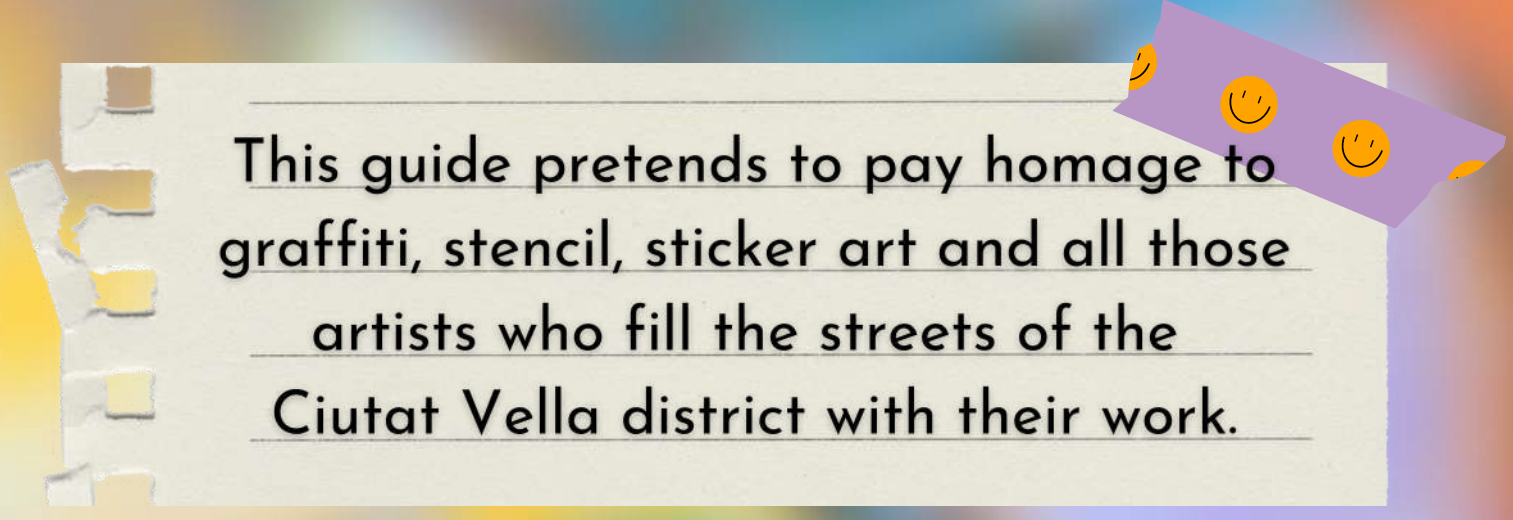


Going deep

into El Raval and the Gothic Quarter's urban artwork

STREET ART IN CIUTAT VELLA

Anna Darby Hijosa
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This guide pretends to pay homage to graffiti, stencil, sticker art and all those artists who fill the streets of the Ciutat Vella district with their work.

The route is divided in two days, although it could be done in one. Nevertheless, we encourage you to do it in a weekend so that you can discover every corner, every artwork and all the art galleries you'll find in the next pages.

What's more, here you'll also find many restaurants and hotels recommendations that you can go and stay in during your tour.

Both if you love street art or if you just want to discover what does the El Raval neighborhood and the Gothic Quarter hide, you can't miss this tour.

You can do the route by yourself following this document or you can choose to do it with Felipe Añez, a tour guide specialized in street art. You can contact him through us.



Scanning this QR you'll have acces to the route.
With this, you can check the whole route and each stop that's on it.

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DAY 2

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VADIM MEZZO

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HISTORY

Modern graffiti seems to have appeared in Philadelphia in the early 1960s and by the late sixties, it had reached New York.

Darryl "Cornbread" McCray is considered the world's first modern graffiti artist. He had a crush on a girl named Cynthia and, to win her attention, he wrote "Cornbread Loves Cynthia" all over North Philadelphia. After winning over the girl, he continued tagging. When a local paper mistakenly reported that Cornbread had been killed in a gang shooting, he wanted to prove that he was still alive so he snuck in to the Philadelphia Zoo and painted "Cornbread Lives" on both sides of an elephant. He was arrested.

The new art form really took off in the 1970s, when people began writing their names, or 'tags', on buildings all over the city. It is probably most well known for the tags we see all around cities and towns.

When graffiti first emerged, taggers treated tagging as a competition over whose name could be seen around the city the most frequently.

