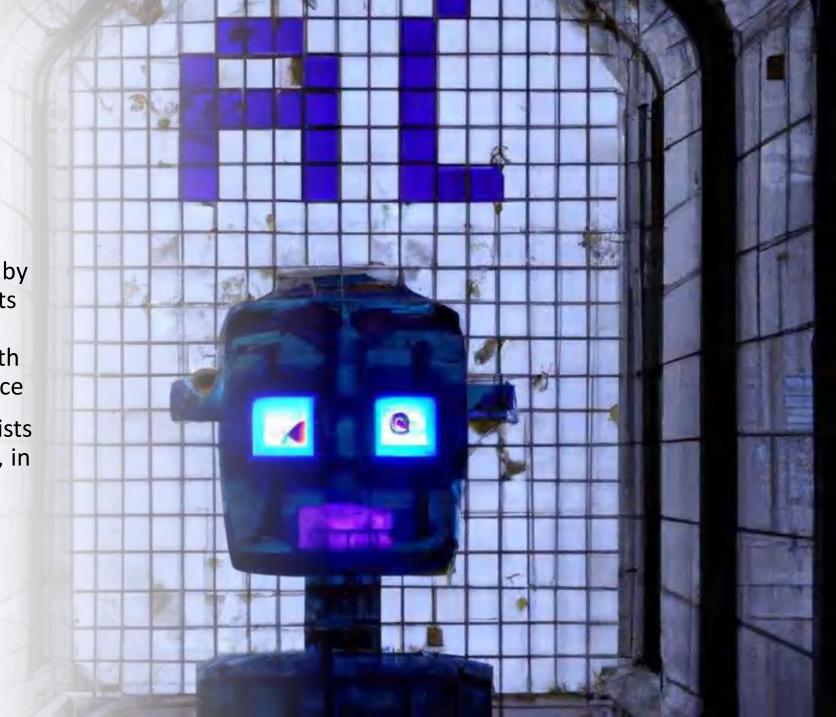


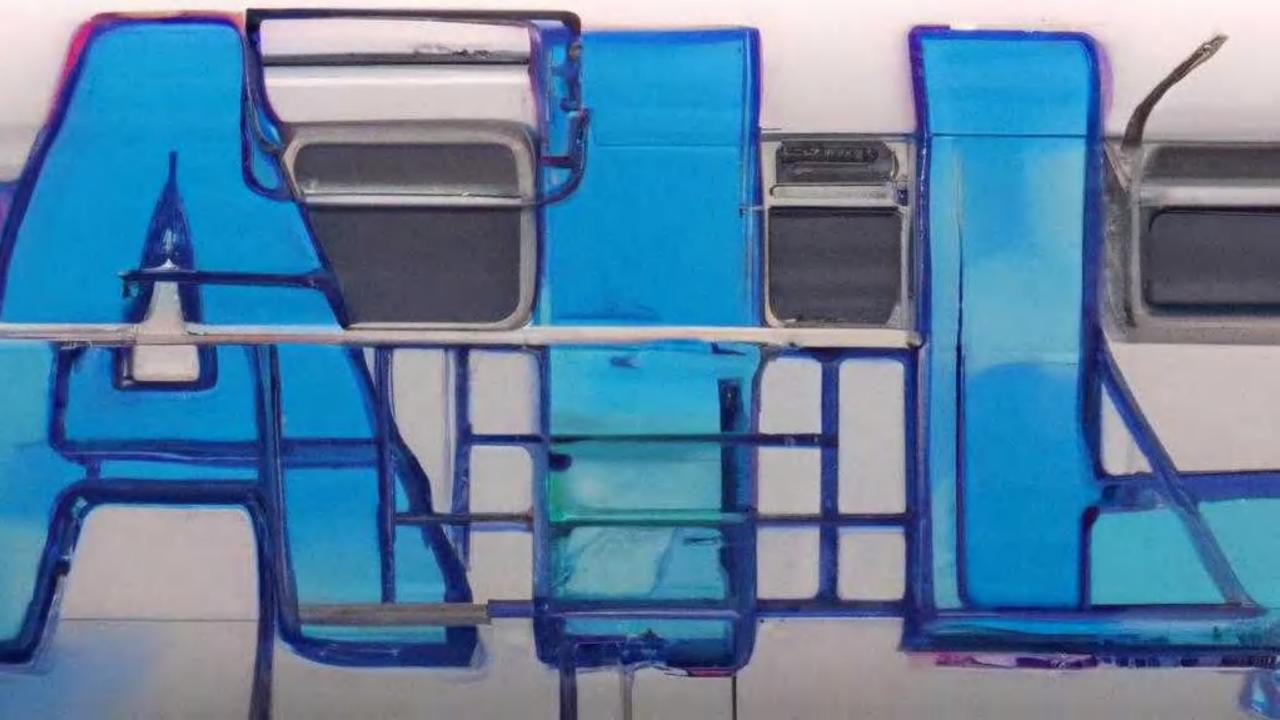
## AI GENERATED ART

- The following images were obtained using the AI-based image generators Deep Dream and DALL E 2 with prompts.
- For my first piece I entered a simple prompt with the words "Graffiti, Resistance, Blue, Woman" and later processed the image until it felt satisfactory. My objective was also to test the generator's response to graffiti and visually compare the outcome with the images I have directly taken in the streets.

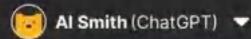
## AI GENERATED ART

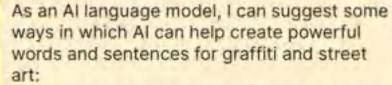
- Later, I combined my findings by doing field research in the streets of Porto, theoretical readings about Graffiti and Street Art, with the notion of Artificial Intelligence
- imagining AI as one of the artists working out there in the streets, in abandoned buildings, painting graffiti on trains etc., and the possible works it could create in the role of a street artist











- Natural Language Processing: Al-powered natural language processing can analyze the meanings and connotations of different words and phrases in various languages. This can help graffiti artists create powerful and provocative messages that resonate with their intended audience.
- 2. Image Recognition: Al-powered image recognition can help graffiti artists create art that is more visually appealing and unique. By analyzing existing graffiti, street art, and other works of art, Al can suggest new techniques and styles to artists and help them create more original pieces.
- Text-to-Speech: Al-powered text-tospeech technology allows graffiti artists to create audio messages that accompany their artwork. This can help engage people who are visually impaired or those who may not understand the written message.
- 4. Social Media Interaction: Al can help graffiti artists to interact with their audience on social media platforms. By analyzing the feedback from their followers, Al-powered tools can help artists develop new ideas and create more meaningful messages.

## **DIALOGUES WITH AI**

- I started talking to ChatGPT about research-related questions.
- Here are some samples from the conversations I was having with ChatGPT about graffiti, the use of robotic systems in creating art, etc.

## **INTERVIEW WITH AI**

(In this interview I was asking AI a number of questions about itself.)

 User (LP): What are the benefits of using AI in Street Art and graffiti?

