

MURALIST BIOS

Apexer is a street artist who creates colorful, spray-painted murals around the world. Using a visual foundation based in street art and Chinese calligraphy, Apexer abstracts letterforms to create complex, dynamic compositions for his street art projects. Often creating artworks that communicate the vibe of the neighborhood where they are on view, Apexer's painted gestures are accessible to a wide audience, and are constantly expanding upon the core element of his work: the letters of his nickname.

NEON was born in San Francisco, California and began writing band logos and names on MUNI busses. In 1984, at the age of 14 he was forever changed by the documentary film *Style Wars* which ran on PBS tv one evening. Graffiti Art spoke to him and appealed to his sense of adventure. Largely self-taught, he dabbled in the artform until one day in 1989 he decided to make a serious commitment to "masterpiecing" consistently. He is a member of the oldest active crew in San Francisco, the Writers Of Doom aka WOD and he is a founding member of Burning Alive or Burning America aka BA crew. This crew was instrumental in the mid to late 1990's in pushing forward the new freight train graffiti era.

His process of diminishing and deconstructing the alphabet is inspired by the modernist search for truth. His motivation to paint isn't so much a love of his name as it is a journey into the farthest reaches of his imagination and creativity to develop careful explorations into abstract letter forms. As an active participant and cofounder of the Super Burner movement his paintings show elements of both the fragmentation and synthesis of the Cubists, and the movement and dynamism of the Futurists. NEON has produced 100's of significant works all over the west coast and across America.

Beginning in 2002, NEON introduced Montana MTN Colors paint to the United States. Supplying both counterculture retailers as well as the mainstream art materials market, he paved the way for other spray paint companies to come into the American market. Today there is a flourishing boutique spray paint industry and although no longer associated with Montana MTN Colors he is still actively sketching new ideas and working to develop new styles and color palettes.

His work has been featured in the documentary films: *Piece By Piece* (2005) and *Infamy* (2005), as well as in the books: *The History of American Graffiti* (Caleb Neelon & Roger Gastman, 2011), *Graffito* (Michael Walsh, 1996), *Painting The Towns: Murals of California* (Robin Dunitz & James Prigoff, 1997), *Freight Train Graffiti* (Roger Gastman, 2006), *Bay Area Graffiti* (Steve Rothman & Chris Brennan, 2008).

In 2005 his work was featured in the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Triennial survey of Northern California art as part of the Gestalt Collective. His work is collected privately and shows in gallery exhibitions.