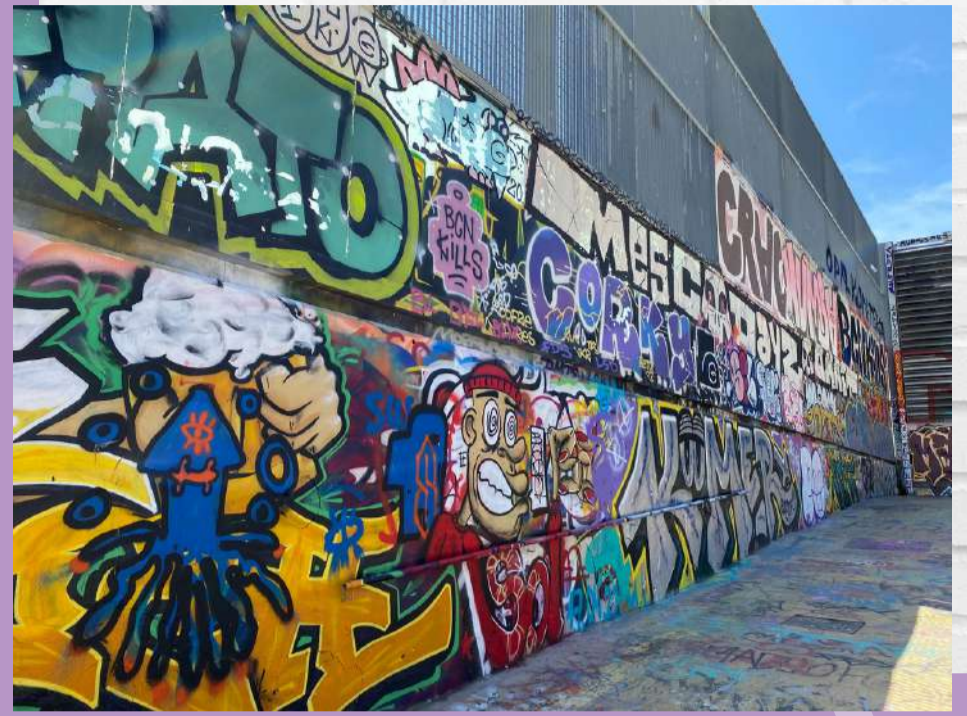
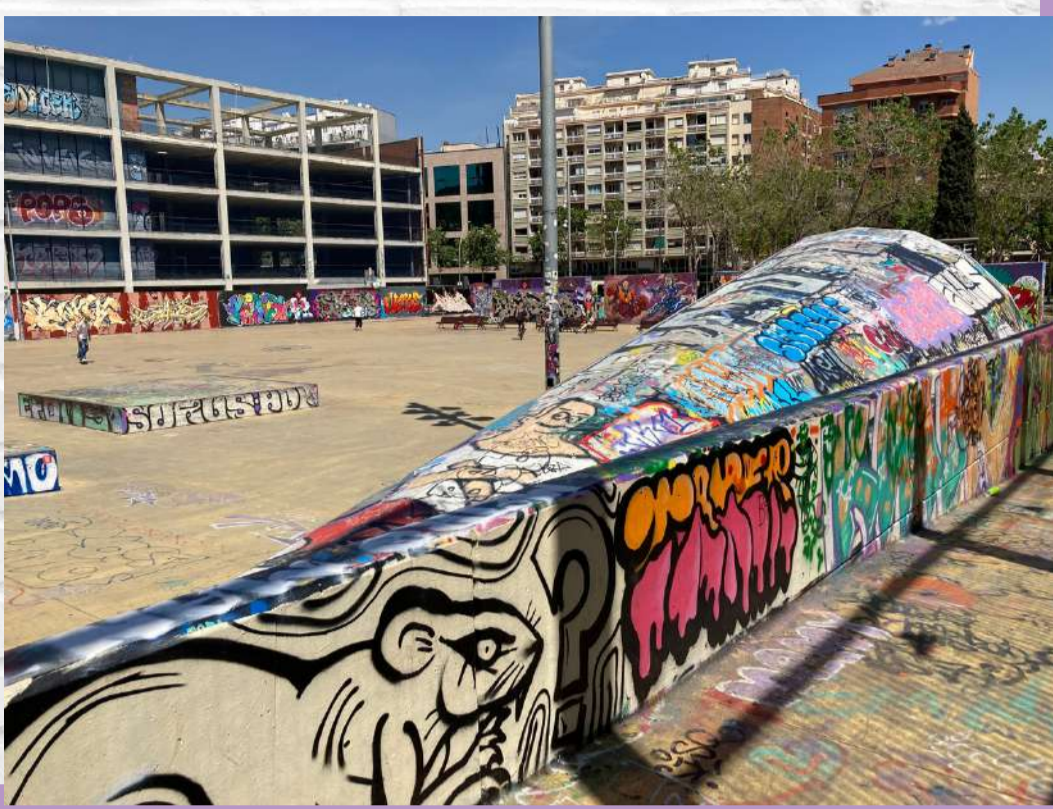
The street art scena in Barcelona started right after the Olympics, date that made the city famous and that's supposed the beginning of mass tourism.

