



FINDING PUBLIC ART IN THE D

A WAYNE STATE STUDENT COLLABORATIVE WORK

FOREWORD

Mural art has been around in the city of Detroit for decades...starting back in 1932 when Ford Motor Company commissioned Diego Rivera to paint the “City of Industry” murals for the Detroit Institute of Arts to improve worker relations. It wasn’t until the 1980’s that outdoor graffiti art took hold in the city though, and this is when the magic really began.

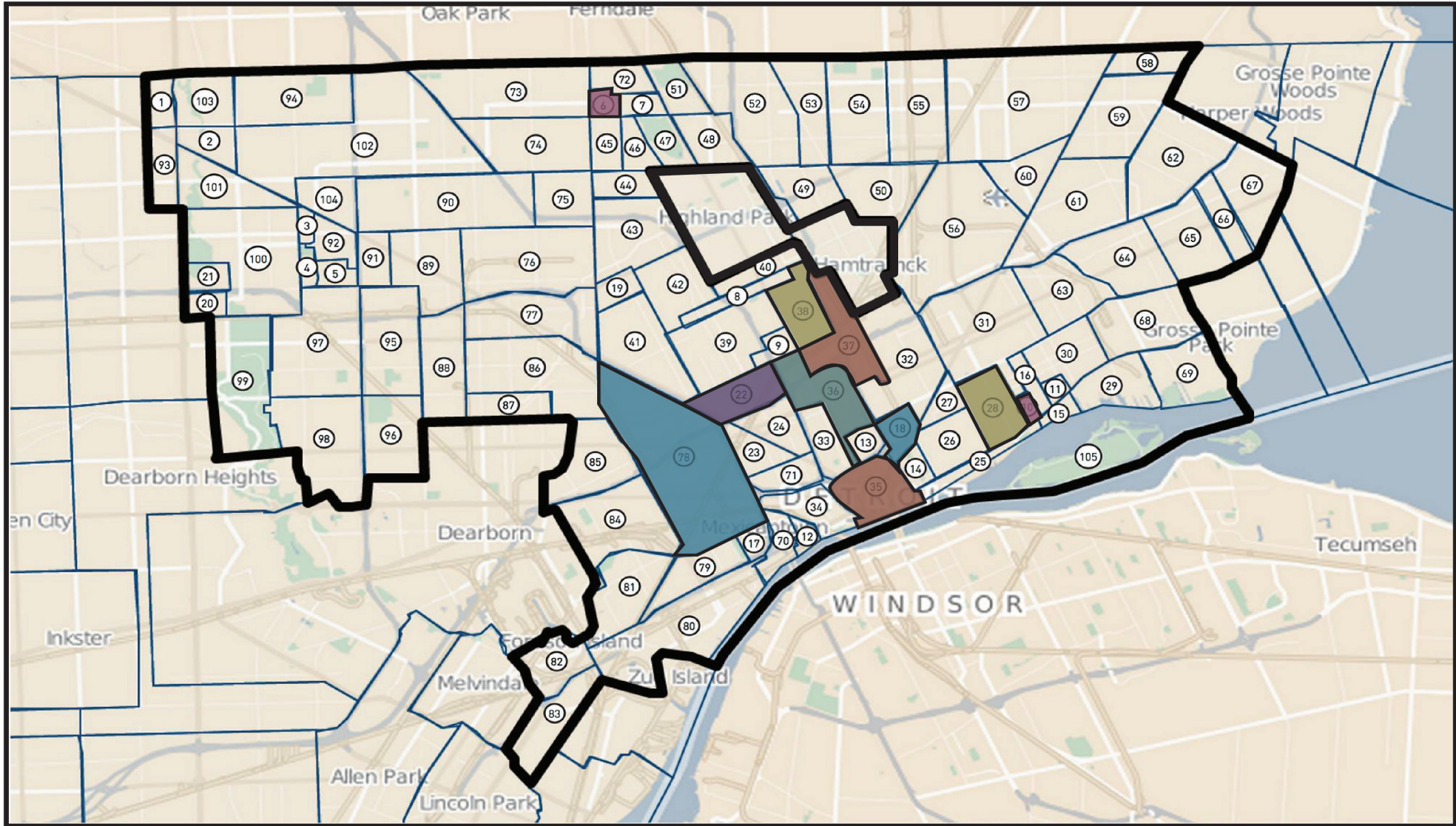
What started as something restricted, viewed more as vandalism than art, on abandoned and crumbling buildings, done in secret...a tag here, a mural there...turf wars, by a handful of emerging young artists such as Fel3000ft and influenced by the street art scene happening in the subway of New York City, Detroit’s street art landscape emerged, flourished and grew.

When the city declared bankruptcy in 2013, the lure of abandoned spaces and walls, a city with it’s back up against the wall was a lure for street artists from all over the world. They saw not a city in ruin, but endless possibilities. The city was poised for a comeback. In 2014, Mayor Duggan declared war on the “vandalism” in an effort to clean up the city. In a short time, over 50,000 graffiti tags were removed.

