

David Soner

The Urban Artist

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An Artist changes the cityscape

This year, David Soner (48) celebrates his 30th anniversary as an active member of the graffiti scene. Even though he has worked his entire life as an artist, painter, graphic designer and illustrator, Graffiti remains his primary passion. After having worked at a communication company for several years, the artist decided to become self-employed eight years ago in order to dedicate all his attention to his own projects. He has been living in Luxembourg for ten years by now, where his artistic creations ornate the city walls throughout the country.

“I was one of the first graffiti artists in the region“

At the age of 10, David had already discovered the Hip-Hop culture for himself. This “completely new form of art“ from the United States fascinated him so much that he completely devoted himself to it. “At that time, there was nobody near Metz who mastered this type of art, so I was the first.“ He soon attracted people’s attention. Newspaper articles as well as short television reports about his creations contributed to the fact that his work became known to a broader public. David seized his chance to fight for this new art form which in the beginning found little acceptance amongst the devotees of traditional art. “But what is art anyway? Art is a blurry, undefined vast field.“ (*David Soner*)

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According to David Soner, Graffiti is a particular form of expressing art, belonging to the so-called Urban Art. “The writing, the words, classic graffiti that you can find in the streets, as well as the tags, the signatures along the rails, Street Art, actually everything that you find in the street is part of Urban Art.“ (*David Soner*)

David’s first graffiti experiences were based on illegal graffiti drawings on the street. However, he didn’t care about the risks at the time. But times are changing in David’s favour. Today he even receives requests from companies asking him for a graffiti painting on their walls. What would have been unthinkable 20 years ago is now a real success story in the graffiti scene and the recognition of this art will increase even more. In addition to numerous private inquiries, David now also takes part in variety of projects in the border area.



Picture: Oro Verde, Differdange



Picture: David Soner. Davidsoner.com

Kufa’s Urban Art Esch

The Project „Kufa’s Urban Art“ is especially dear to him. By this project the Kulturfabrik tried to introduce Street Art into the cultural center of Esch-sur-Alzette. Since 2014 twelve different European street artists, including Soner, have contributed to decorating the walls of the former slaughterhouse with their pieces of art. The project has been a huge success and has also aroused the interest of the neighbouring countries. By now, about 50 pieces of art shape the cityscape of Esch-Sur-Alzette. On top of this, the project also supports social inclusion by not only creating pieces of art, but also offering multidisciplinary, cross-generational and participational workshops. (kulturfabrik.lu)

In addition to working with school classes in a workshop, the Kufa also proposed to Soner to paint the sports field of a local primary school. The aim was to turn the city into an open-air Museum.



Picture: Okuda, Esch

“I was so excited! It was a first but also a challenge for me to paint a ground.“ (*David Soner*)

Although the working conditions of being exposed to the weather and under time pressure had made the work physically strenuous, the artist really enjoyed the subsequent recognition and gratitude of the residents of Esch. He not only

appreciated the interaction with the people but also the cooperation with some young refugees from Afghanistan, who actively supported him in his work.



Picture: Luna Park, Esch

Art as a means of communication

Despite the engaging projects and numerous inquiries, the artist always finds time to realise his own ideas. His art often refers to political and social issues. Therefore, it is not surprising that some of the pictures show veiled women in order to draw the attention to the increasing Islamophobia in France. Other projects and artworks however, such as painting a school in a deprived area of Metz, simply serve to render a contribution to the community.

“People’s gratitude and praise give you the greatest satisfaction.“ (*David Soner*)



Picture: Soumaya