Barcelona started to be known internationally for its art, design, fashion and, in general, its creativity.

During the 2000s, Barcelona was the unofficial capital of European street art, but then the government declared it ilegal. As a result of its outlawing, the expressions of street art started to be considered not only filth of public space, but also vandalism.

JARDINS DE LES TRES XEMENEIES

Av. del Paral·lel, 49



Here, you will see these 3 large concrete walls, where it is legal to paint graffiti on them.

In 2012, "Murs Lliures" was launched, a project that aims to promote the regeneration of urban areas by encouraging street art. Local and international artists can sign up online to paint specific sections of the wall. The end result is a continuously changing open air gallery of graffiti and street art. The murals (wall paintings) are painted over on a weekly basis and posted to social media to capture the changes.

Near here, some bars, shops and restaurants ask artists to paint their doors, so they don't end up with random tags. Moreover, it is private property, so the police's can't paint over or erase any of the graffiti.

We can see how artists respect each other, but rarely work together.

EL XUPET NEGRE

📍 Jardins de les Tres Xemeneies

LOGO ART



Precursor of Street-Art. The artist paints a logo, icon or character in a constantly repeated way. As a consequence, the artist signature is replaced by a design that acts as a logotype. This is the most effective way for the audience to be recognized.

El Xupet Negre is an artist whose work began to turn up around the streets of Barcelona in 1991.

By 1998, he was selling canvases.

El Xupet Negre's fame increased throughout the 90s and, like many of his contemporaries, he soon progressed from a world of illicit tagging and late-night creative escapes to the production of commissioned pieces and 'live' painting performances at galleries and festivals worldwide.

Although El Xupet Negre has been less active since the mid-2000s, he remains a hugely influential figure in Barcelona's rise to becoming one of the world's best-known street art hot spots.

The dummy represents Franco's oppression: he used to shut people up just as parents silence their kids with a dummy.

VADIM MEZZO

📍 Jardins de les Tres Xemeneies

This Russian artist is internationally known because of his ability to paint in many different surfaces and almost without preparing the drawings. His style is defined as **PIXEL FUNK**: a type of graffiti where abstract and realism are combined. It is characterized by a huge range of bright and colourful palette.

He paints in many European, Asiatic and American countries and he creates a new design according to the place. He adapts his work depending on the wall surface features and the environment.

His painting **JOKER** is at Jardins de les Tres Xemeneies.



PLAÇA RAQUEL MELLER

Plaça Raquel Meller



Although it isn't a "famous artwork" the design on this wall has been created by some artistic baccalaureate students.

The QR contains a video of where you can see the students painting the wall. They painted it to make it prettier and to hide all the imperfections that the wall had due to its antiquity.

At this point you might fancy **something to eat...**

EL RINCÓN DEL ARTISTA

C/ Nou de la Rambla, 105

Near this square, there's a lovely restaurant named El Rincón del Artista, which is popularly known in the neighbourhood.

All the artists, workers and costumers of the famous clubs in Paral·lel have always gone there. "Every artist of the city has been through here", and the multitude of signed pictures hanging on the wall demonstrate that.



You can check their info scanning this QR



It is a rotating open-air gallery dedicated to graffiti and urban art. The goal is to promote contemporary urban art in Barcelona through a space that complements the free access walls that already exist in the city; and to link this dynamic with the work of the different entities in the neighbourhood that demand and defend the reopening of the Teatre Arnau and its recovery as public cultural equipment.



According to them, to carry out its activity, Arnau Gallery seeks or receives proposals from different artists, at local, national or international level, and proposes productions based on the cooperation in duos to execute the artworks; in which the artists can choose their companion or be matched by the organizers, being the resulting compositions a fusion of styles and a constant dialogue between both artists.