This sparked what would indeed be a comeback for public art in the city. Instead of becoming something restricted, artists found ways to spread authorized art. What was once considered taboo, vandalism, an act done in secret, was now legitimate commissioned work. The biggest proponent for the comeback was artist Jesse Cory, who ran an art gallery in Eastern Market and saw how art played a significant role in the revitalization of a neighborhood when he sponsored a successful art festival in Honolulu. Cory started the art festival Murals in the Market in 2015 and invited artists to participate each year, splitting participants between local and out of town artists.

Murals in the Market shined a spotlight on Detroit and the art world, investors and business people took note. Hip businesses such as breweries and juice bars moved in, sparking new life to not just downtown, but spreading outward into all of Detroit’s neighborhoods. The only fear is that those who stood by Detroit when it was down will be priced out of neighborhoods due to the new popularity. It is the hope that the art that brought the spark back to the city will continue to be accessible and enjoyed by all who view it.

The artwork you see in these pages are compiled and chosen by the Typography students of Saima Mohammed at Wayne State University. The artwork in this book spreads messages of inclusion, hope, a sense of community, following your dreams, and not keeping a good city down.



FEATURED ARTWORK NEIGHBORHOOD ZONES

6. SHERWOOD FOREST
 10. WEST VILLAGE
 18. EASTERN MARKET
 22. NW GOLDBERG

28. ISLANDVIEW
 35. DOWNTOWN
 36. MIDTOWN
 37. MILWAUKEE JUNCTION

38. NORTH END
 78. SOUTHWEST

FEATURED ARTWORK BY NEIGHBORHOOD



SHERWOOD FOREST

6-7 "STATIC" - IJANIA CORTEZ, 19344 LIVERNOIS



WEST VILLAGE

8-9 "UNTITLED" - LOUISE (QUIZI) JONES, 1175 PARKER



EASTERN MARKET

10-11 "LIFE IS GROWTH" - DAVID (MEGGS) HOOKE, 2934 RUSSELL ST.

12-13 "HAPPY PRODUCE" - KEVIN LYONS, 2712 RIOPELLE

14-15 "RAP GOD MURAL" - MICHAEL VASQUEZ AND FELIX PEREZ, 2735 RUSSELL ST.

16-17 "CROSS POLLINATING" - LOUISE (QUIZI) JONES, AND MICHELLE TANGUAY, 1462 WILKINS ST.

18-19 "UNTITLED" - NICK PINZARA



NW GOLDBERG (GRAND RIVER CREATIVE CORRIDOR)

20-21 "BISHOP" - RICH MALT, 6017 GRAND RIVER AVE



ISLANDVIEW

22-23 "THE SPIRIT" - WALEED JOHNSON, 7930 MACK AVENUE

24-25 "DETROIT INNOVATION" - JAKE DYWER, 8125 MACK AVENUE



DOWNTOWN

26-27 "STEVIE WONDER MURAL" - RICHARD WILSON, 350 MADISON ST.



MIDTOWN

28-29 "CHASE YOUR WHAT IF" - FEL3000FT, 456 CHARLOTTE ST.

30-31 "THE HOP CAT TIGER" - HOBIE SOLOMON, 4265 WOODWARD



MILWAUKEE JUNCTION

32-33 "PATH OF GIANTS" - SYDNEY G. JAMES, 449 E. MILWAUKEE

34-35 "THE DETROIT CHIMERA" - HOBIE SOLOMON, 1600 CLAY ST.



NORTH END (BLKOUT WALLS)

36-37 "UNTITLED" - BIRDCAP, 952 CLAY ST.

38-39 "UNTITLED" - SENTROCK, 8717 OAKLAND AVE.



SOUTHWEST

40-41 "DEITY OF SOUTHWEST DETROIT" - VICTOR "MARKA" QUINONEZ, 1312 SPRINGWELLS

"STATIC" - IJARIA CORTEZ



19344 LIVERNOIS



The mural that I chose was titled Static. Painted by Ijania Cortez this is a mural of the black cartoon character static shock. This shows a great pose of static shock in action. Ijania and a group of other black artists tour the U.S painting these superhero murals all over. I wasn't old enough to be able to enjoy the static shock series, but I would always see pictures of the character on the internet. The character can be compared to Miles Morales (The black Hispanic Spiderman). I have always been fond of superheroes ever since I was a kid, and black superheroes don't exactly get the recognition that they deserve. It's wonderful that they can finally have light shined upon them.

WEST VILLAGE

"UNTITLED" - LOUISE (OUIZI) JONES,





1175 PARKER



This mural, located in The West Village of Detroit and completed in 2014, is one of many botanical installation pieces done by Louise Jones, also known as Ouizi. Her murals can be found across many states, and they incorporate the flora and fauna of their location. The style of her work is from her background in drawing and printmaking. Born and raised in California, she now is based out of Detroit and has covered a variety of Detroit buildings, alleys, and bridges with her vibrant artwork. Her work has also been featured in a range of museums including the Smithsonian. Her art is very personal, the plant and animal themes being inspired from her childhood. “It also lights up a space. Like an alley that’s normally kind of dank and dark, it gives it a little extra love.”