#### Robot:

#### Al can be used to:

- generate new and unique designs for street art and graffiti, which can be a valuable tool for artists looking to push their creativity.
- quickly produce large-scale artworks, potentially increasing productivity and efficiency for artists.
- predict optimal locations for street art installations, allowing artists to maximize exposure and impact.

## user: What are the risks of using AI in Street Art and graffiti?

- Al-generated designs may lack the human touch and emotional resonance that many people associate with street art and graffiti. This could lead to a loss of authenticity and appeal for some audiences.
- The use of AI in street art and graffiti could contribute to the further commercialization and commodification of these art forms, potentially leading to the displacement of local, community-driven art scenes in favor of corporate interests.
- There is also the risk of over-reliance on Al-generated designs, which could stifle creative thinking and experimentation

#### user: What are the collaboration and co-creation possibilities with AI in making Street Art and graffiti?

#### Al can be used to:

- generate and optimize street art designs based on certain criteria and parameters set by the artist or collaborators.
- create interactive street art installations that respond to inputs from the environment or the audience.
- help automate the process of creating stencils or other design elements, which can speed up production times for larger projects.
- analyze public sentiment and gather feedback on street art installations, which can help artists better understand and respond to their audience.
- enhance and augment traditional street art techniques, such as by creating projection mapping installations or adding virtual elements to physical artwork.

## INTERVIEW WITH MARK AMERIKA

The actual interview with digital artist Mark Amerika, Founding Director, Intermedia Art, Writing and Performance, University of Colorado Boulder, was a face-to-face conversation and took place on May 1, 2023, in Porto.

Here are the main ideas.

Al can be trained to become the voice of the artist operating it, thus, according to Mark Amerika, becoming ACI – Artificial Creative Intelligence.

The scope and the nature of the world we can create with the help of AI, using access to a repository of immense knowledge (AI) in the process, highly depends on the way we use the language tools in the prompts entered.

Creating AI-assisted lists and using algorithms may add structure to the art-making process and help to enter the state of psychic automatism, also known as the "Zone".

## SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

POSSIBILITIES TO USE AI, ACI, AND ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGIES IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GRAFFITI, STREET ART, AND PUBLIC ART

In the article I use qualitative research methodology and an ethnographic approach to research how the art we meet in the urban space, like Graffiti and Street Art, could benefit from the use of ChatGPT and other types of Artificial Intelligence in different stages of content creation and also vice versa, or on the contrary, doing so would put at risk the inherent resistance nature of these art forms and diminish the general level of creativity in the urban space in the future.

The study delves into the reciprocal ties between these seemingly distinct fields, one marked by the imprint of the highly controlled and sometimes "conformist" Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the other being raw outbursts of energy witnessed in the streets, a clear manifesto of freedom and right to expression of radical views, voiced by Street artists and Graffiti artists.

# POSTER BASED ON THE SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

## POSSIBILITIES TO USE AI, ACI, AND ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGIES IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GRAFFITI, STREET ART, AND PUBLIC ART

#### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the article was to find out, whether Street Art and Graffiti could visually and conceptually benefit, if the artists and writers used ChatGPT and other types of AI in all stages of content creation in the urban space or, on the contrary, doing so would put at risk the inherent resistance nature of these art forms and diminish the general level of creativity in the urban space in the future. *Keywords:* AI, Street Art, Social Resistance, Participatory Art, ChatGPT

#### **METHODS**

- ✓ Qualitative research methodology
- ✓ Ethnographic approach
- ✓ Face-to face-interview with Mark Amerika
- ✓ Visual Analysis

#### and

✓ Content creation using Chat GPT, DALL E 2

Image Generator, and Dream Generator merging graffiti and street art concepts with AI technologies (Fig. 1-3)

## OBJECTIVE: TO ANALYSE THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF USING AI IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS





#### **RESULTS**



The in-depth interview with vanguard digital artist Mark Amerika about the role of AI in the creative process provided a deeper insight into the possibilities to train AI, as well as a closer reflection on the importance of prompt engineering. If people use AI image generators for creative purposes in a basic way and do not train the technologies, the results they obtain might be a rip-off of other people's work instead of something new (Amerika, 2023).

#### **DISCUSSION**

Although AI is applied in different fields and the literature shows various possibilities to use it, the "Why?" question has not been asked enough. It is important to have clear goals and objectives to be able to use the technology consciously. How far the AI can be trained to become "more human" and how far the human potential may be expanded by the use of AI and machine technology? There are not enough works in literature, so far, attempting to find the answers. It is important to use the technologies creatively.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The question for future is: "Where should creativity go?

AI needs to be rigorously and carefully trained to avoid a global disaster and loss of creativity.

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# NEXT

### **FURTHER PLANS**

## NEXT VISUAL ESSAY: FROM BOLHAO TO MATOSINHOS SUL

- I have developed a conceptual day route for graffiti research involving getting off at each subway station on the route from Bolhao (where the tourists gather) to Matosinhos Sul, taking photos of the Street Art in the vicinity for 15 minutes (the time interval between trains on weekends), hopping on the next train and going one stop further.
- The Essay will contain the name of each Station and an image and/or text associated with that location.
- The idea is based on the assumption that to experience Street Art it is necessary to feel the speed at which these works were created and get a sense of adventure associated with the process



## QUESTIONS TO RESOLVE

- Digital organising of the data (images, texts) and the outcomes (visual essays, glossary, street vocabulary etc)
- Promotion and publishing possibilities of PORTOSCRIPT: FIND YOUR NORTH

### **ACADEMIC PLANS**

- Writing a Master's Thesis involving replicating parts of the research process (collecting material for an Image Bank, 365 POST-ITS + translations, Visual Essays, Graffiti Terminology, Urban Dictionary) with Latvian graffiti in Riga and Jūrmala and then comparing the findings and results of the work done in Portugal and in Latvia.
- Developing a visual and linguistic data basis/webpage for the collected samples within the process.
- Further experiments with using Al.

## OTHER POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

- Workshops based on Portoscript, using the cards for urban walks, writing and art-making
- Further development of the game
- Making an Artist Book, including the Post-its, Essays,
   Glossary, Dictionary, Cards and other writings
- An exhibition based on the material
- A performative spoken word lecture using the structure and vocabulary of the cards

### CONCLUSION

The future city is meant for people seeking diverse experiences. With all the principal workload entrusted to AI and robotic technologies we should seek ways to manifest our creativity.

Graffiti and Street Art is one way to do that.

The urban space is a locus, where we can share knowledge and experience and interact with other people. #Portoscript concept offers such a possibility for anybody who is even mildly interested in taking some risk and venturing in urban adventures.

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