

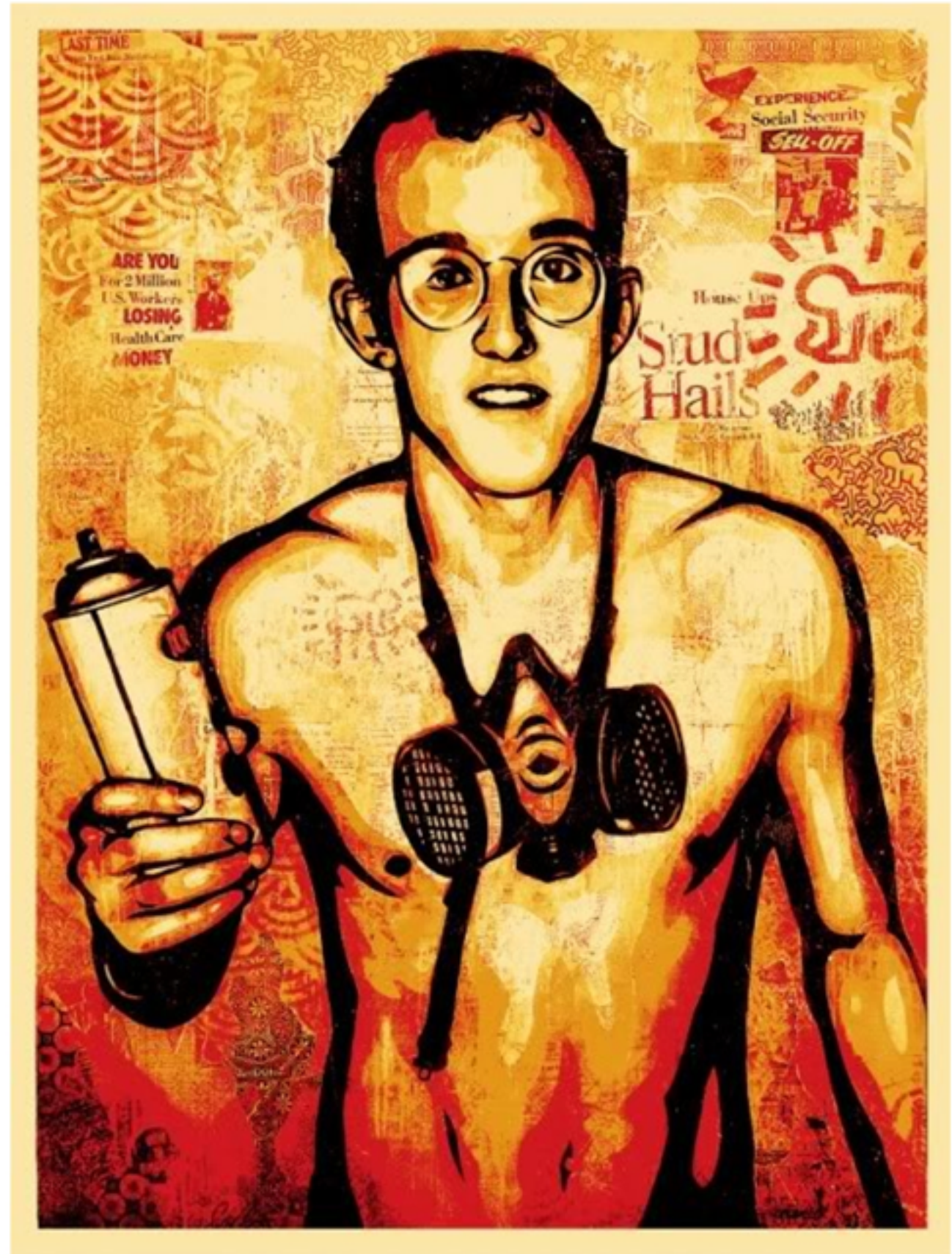
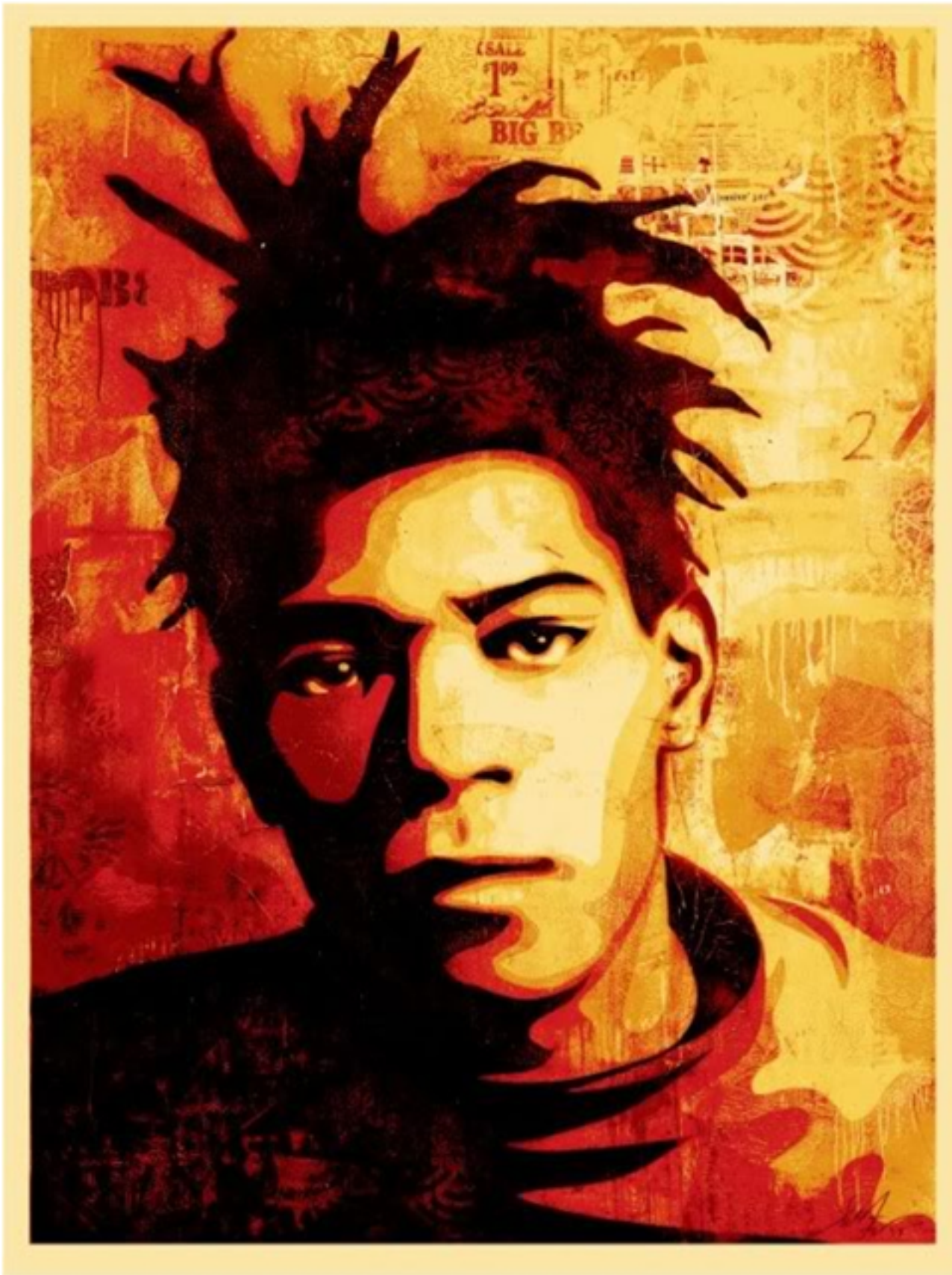
KWAKU OPOKU