EASTERN MARKET

"LIFE IS GROWTH" - DAVID (MEGGS) HOOKE





2934 RUSSELL ST.



David 'Meggs' Hooke is one of Australia's most progressive and committed street artists. In 2016 he was commissioned to create Life is Growth for the launch of the annual Murals in the Market festival in Detroit. Meggs is famous for his unique, expressive, and energetic art style and uses references to pop-culture, the natural world, and socio-cultural issues to create his work. Life is Growth was created to represent the hands of labor and community unity. Additionally, it pays homage to the Eastern Market's fundamental role in Detroit's history. It is located off Russel Street on the Eastern Market Office Building.



EASTERN MARKET

"HAPPY PRODUCE" - KEVIN LYONS





2712 RIOPELLE



Kevin Lyons is an artist from Brooklyn, New York that has traveled to various places such as Tokyo, Paris, Milan, and Detroit to create his murals. In 2018, he was commissioned to paint a mural for the “Murals in the Market” project. This project was started to create a visual impact and to bring some color to the surrounding areas of Detroit. Kevin Lyons’ addition to this project with his piece “Untitled (Happy Produce)” definitely contributes to the colorful aspect that they were looking for. His pieces are well known for containing his signature monster illustrations. In this piece, Lyons takes a different approach to his usual monster creations. He instead creates various fruits and vegetables that contain the same personality as his monsters do, as well as a donut and basketball. Due to the mural being located on Riopelle Street near the Eastern Markets Produce, the piece was influenced by the various fruits and vegetables you can get around Eastern Market. Lyon also added a few small details, such as Detroit Tigers hats on the donut and basketball, to help connect his piece back to the city. Kevin Lyons has also worked with various brands such as Nike, Adidas, and Converse to spread his colorful and fun designs into the fashion world.

"RAP GOD MURAL" - MICHAEL VASQUEZ & FELIX PEREZ





2735 RUSSELL ST.



This Mural was created in 2017 by two artists Michael Vasquez and Felix Perez. This mural includes Eminem and other figures in Detroit's Hip-Hop community. The mural was inspired by the photograph that was taken by Jeremy Deputat on the set of the Rap God music video that was filmed in the Russell Industrial Center. This project took four to five days to complete, and at least 75 spray cans of paint were used in the mural. While this project was in progress, it was painted in the same week as forty other murals during 'Murals in the Market'. All these figures in the mural represent the city of Detroit. People all over the world look up to these figures and bring its importance to Detroit.