The Arnau Gallery wall project rotates every two weeks and harbours during that time the mural of the two selected artists.

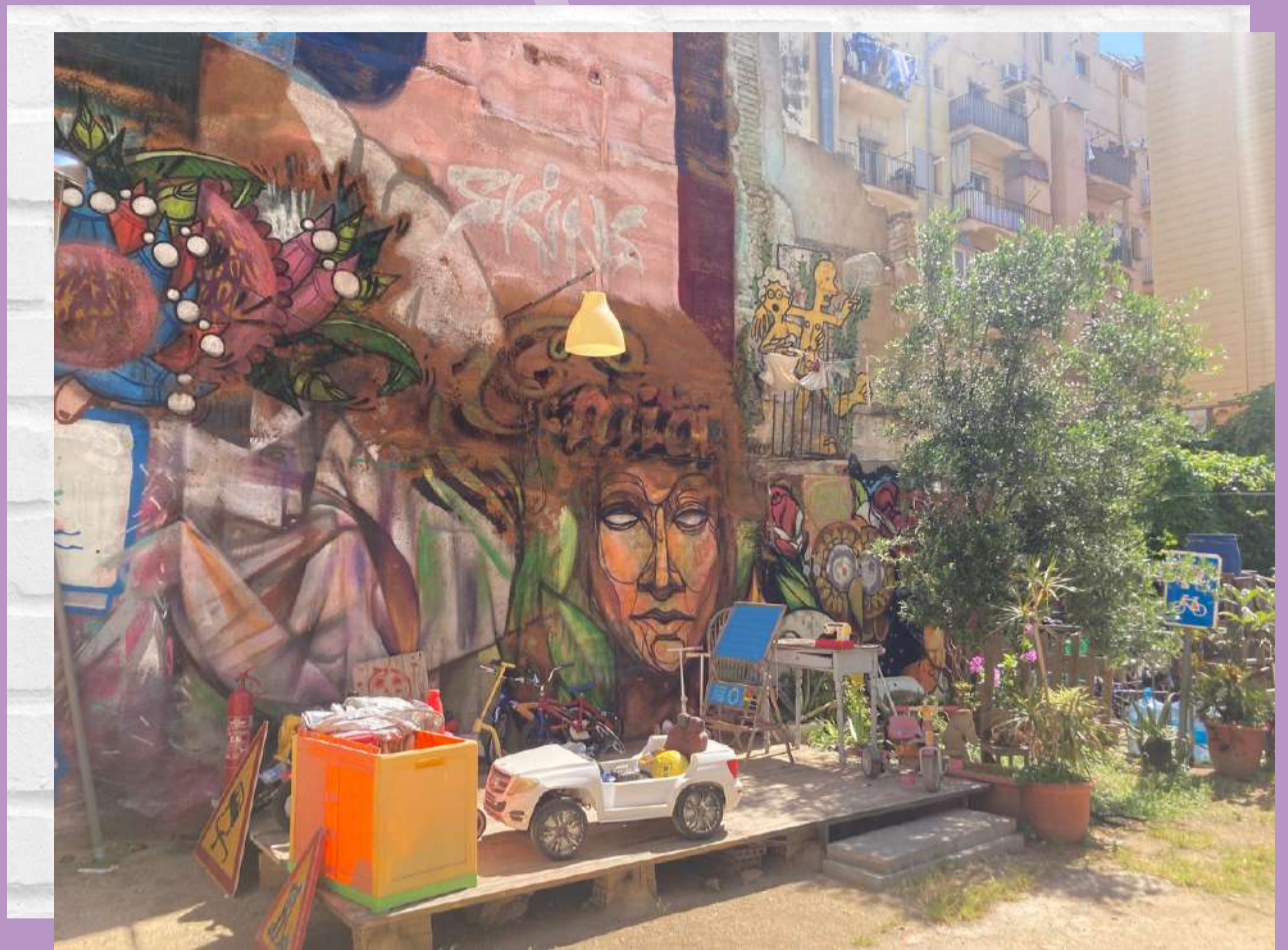
Being an outdoor gallery that changes its appearance periodically, it embellishes the space that is located in -a point of great circulation and visibility- and, above all, reveals the work of all the artists who have passed through this wall and, consequently, the city of Barcelona.

JARDINET DE LA BARTOLA

This park was redone by the Raval community.