PRIMARY SOURCES

A person is seen from behind, wearing a red leather jacket with various graffiti tags and drawings. They are looking up at a large, spherical, glowing light fixture made of many small circles, resembling a bubble or a cluster of lights. The background shows a modern interior with curved wooden panels and warm lighting.

"THE SPRAY PAINT
CAN ADDED THE MOST
VARIETY TO GRAFFITI,
BUT IT WASN'T THE
GATEWAY"

SIGNIFICANCE



SOME PROPONENTS IN NYC



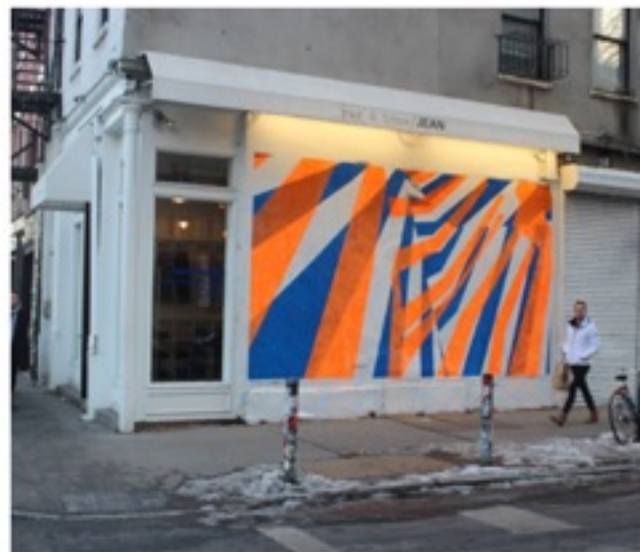
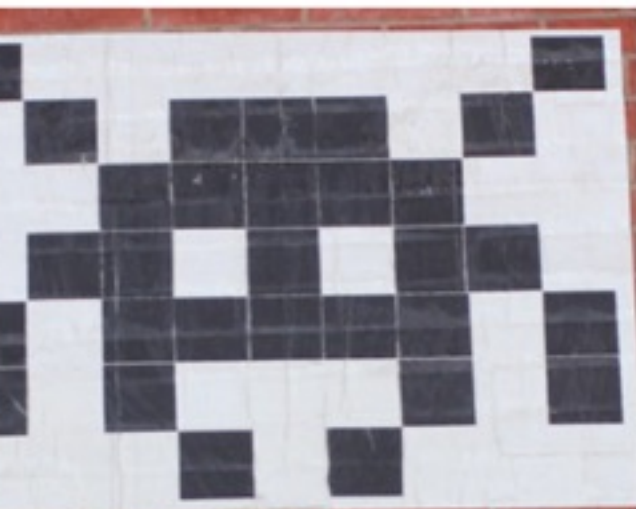
MICROWAVE & VIDEO X-SISTANCE
"BIG-MAC" CERTIFICATE"
FOR X-MAS!!!
SAMO@!!!