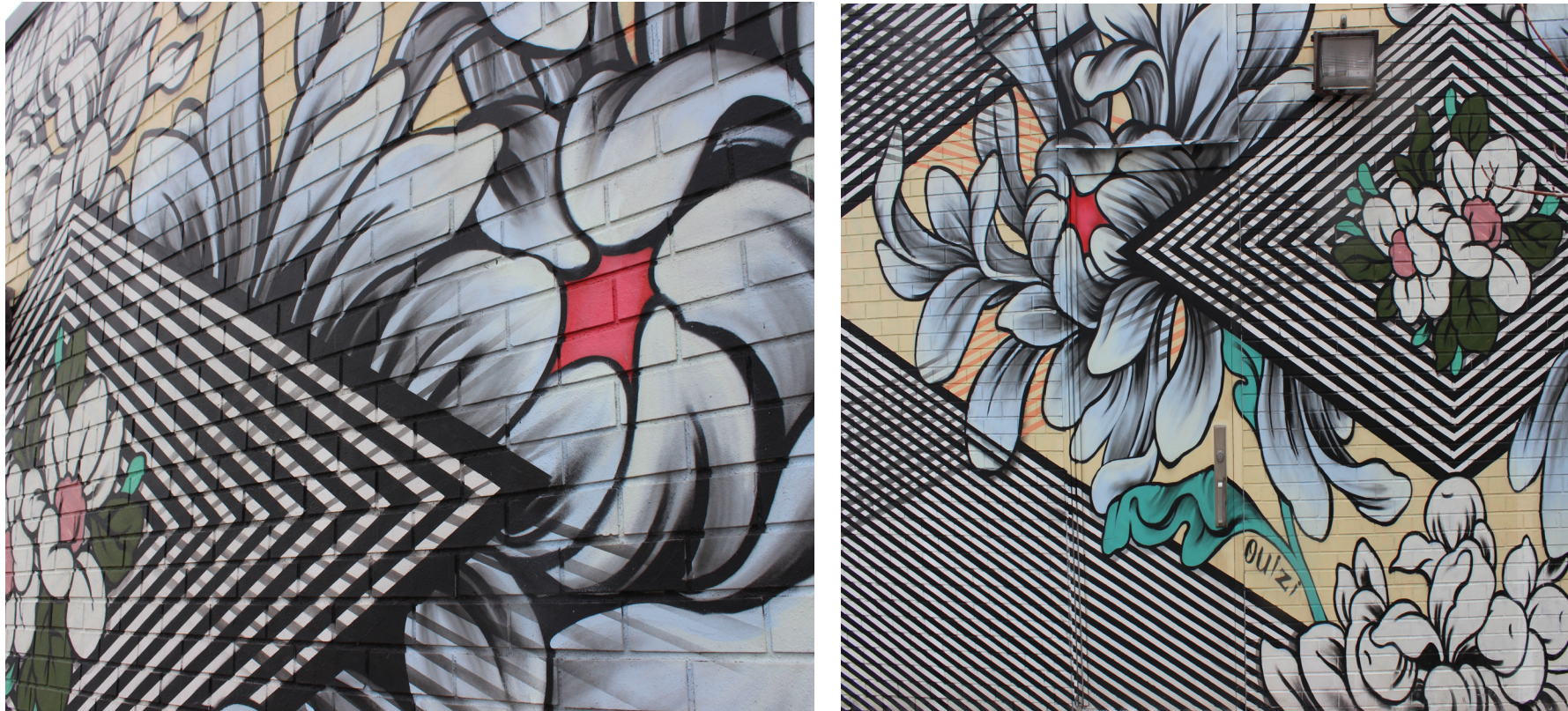
EASTERN MARKET

"CROSS-POLLINATING" - LOUISE (OUIZI) JONES & MICHELLE TANGUAY





1462 WILKINS ST.



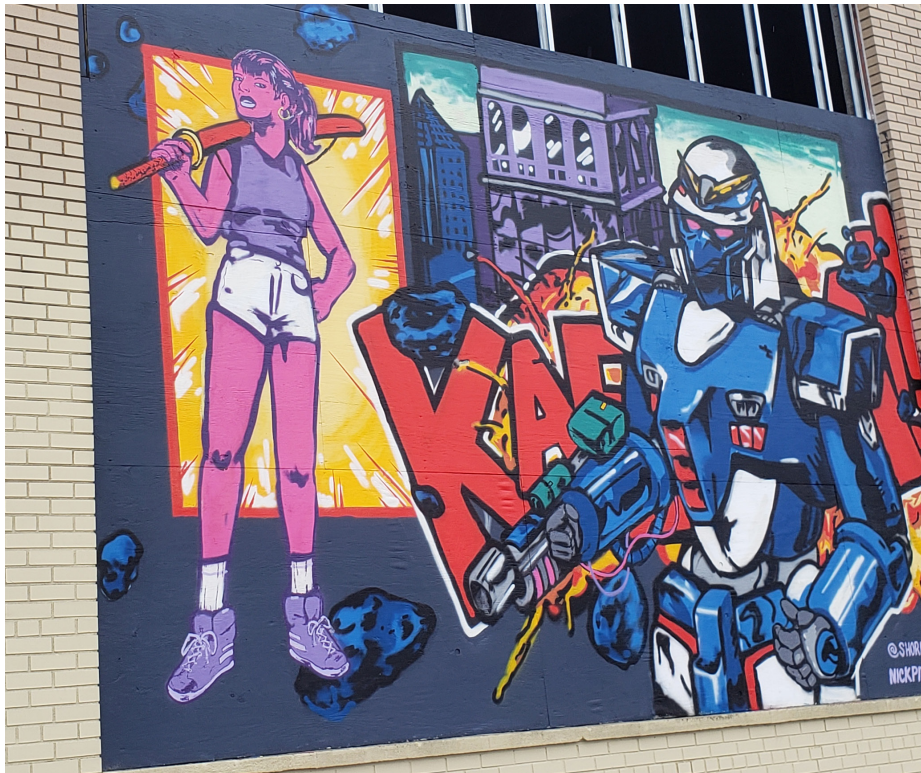
This mural is a collaboration between Louise Jones, who is more commonly known as Ouizi, and Michelle Tanguay in which they both bring their personal styles into the creation of the artwork to create something entirely new and beautiful. The mural was made for Murals in the Market in 2017. This particular mural is not only simply located within Eastern Market in Detroit, but it is also made directly on Eastern Market HQ. Ouizi's style is composed of floral artwork in which she draws many types of flowers with patterns, which can be seen in many other areas in Detroit. Michelle Tanguay's style composes more of geometric designs and repetitive patterns along with other subjects in other sections of the mural. This mural wonderfully showcases both artists' expertise within their own art style and displays unity between two very different styles that work so well together due to their intricate and meticulous use of layering throughout the mural.

"UNTITLED" - RICK PINZANA

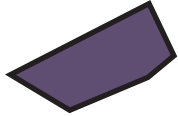




ORLEANS ST.



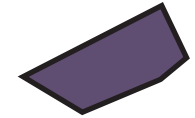
This is a mural done by Nick Pizana. Nick Pizana is an artist from Detroit who taught himself how to paint in his teenage years and through his practice he has developed his own style. His art is normally made of bright colors surrounded by dark graphic lines and large shapes and figures that express action and movement. Pizana had painted the mural as a part of a project called “Mural in the Market”, where many artists from Detroit come together and place their pieces in Detroit’s Eastern Market. The mural that Pizana painted for the project was all done in the style that he’s known for. The mural carries the dark graphic lines and intense shapes along with the colors that really make the entire mural pop.