📍 Carrer de Sant Bartomeu, 5

It was made to create art with residues; basically using recycling as a tool to make art. As the signal says: "we are opening when we arrive and we are closing when we leave".



This sentence, though, does not mean that the square is public and, consequently, opened all the day: if you want to go in, you have to ask the neighbors for the keys.

Apart from this, on the floor you'll find a painting of the Panot -the flower of Barcelona-, a great big mural on the wall and different lovely places to sit down and enjoy the view.



ÀGORA JUAN ANDRÉS BENÍTEZ



 Carrer de l'Aurora, 13



This park was created on 6th October 2014

The reason behind is that in this spot the police were called to handle a noise complaint about an argument between some men. One of these men was a well known gay bar owner around town. When they arrived they apprehended him, handcuffed him, and proceeded to beat him to such an extreme extent that by the time they brought him to the police station, he had died.

A year after his death, this was turned into a memorial for him.

One artist that stands out in this square is **ANNA MAGA**

She painted some of the artworks here and collaborated in doing other ones. Her style is always changing, but mostly she prefers to create characters who want to express themselves through their gestures and environment.

Maga tends to mix techniques according to the need of her designs, but she always show some influences from comics, japanese illustration, surrealism, mythology or hip hop.

She believes in art not only as a form of expression, but also as a tool for social transformation.



EL GAT DEL RAVAL



This cat is the symbol of el Raval.

It was made by the Columbian, abstract artist, **Fernando Botero**. Representing financial constraints, he sculpts in bronze, acrylic resin and sawdust. He works with exaggerated volume in his paintings and sculptures, for example really overweight people. **His work represents the joys of life**, for instance: food.

 Rambla del Raval, s/n

His pieces are easily recognized by critics and the public, due to their exaggerated volume, strength, sensuality and exuberance. One of the characteristics that makes Botero's work so easy to recognize is the interesting, almost comical way the artist represents anatomy, in a disproportional yet visually pleasing way.

If you fancy having something else to eat, la Rambla del Raval is the perfect place to look for. There are many nice restaurants and bars, such as the cool **Electropikal Club & Restaurant**, the restored antique cellar **Suculent** or catalan cuisine restaurant **El Nou Cafeti**.

But our best recommendation is....

