

Street Art in Lisbon

Natan Souza - Brasil

Bachelor of Business Administration from the University Center of Anápolis, Specialist in Creative Processes and Products from the Federal University of Goiás and Specialist in Creative Industries and Cultures: Management and Strategies from the University of Lisbon and the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon.

Lisbon has a wide collection of artworks (paintings, engravings, monuments etc) scattered throughout its territory. These artworks range from the great golden Portuguese years to contemporary works and, among the exhibition places, there are not only museums, but also can be found in squares, commercial and residential buildings, streets and even metro and train stations.

In the city there is a meeting between the recent and the antique, the new and the old, the traditional and the contemporary. There are space for everyone! According to TimeOut portal, “Lisboa continua a ser coberta com o papel de parede mais cool: a arte urbana”.

For Blanchè (2015, p. 33), urban art or street art:

Consists of self-authorized pictures, characters, and forms created in or applied to surfaces in the urban space that intentionally seek communication with a larger circle of people. Street Art is done in a performative and often site-specific, ephemeral, and participatory way.

In addition, as Blanchè in agreement with Peter Bengtson in his book “The Street Art World” (2014), the term is constantly being negotiated regarding its concepts and also its approach. For him, the term “Street Art cannot be defined conclusively since what it encompasses is constantly being negotiated.” However, Blanchè (2015, p. 34) also underscores the importance of the dialogue between ‘Street’ and ‘Art’. It refers to what is considered as the unofficial, the unsolicited and also as the unauthorized.

The dialogue between the antonyms “street” and “art” is, overall (although sometimes in a destructive way) constructive. Street Art can refer to everyday phenomena on the “street” that can be perceived as “art,” whether or not they are intended as such.

Extrapolating the field of concepts, urban art also has value in the economics, given its potential to attract tourists and promote the city globally. For Barbedo (2018) in a newspaper published in the Jornal Expresso “pode ajudar a remover a imagem negativa de uma área urbana ao mesmo tempo que atrai lojas, cafés e restaurantes, o que, por sua vez, valoriza os bairros e cativa novos moradores”.



Figure 1: Mural Marielle Franco, Vhills

Source: <https://bit.ly/2m2p9MJ>



Figure 2: Pichi&Avo

Source: <https://bit.ly/2m2p9MJ>



Figure 3: Universal Personhood, Shepard Fairey - Vhils Collab
Source: <https://bit.ly/2m2p9MJ>

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