NW GOLDBERG (GRAND RIVER CREATIVE CORRIDOR)

"BISHOP" - RICK MALT





6017 GRAND RIVER AVE.



Rick Malt is a visual artist from Detroit Michigan who has painted multiple murals around the city, indoor and outdoor. His work mainly focuses on nature, lines and shapes. “Bishop” is a piece that is located on 6017 Grand River Ave. The mural is on the side of a building in a parking lot, right next to a DIY skatepark built by Community Push. Community Push is a local skateboarder funded organization that puts money and incredibly hard work into the skateboard community by adding obstacles and taking care of the DIY park. This park is called Bishop, so it is safe to say the mural commemorates the park. Though the park is full of murals by local artists, “Bishop” stands out among the rest. The skatepark has brought many new people in the community together and given them all a place they can call home.

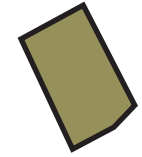




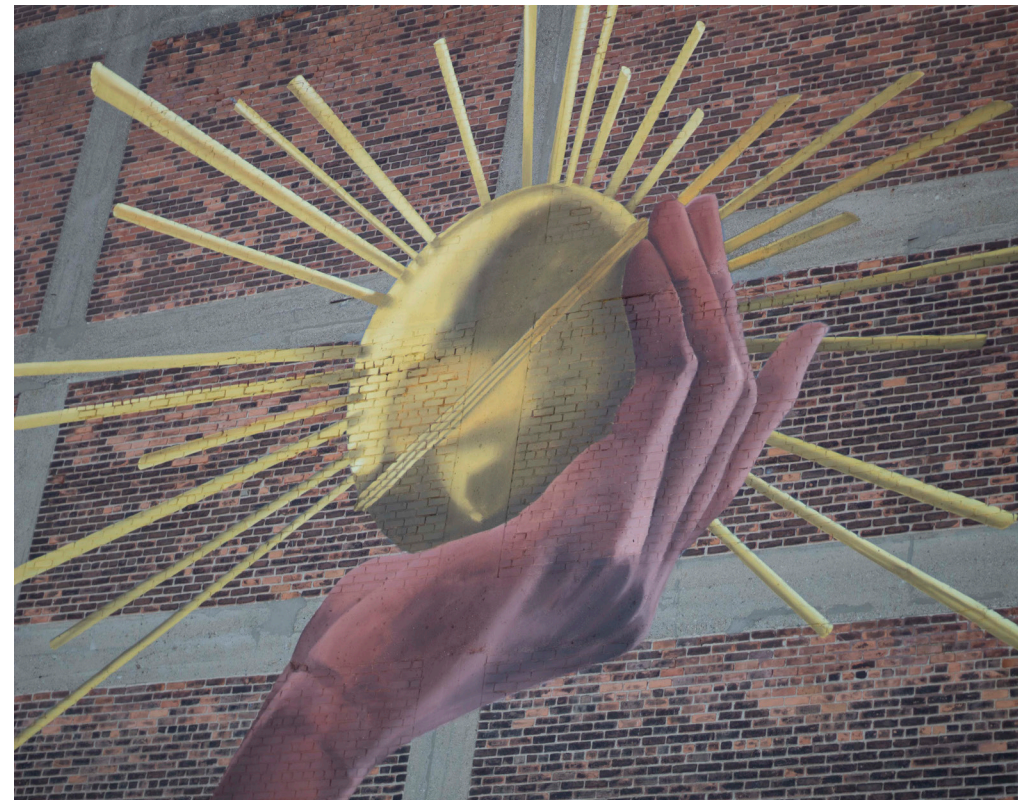
ISLANDVIEW

"THE SPIRIT" - WALEED JOHNSON





449 E. MILWAUKEE ST.



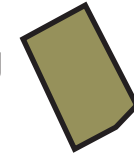
“The Spirit” is a six-story mural that depicts a Black woman holding the gold sun and spires of the famous “Spirit of Detroit” statue with the city’s flag worn as a headwrap. Waleed Johnson is a Detroit-based painter specializing in portraiture. His new six-story mural “The Spirit” is the 100th city-commissioned mural in Detroit as part of the City Walls project. Johnson has been commissioned to create oil paintings and murals in galleries and on walls in places including Chicago, Lansing, and Detroit. Johnson says that people have asked him whether the subject of the mural is Rosa Parks or another famous person. He says that’s a reflection of the power of a piece like this – that a depiction of an everyday Black American can be larger than life.



ISLANDVIEW

"DETROIT INNOVATION" - JAKE DWYER





8125 MACK AVENUE



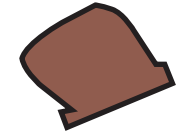
“Detroit Innovation” was made by Jake Dwyer back in 2019, as a part of City Walls program, which was a program created for artists to enhance public space by focusing on an essential urban element: the city wall. The mural shows different eras and innovators of the city; starting from the effort of the first motorized cars, like the Model T which Ford invented, to showcasing Motown artists singing in the 1960s. In the middle of the mural, Dwyer highlights women being an important turning point in the production industry, where they were a major key of the factories during World War 2 and helped carry the war in supplies and armory. On the right, the late J Dilla, a legendary producer, is shown on a turntable. He is known for his luxurious instrumentals which he produced for many other legendary artists and known for his solo discography. Overall, it gives a collage theme where the main title of the mural is in a 1950s/60s font and stylization with a blue tone that covers most of the artwork, except for skin color in some instances.