SAMO@ DOES
NOT CAUSE
CANCER
IN LABORATORY
ANIMALS!!!

39

39
STEIN

SAMO@
FOR THE
SO-CALLED
AVANT.
GARDE



SoHo



**CATHERINE McNEIL
IN JEANS 16**



A JOHAN LINDBERG

BL

237 LAFAYE
(SPRING & FALL)

DNI

BLKDNW.COM



Juliette
&
Miguel
Eat me



FART
SOCK!

DEARL
DANNIT





muralo[®]

QUALITY PAINT

**ALLIED BUILDERS
HARDWARE**

OPTIONAL SOURCE

MID MANHATTAN IMAGE LIBRARY

BUTTON TO
SECRET PASSAGE
PRESS

#20,412 (©1987)

NEW WAVE



100%



PROTOTYPE

WEBSITE

[HTTP://OWURAOPOKU.WIX.COM/
STREETGALLERY](http://owuraopoku.wix.com/streetgallery)

INTERVIEW WITH RTQLT TRANSCRIBED

KWAKU: WHAT DO YOU DEFINE AS COMMUNITY?

RTQLT: I THINK IT'S A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR GOALS AND AIMS, WHO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER AND HELP EACH OTHER ATTAIN THEIR GOALS.

K: WHAT COMMUNITY DO YOU BELONG TO?

R: THE GRAFFITI COMMUNITY.

K: WHY?

R: I JUST FEEL AT HOME WHEN I'M WITH MY FELLOW GRAFFITI ARTISTS, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL USUALLY INTERESTED IN THE SAME GOALS AND ALWAYS HOPE TO ATTAIN THE SAME THINGS. WE'VE ALSO GOT EACH OTHER'S BACKS. THATS PRETTY COOL TO ME.

K: WOULD YOU STILL DO GRAFFITI IF IT WAS LEGALIZED?

R: HONESTLY IF GRAFFITI WAS LEGALIZED I DON'T THINK I'D BE DOING THIS RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE FOR ME IT'S A WAY FOR ME TO LIKE EXPRESS MYSELF FREELY.

AND ALSO LIKE THE ADVENTURES OF DOING GRAFFITI ARE VERY INTENSE, SCALING OF WALLS AND ALL OF THOSE THINGS ADD UP TO THE WHOLE VIBE OF DOING GRAFFITI. I JUST FEEL LIKE HOMIES THINK WE BAD OR SOMETHING. I'M NEVER GONNA TAG A CHURCH, THATS JUST OUT RIGHT DISRESPECTFUL, LIKE YOU SAID. I JUST THINK GRAFFITI STANDS AS MAJOR PLATFORM FOR HOW I EXPRESS MYSELF.

K: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?

R: NO, BUT I KNOW A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE. THEY WEREN'T BEHIND BARS FOR LONG THOUGH. THEY GOT GOT FINED.

K: HOW DID YOU GET INTO GRAFFITI?

R: LIKE I SAID IT JUST SERVED AS A WAY FOR ME TO EXPRESS MYSELF, AND THAT FEELING ONLY CAME WHEN DECIDED TO USE WALLS AS A MEANS FOR ME TO GET MY OTHER WORK OUT THERE. SO THOSE LITTLE STICKERS THAT I MAKE, 'AFROBOTS' JUST BECAME A THING OUT HERE IN PHILLY AND IN SOME PLACES IN MANHATTAN. I THOUGHT THAT WAS COOL SO I CONTINUED.

K: IS FUNDING AN ISSUE TO YOU?

R: NO NOT REALLY.

K: HOW OFTEN DO YOU TAG WALLS

R: I DON'T REALLY KEEP TRACK BECAUSE I TAG WALLS WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT. BUT I CAN TELL YOU, I DON'T DO IT A LOT BECAUSE I ALSO WORK ON OTHER PIECES.

RTQLT HAD TO LEAVE SO I DID THE REST OF THE INTERVIEW OVER THE PHONE, AND I DIDN'T TRANSCRIBE THAT.

GRAFFITI INCIDENTS

Total Closed Incidents: 10,788

■ 1 - 2 ■ 3 - 5 ■ 6 - 10 ■ 11 - 20 ■ 21 - 70

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

