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Should street art be considered vandalism?

Street art is known as visual art that is done in public areas on buildings, bridges, or any other structures outside. This kind of art can be known as unsanctioned artwork because some consider it vandalism. One would think that markings, writing, or painting on structures without permission would be called vandalism. Vandalism is defined as an action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property. I don't believe that street art should be considered vandalism, even though the definition seems to fit. Street art is a sense of expression, it isn't meant to destruct or damage property.

What might make the difference in wether street art is recognized as vandalism is if it is considered graffiti. Graffiti is a form of street art, that is very well known, especially in cities. I think that graffiti is looked down upon because it has a more negative connotation. Like we talked about in class, graffiti are marking and writings, were as street art are more images and paintings. Street art can be more appealing to the eye, making it more well liked than graffiti. There is a theory called the Broken Window Theory, where two men named Wilson and Kelling studied the effect of vandalism and how it could generate more negativity within an area. They determined that one instance of neglect or graffiti increases the likelihood of more graffiti to appear. Because of the negative view on graffiti, I believe that an individual’s view of art will determine whether a piece of street art is considered vandalism or not.