DOWNTOWN

"STEVIE WONDER MURAL" - RICHARD WILSON



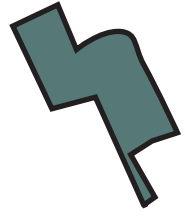


350 MADISON ST.



Richard Wilson painted this mural for his love of Stevie Wonder and music, for the same reason I chose it. Music has had a huge impact, history, and relationship with Detroit. The blues, Motown, and rock and roll are some of the huge genres that have impacted the great city. This mural isn't just a representation of music either, it is a representation of the culture that Detroit holds. Art reflects the culture and the people surrounding it so well and that is why it is important...representation. This mural is just dedicated to the greats the helped into shaping the city, but it is also to the great regular men and woman that built it.

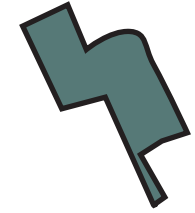




MIDTOWN

"CHASE YOUR WHAT IF" - FEL3000FT

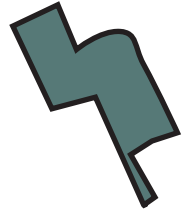




456 CHARLOTTE ST.



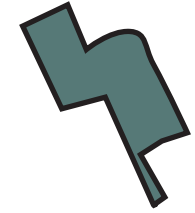
Fel3000ft is a Detroit-based graffiti artist who has been doing graffiti art since 1982, at the age of 11. He is believed to be the second artist to start making graffiti in the Detroit area, starting around the same time as an artist known as “Shades” as documented in Roger Gastman’s book “The History of American Graffiti.” Fel3000ft often will leave a quote or message on his artwork with the belief that “If I tell you a little bit about myself, not just give you a little bit visually, but give you a little bit of my spirit and my soul, then the narrative becomes stronger, and it causes a little bit more conversation between us as people.” The mural commissioned by Founders goes by the motto, “Chase Your What If” and states “We believe that life is about having the audacity and guts to go for it, no matter the consequences. Not to just ask “what if” but to answer it.



MIDTOWN

"THE HOP CAT TIGER" - KOBIE SOLOMON





4265 WOODWARD AVE.



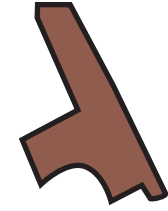
The HopCat Tiger is a mural located in Michigan’s city of Detroit, on the back of the local HopCat. As the title suggests, the mural doesn’t have a widely-known name like artist Kobie Solomon’s other works; nevertheless, its lack of a name is no indicator of lesser effort or passion. The mural depicts a tiger of mythical appearance – blue like the fabled Maltese Tiger, showcasing tusk-like horns from its neck, a tuft engraved with a symbol of what-could-be oriental origin, and even a third eye atop its forehead – drinking from a serene stream within a verdant forest alight with cherry blossoms. Stylish renditioning of these aspects aside, the image could also be a representation of subtle strength; the crouching tiger needs not bear its fangs to display the power it’s capable of, with its muscular figure and sharp horns, and its wisdom is on display as well – the third eye is synonymous in many eastern cultures and religions with enlightenment – all while juxtaposed with calming scenery.



MILWAUKEE JUNCTION

"PATH OF GIANTS" - SYDNEY G. JAMES





449 E. MILWAUKEE



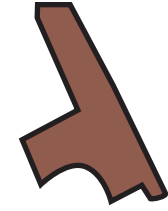
The Path of Giants mural features Detroit Pistons basketball players Isiah Thomas, Jermi Grant, and Ben Wallace. Sydney G. James is a Detroit based artist and her BFA at the College for Creative Studies in 2001. She began her career as an art director for advertising before moving to LA in 2004. While working in LA she received her master's in secondary education. James became one of the top creative voices in southeast Michigan after returning to Detroit in 2011. Known for exploring themes of the racial and gender of the black women in America as “last” or “least among others” in society. Also is one of the founders of BLKOUT Walls Festival which was launched this past summer in the North End neighborhood of Detroit.



MILWAUKEE JUNCTION

"THE DETROIT CHIMERA" - KOBIE SOLOMON





1600 CLAY ST.



Kobie Solomon is a Detroit native, self-taught street artist and Illustrator. Attending one of Detroit's most accredited universities, College for Creative Studies, he learned more of the disciplines of art. Solomon is known for doing a variety of different work, ranging from contemporary art, architectural, and tattooing. Solomon is mainly known for his graffiti work, specifically the piece, "The Detroit Chimera". Inspired by the mythical animal Chimera, Solomon created a piece made out of various auto parts, depicting Detroit for what it was built on. The mural, measuring 8,750 square feet, is one of the largest in the Midwest. It is known as a Detroit staple, being an iconic symbol of American culture.