PALOSANTO

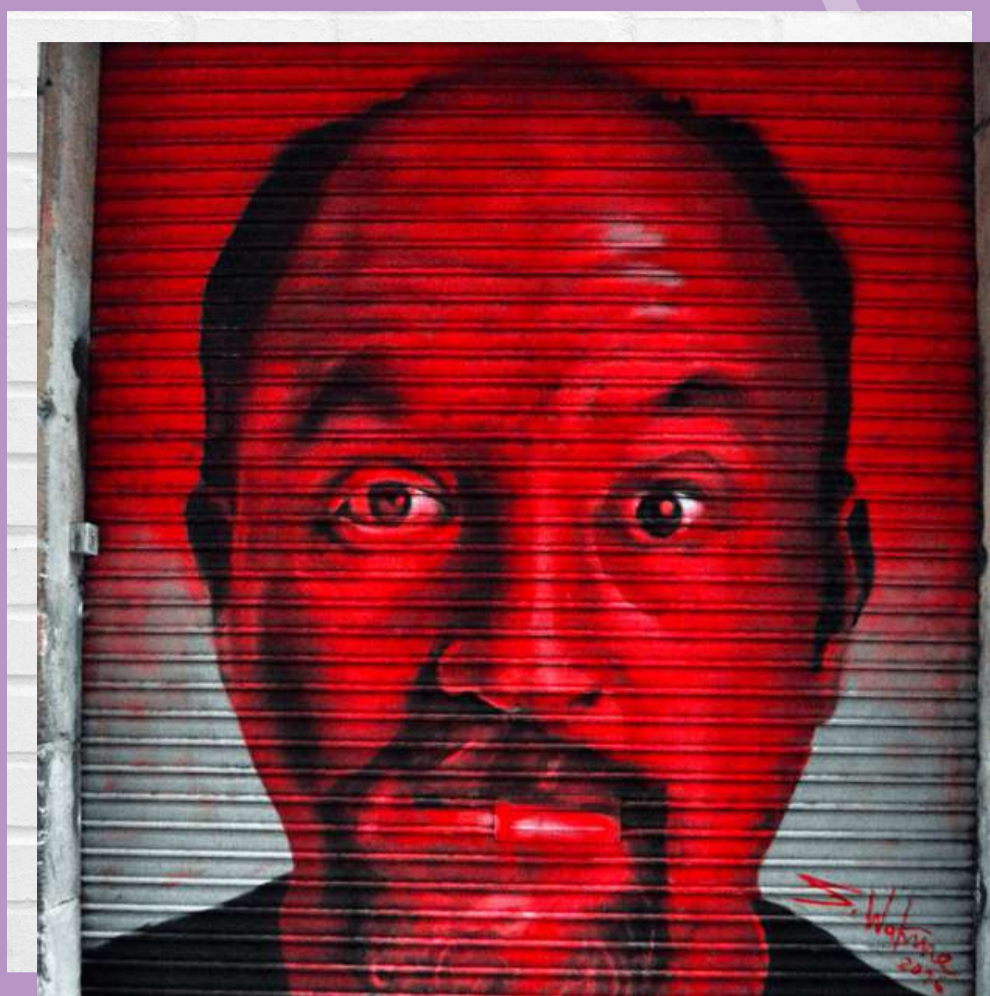


 Rambla del Raval, 26


A beautiful tapas bar with a great variety of typical Spanish dishes and a lovely ambience to it.

Here you can also enjoy a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

SEBASTIEN WAKNINE



Sebastien Waknine's work combines elements from two references separated from each other by thousands of years. On the one hand, the taste for ancestral cultures, with references to totems, sacred masks and elements of esoteric imagery. On the other hand, it links with the pioneers of graffiti, abstract expressionism and Art Brut.

 Carrer d'En Robador, 81

From all this iconographic baggage, Waknine creates his own Olympus of gods, heroes and demons, between humanoids and zoomorphs; which help him confront extreme ideas such as the apocalypse and redemption, life and death or horror and tenderness.

EL XUPET NEGRE

 Carrer de Montserrat, 3

FAÇADES - TONY 000



 Carrer de Montserrat, 17

Throughout the neighborhood you'll find a lot of artworks like this one. They are not "famous" at all, but they are a sign that identifies El Raval.

Most of the bars, locals and shops have their façades decorated with graffiti.

Their purpose is normally to inform about something related to the commerce/bar, although there are other artworks that just beautify blinds. In this case, Tony made this design to report the business closing.

If you're planning on doing this route in a couple of days, you may need somewhere to sleep after a long day of walking.

Near your last stop, there's a bunch of hotels and hostels you might like, such as:

WANDER



Carrer de Montserrat, 13



You can book a room with this QR

This hostel is located next to your last stop on the tour. It's an adult-only totally reformed hostel that's really close to everything you may need. Like everything else, it's walking distance to your next stop on the tour; but, just in case you don't want to walk more, the Drassanes metro station is only a few meters away.

RAMBLAS INTERNATIONAL



La Rambla, 78-80

If you want to wake up right next to your next stop, this hotel is perfect. In the heart of Las Ramblas, the Ramblas International Hotel opens to a beautiful view of the Boqueria Market and the flower stands that cover the streets.



You can book a room with this QR

KRAM

📍 Plaça de la Gardunya

KRAM is a painter and illustrator from Barcelona. Since 2004 he has been dedicated to art professionally.

He is one of the KOGRAFFX studio funders, specialized in the commercialization of street art and wall decoration (mural). He also participated in musical events and artistic painting events in several Spanish cities. In addition, he has collaborated in some ArtBattles both in New York and in Barcelona.

His works represent a universe of animals with human attitudes that evoke sensations of all kinds. That is why we observe **fantastic animals with humanized features.**



ARTEVISTAS

📍 Passatge del Crèdit, 4

Artevistas Gallery is a contemporary art gallery in Barcelona.

It's located in the heart of the Gothic Quarter, in the same building where the famous painter Joan Miró was born.

It includes paintings, drawings, portraits, sculptures, photographs, street art, print-screen, lithographies and original prints by both emerging and established artists.

More than 50 spanish and international artists make up this unique collection, providing a **diversity of styles, universes and techniques.** In fact, their own absolutely recognizable identity is one of the main selection criteria.



ME LATA

EPHEMERAL ART - ETERNAL LOVE



First of all, "lata" means "can" in Spanish. Cans are the material with which these messages are created.

Me Lata has a beautiful love story behind. A young boy from Barcelona liked a girl from Mallorca and he wanted to catch her attention. So, he started to leave "notes" for her all around the city. After a while, she did the same. Nowadays, they are artistic and sentimental couple, but nobody knows who they are.

