

Should art be useful? Are we tired of beautiful paintings and do we think that artists should contribute more directly to a better world?

Does holding up a mirror to society no longer suffice?

Is decisive action needed? Should we fight societal deterioration?

It is said that graffiti, economic instability and social discontent are intricately connected, and that keeping the environment clean and removing graffiti will prevent further decay.

But isn't that merely treating the symptoms, while the underlying causes are not adressed?

Whose side is the artist on anyway?































































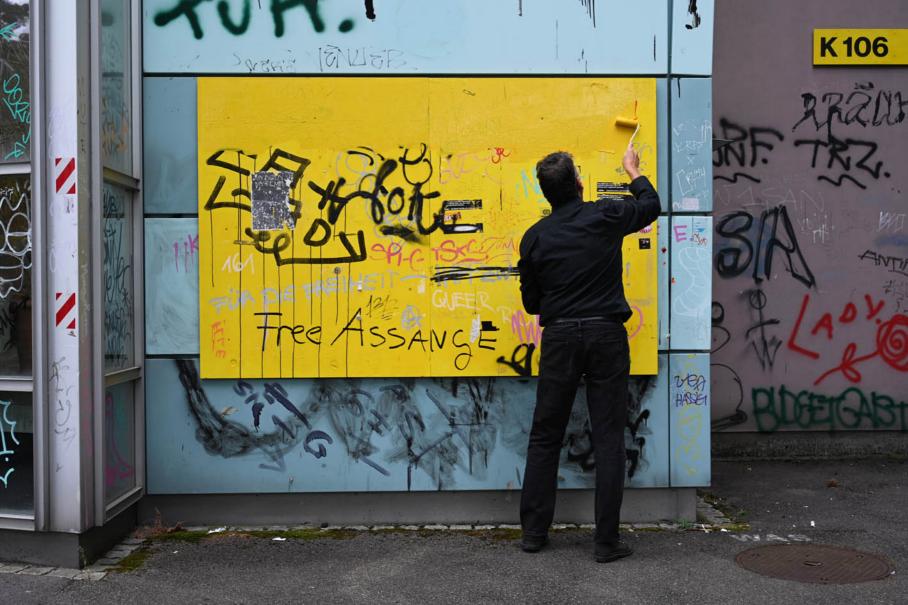




























In sociology, the «broken window theory» asserts that markers of urban disorder, such as graffiti and broken windows, encourage further disorder and misbehaviour. If a broken window is left unattended, then very quickly other vandalism occurs as well. As a result, the residents and businesses will feel less safe and property values, business growth and tourism will decline. Yet by repairing the broken window and removing graffiti immediately, further decline is avoided.

or

Rather than being a senseless destruction of property, graffiti is an inherently democratic form of communication. It allows anyone with a pen or spray can to convey their message, whether it is activists expressing their political discontent or disadvantaged youth writing their name all over an alienating metropolis that systematically marginalised them. Graffiti is a tool for expressing yourself, reaching an audience, and reclaiming the city. It is a way for people to garner a sense of belonging.