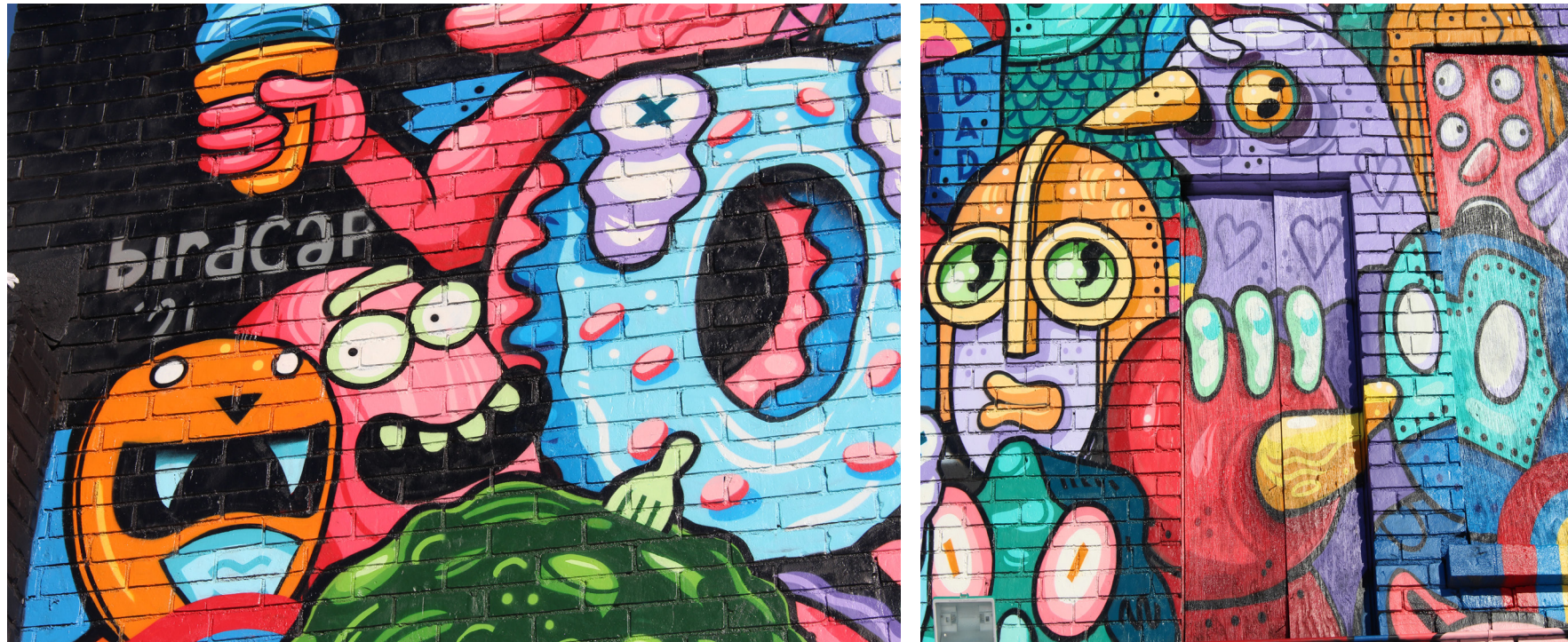
NORTH END (BLKOUT WALLS)

"UNTITLED" - BIRDCAP





952 CLAY ST.



This mural was done by the artist Birdcap. The mural was part of the 2021 BLKOUT Walls Festival where artists were selected to create murals in 7 days on structures around Detroit. None of the BLKOUT Walls murals (including this one) have titles and are labeled by the artist who did them. Michael Roy (aka Birdcap) grew up in Mississippi and learned more about painting after attending Memphis College of Art. His style really developed when he moved to Seoul, South Korea and got involved in the street art scene there. He has established a very identifiable style that has lots of roots in cartoons. Something that really makes his work stand out is the use of bright colors and nods to relevant issues such as grief and anxiety. For more information, you can visit <https://www.birdcap.store>.



NORTH END (BLKOUT WALLS)

"UNTITLED" - SENTROCK

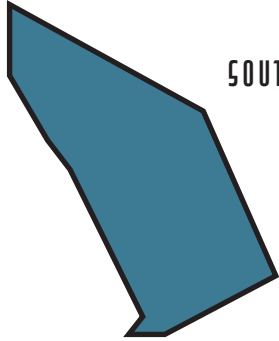




8717 OAKLAND AVE.



This untitled mural by the artist Joseph Perez, known as Sentrock, was created as part of the BLKOUT Walls revitalization project. Sentrock always creates art that tells a story—a story inspired by the background and history of the places and people around him. This is one of the many reasons why Sentrock’s mural fits so well in Detroit, as it’s a piece of art that perfectly encapsulates the city’s narrative. In this mural we see many people of color working together to create a large art piece. This is a nod to the project that the mural is a part of, as BLKOUT Walls was a black-led mural festival, created to help breathe new life into neighborhoods around Detroit. The mural is whimsical, yet familiar, showcasing scenes that artists know all too well with an added twist or two (including Sentrock’s signature bird mask). Sentrock’s mural is a beautiful addition to Detroit’s scenery.