They have made street art since 2014 to bring positive vibes to the neighbourhood. The quotes are drawn using different types of recycled cans to give new life to the old and used ones. Initially, they only employed beverage cans, but now they incorporate all varieties of tin containers. Then they paint them with brush, spray-paint, marker and even their fingers. The cans are hung in an improvised way, on the building facades. They place their works always fast and discreetly to maintain the anonymity.

The cans are written in English, Spanish and Catalan. Their messages are really simple and fun: about love, optimism, word-play, politically not charged.

They talk about enjoying life, they claim a better world.

Since its beginning, this couple has done more than 600 interventions in the streets of Barcelona, Paris, London, Mallorca, Madrid, Girona and La Rioja. They want to humanize the city, brighten the passers-by's hearts and make them smile.

The worth of their artwork is getting higher and higher.

You can buy their pieces in Artevistas Gallery.



"The street is the best art gallery in the world and its doors are always open so that anyone can express themselves freely in it". (Me Lata)

KONAIR



Carrer del Palau

Konair is a Catalan artist known specially in the national scene thanks to his iconic bitten ice lollies. He has also exhibited quite successfully in art galleries and has attracted the attention of the national and international media in a multitude of occasions.

His iconic lolly represents humans. According to him, life melts and life is an ice cream. After we die the only things that remains is a stick.



Carrer de la Palma de Sant Just, 7 

AKORE

AKORE is considered one of the most active street artists in Barcelona. He started painting more than 30 years ago. He is particularly known for his colorful, powerful and expressive Afro graffiti. His unique style is called "Afrocolor", which has influenced other artists.

His portraits and paintings of African tribal women echo the soul of Mother Africa, with whom he has always felt spiritually connected. His work is influenced by urban culture, hip-hop, Afro-American social movements, African aesthetics, pop art and graphic design. He has been published in different international media and it has been exhibited in countries like Spain, France, Singapore and Germany.



Carrer de la Palma de Sant Just, 5

TVBOY - THE DREAM

 C. del Bisbe



TVBOY defines himself as a urban pop artist, because the American pop art has influenced him as much as the urban art. When painting, he tries to make a mix between reality and fiction, including comic and public figures. He tries to connect us with past legends but also with contemporary ones. Through this, he makes us think about controversial topics and he makes political criticism.

This area of the Gothic Quarter is where you can find a lot of beautiful architecture work such as the Cathedral of Barcelona or El pont del Bisbe (Bishop's Bridge).

If you want to have a look around and spend more time here, we recommend having **something to eat** at...

LA ALGOBA AZUL

 C/ de Salomó ben Adret



A small and intimate vintage bar that offers a variety of tapas and small bites with many amazing cocktails. At this establishment, you can also enjoy some live jazz performances.



You can check their menu scanning this QR.

EL PEZ

Pez started painting in 1999 in his hometown Barcelona.

Specifically, he got into street art writing his signature, which soon took the shape of a smiling fish. Little by little he became a celebrity throughout Barcelona. Writing that peculiar signature, and influenced by comic and urban subcultures, he was interested in searching for a character whose language was universal and timeless.

📍 Carrer de Montalegre, 3



That's how his fish was born and, consequently, a way to spread good energy to the people in Barcelona.

More recently, Pez has been creating several characters, not only his fish, but also demons, angels, giraffes, and Martians. There is one thing they all have in common is a huge and infectious unique smile. As a result of his focus on spreading his "good vibes" further than streets and galleries, he has been able to "talk" with more people around the world.

RAVALEJAR

📍 Bio Bui(l)t - Espai Txema



This mural was born as an initiative between Ajuntament de Barcelona, many businessmen and some neighbours from El Raval.

It was created to upraise the neighborhood and to remove the concept that says that El Raval is a dangerous place.

This mural shows the -unexistent- verb *ravalejar*, which means going deep into the neighborhood, enjoying every corner and, above everything, to discover all the story and beauty that it hides. In fact, this wall pretends to show the feeling of a neighborhood full of energy and life.

MUSEU D'ART CONTEMPORANI DE BARCELONA



📍 Plaça dels Àngels, 1



MACBA is a modern art museum that offers a huge range of exhibitions, all of them related to contemporary art. It also has a lot of activities directed towards both children and adults.

In fact, this QR shows their program and all the activities they'll offer for the next months.

