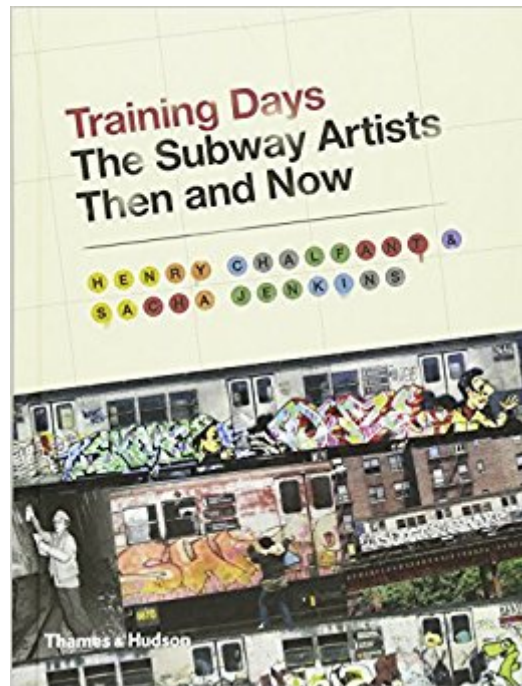




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Training Days: The Subway Artists Then And Now



Synopsis

Authentic first-hand person accounts from the graffiti artists whose creative genius fueled the movement from its beginning in late 1970s and early 1980s New York. Late 1970s New York City was bankrupt and its streets dirty and dangerous. But the city had a wild, raw energy that made it the crucible for the birth of rap culture and graffiti. Graffiti writers worked in extremely tough conditions: uncollected garbage, darkness, cramped spaces, and the constant threat of police raids, assault by security staff and attacks by rival crews. It was not unlike practicing performance art in a war zone. Yet during the fertile years of the late 1970s and 1980s they evolved their art from stylized signatures to full-blown Technicolor dreamscapes. Henry Chalfant created panoramic images of painted trains by photographing overlapping shots along the train's length. It took time to earn the writers' trust and respect, but Chalfant became their revered confidant and with Tony Silver went on to produce the classic documentary film *Style Wars* (1983). Through a series of interviews conducted by Sacha Jenkins, we hear the voices of these characters of old New York. Quite a few of the original writers are no longer with us, but those who have survived have continued to push the envelope as artists and individuals in a new millennium. The stories they tell, included here alongside iconic, raw photographs of their work, will enthrall graffiti fans everywhere. 138 illustrations, 133 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating primer on graffiti writers and culture. Readers interested in the birth of hip-hop, urban culture, or modern art will find this work especially engrossing . . . The ultimate fascination lies in the artists' dissection and analyses of their own styles and those of their

contemporaries. Readers may be surprised by the careful thought and planning that the execution of each piece entailed. — Library Journal — “Presents the first-person accounts of 12 infamous graffiti writers of the 1970s. — Fast Co.Design — “With panoramic photographs by Henry Chalfant, a producer of the 1983 documentary Style Wars, and first-person accounts captured by former graffiti artist Sacha Jenkins, Training Days opens a window onto the hidden practice of these artists. — Public Art Review — “What comes across most clearly is the power of the human spirit. In a volume only six inches by eight inches, photographs add flavor but, unlike most graffiti books, the words dominate. — Rock & Rap Confidential

Henry Chalfant is a photographer and videographer most notable for his work on graffiti, breakdance, and hip-hop culture. Sacha Jenkins is a former New York graffiti writer turned journalist. He is the co-founder of the seminal hip hop magazine ego trip as well as coauthor of the bestselling authorized biography of Eminem, The Way I Am.

My life in NYC

A lot of in depth history about the individual graffiti writers. I was expecting more larger quality photos of the art work.

Another great book by Henry Chalfant, and Sacha Jenkins. There are some superbly told, and never before stories in here by some great writers. This book is 101% RTW approved!!

Nice stories as a follow up to Subway Art and Spraycan Art

Talk about bringing back the old days...Wish i could go back in time and relive the subway train era all over again

Awesome!

I've read much of the Cooper/Chalfant oeuvre, but this is my favorite--a series of first-hand accounts by NYC graffiti artists that were active in the late 1970s/early 1980s, accompanied by examples of their works from Henry Chalfant's archives. Added bonus: a quality hardcover edition at a low price.

Because of the subject matter, I expected more photography and better updates on the writers from the past. This is not a very detailed "where are they now" book. It is more based on old stories of crews and individuals. Not a greatly entertaining read for being so copy heavy.

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