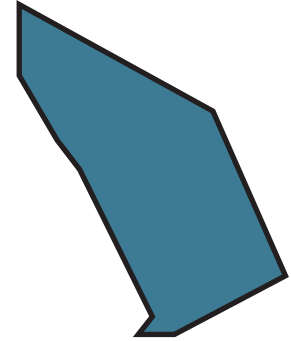


SOUTHWEST

"DEITY OF SOUTHWEST DETROIT - VICTOR "MARKA27" QUINONEZ



SOUTHWEST



1312 SPRINGWELLS



Victor “Marka27” Quinonez was very excited for this mural “Deity of Southwest Detroit”. Southwest Detroit is predominantly Mexican, so he felt very good that he was able to share a mural that felt familiar with his culture and the people there. There isn’t necessarily a religious connotation to the piece, but the aspect of familiarity and comfort for people with Mexican heritage played a big role. A big influence for this piece specifically, was serapes and the Catholic background Quinonez grew up in. He wanted this familiarity to represent a type of saint that felt like it was protecting the people living there. His art style is heavily influenced by Mexican and Indigenous art (which he calls a Neo Indigenous style), so the people who saw it had very positive receptions. It is a very beautiful, relevant, important mural that represents culture. Having the area you live in be able to represent some of your culture and heritage made the people happier, especially because it was made by someone who grew up in the culture. Victor “Marka27” Quinonez is an international artist who enjoys spreading his art which also helps spread his activism for BIPOC people. He has a lived-in experience of what it means to be a part of this community and culture, and has a lot of passion to spread his message of activism through his art.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS - PHOTO & WRITING

1. "STATIC" - IJANIA CORTEZ, BY MICHAEL EASON, PGS. 6-7
2. "UNTITLED" - LOUISE (OUIZI) JONES, BY EMILY MILLS, PGS. 8-9
3. "LIFE IS GROWTH" - DAVID (MEGGS) HOOKE, BY ANNIKA SCHMITT, PGS. 10-11
4. "HAPPY PRODUCE" - KEVIN LYONS, BY LAUREN FERRIS, PGS. 12-13
5. "RAP GOD MURAL" - MICHAEL VASQUEZ & FELIX PEREZ, BY BREANNA O'ROURKE, PGS. 14-15
6. "CROSS-POLLINATING" - LOUISE (OUIZI) JONES & MICHELLE TANGUAY, BY PATHIK PATEL, PGS. 16-17
7. "UNTITLED" - NICK PINZANA, BY MARSAUGHN MILES, PGS. 18-19
8. "BISHOP" - RICK MALT, BY TONY KEKA, PGS. 20-21
9. "THE SPIRIT" - WALEED JOHNSON, BY ISAAC ROCKWELL, PGS. 22-23
10. "DETROIT INNOVATION" - JAKE DWYER, BY JORDAN JENKINS, PGS. 24-25
11. "STEVIE WONDER MURAL" - RICHARD WILSON, BY NATE WITTENBERG, PGS. 26-27
12. "CHASE YOUR WHAT IF" - FEL3000FT, BY KIM BORLAND, PGS. 28-29
13. "THE HOP CAT TIGER" - KOBIE SOLOMON, BY QUIAN SHERMAN, PGS. 30-31
14. "PATH OF GIANTS" - SYDNEY G. JAMES, BY KHALID SAAB, PGS. 32-33
15. "THE DETROIT CHIMERA" - KOBIE SOLOMON, BY AMAR HAIDAR, PGS. 34-35
16. "UNTITLED" - BIRDCAP, BY RAIYLAH JOHNSON, PGS. 36-37
17. "UNTITLED" - SENTROCK, BY LILY FILS, PGS. 38-39
18. "THE DEITY OF SOUTHWEST DETROIT" - VICTOR "MARKA27" QUINONEZ, BY THALIA POPA, PGS. 40-41

BOOK DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY KIM BORLAND, 2022

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AND SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:
PROFESSOR SAIMA MOHAMMED, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

BACK COVER ART, AND FRONT COVER, WITH FEATURED ARTIST "UNTITLED" - SINTEX,
WEST GRAND BOULEVARD

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH:

"THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN GRAFFITI", ROGER GASTMANN

[HTTP://FEL3000FT.COM](http://fel3000ft.com)

[HTTP://WWW.SINTEXART.COM](http://www.sintexart.com)

"THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO DETROIT STREET ART" - LETS ROAM BLOG, AUTHOR ANNA, [WWW.LETSROAM.COM](http://www.letsroam.com)



DISCOVER PUBLIC WORKS OF ART IN DETROIT AS CURATED BY STUDENTS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY. THIS BOOK FEATURES A DETROIT CITY MAP AND NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE. ENJOY ART AS THE ARTISTS INTENDED - FOR THE PUBLIC, TO BE ENJOYED AND APPRECIATED BY ALL. ACCESSIBLE, AND BUILDING A FEELING OF COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY IN THE CITY.