KEITH HARING



📍 Plaça del MACBA

This mural was originally painted in 1989. Keith Haring, the American author, decided to do it in this square because it was quite dangerous: full of prostitutes, gangs, dealers, and used needles. He wanted to portray the message: "Together we can stop AIDS". You can see this in the drawing itself here, with its representation of evil and temptation.

Particularly important to him as he was a gay man living with AIDS at the time. He did this piece for free and hoping that it would inspire change.



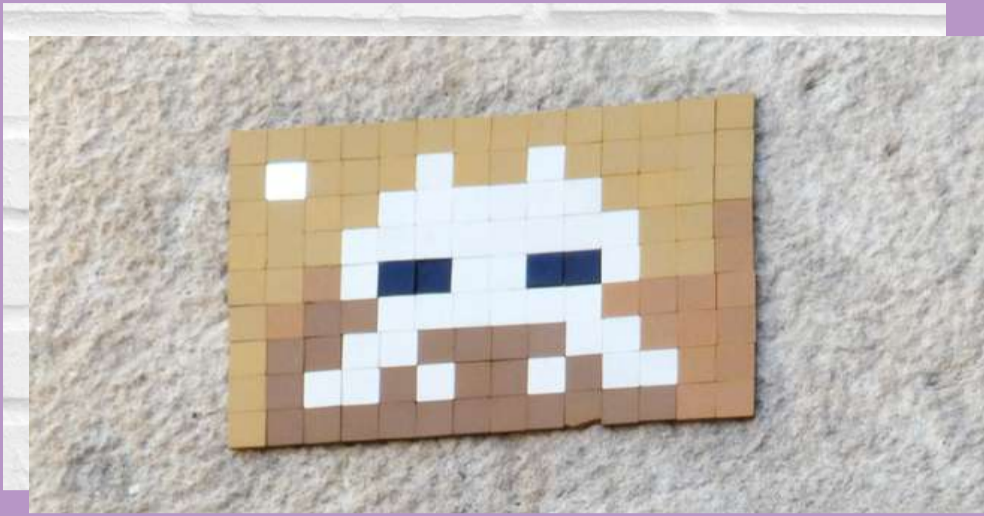
This QR contains a video where you can see the entire artwork.

In the next twenty years, the mural was destroyed due to lack of care and in 2014 the city decided they should replicate the mural here as a tribute to Haring and his intention.

SPACE INVADER



Plaça del MACBA



Invader sees himself as a "hacker" of public space spreading a mosaic "virus." He believes that museums and galleries are not accessible to everyone, and so installs his work at street level for ordinary people to enjoy on a daily basis. The sites for his mosaics are often chosen for their visibility, local interest and symbolism.

Invader is a French urban artist. He is known for his ceramic tile mosaics modeled on the pixelated art of '70s-'80 video games, many of which looks like the aliens in the arcade game Space Invaders (the inspiration for his pseudonym). His creations can be seen in highly visible locations in over 65 cities in 33 countries.

Invader works incognito, often wearing a mask and during the night. He claims that only a few people know his real name and his face and that his parents think he works as a tiler in the construction industry.

The MACBA Square is the last stop on this route. After finishing this lovely tour and walking around Barcelona seeing the artwork of the best street artists of the city, **you might want to relax and enjoy a couple of drinks.**

We recommend...

L'OVELLA NEGRA RAMBLES



Carrer de les Sitges, 5

A rustic tavern that has been open since 1965. Nowadays is a very youthful bar that offers different tapas and a great selection of craft beer and other drinks.



If you still have some free time and you want to check out some more art, we recommend going to any of these

ART GALLERIES

there's around the area.

CANAL GALLERY



Carrer de Palau, 4

A collective gallery that opens its doors to artists of all sorts of disciplines, such as: photography, graffiti, contemporary art, etc.

With 60 artists in their exhibition, Canal Gallery is a new pro-culture and pro-art space for everyone.

ESPACIO TRAFALGAR



Carrer de Trafalgar, 34

A new venue where you can now find the exhibition "The World of Banksy": more than a 100 artworks by the master of street-art.

GALERIA BENDA



Carrer de Trafalgar, 32

An art gallery that "values and supports the talent, risk and singularity found in young and established artists, both national and international".

BOMBON PROJECTS



Carrer de Trafalgar, 53-B

Bombon Projects is a contemporary art gallery in Barcelona that "senses the light in a foggy and stormy sky, and determinedly heads towards it".