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Hip-Hop, Art, and Visual Culture: Connections, Influences, and Critical Discussions

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Visual art has been tied to hip-hop culture since its inception, and initially manifested itself most clearly in the form of graffiti and fashion trends. During the genre's first decades, notable hip-hop practitioners whose work crossed the boundaries of music and visual art included Fab 5 Freddy, Rammellzee, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. More current examples of cross-disciplinary connections between hip-hop and visual art include the efforts of Swizz Beatz, Eclectic Method, and the Hi-ARTS non-profit organization for advancing educational hip-hop projects in the arts. Simultaneously, references to visual artists have appeared more frequently in the lyrics of hip-hop musicians such as Jay-Z, Nas, Kanye West, Rick Ross, and Lil Wayne.

In short, hip-hop has become a global phenomenon influencing many facets of society, including art, education, and visual culture. The possibilities of this influence have not gone unnoticed, and a number of scholars have discussed the connections between hip-hop and visual art, fashion, and postmodernism, while others have critically examined hip-hop's influence on visual culture.

We invite potential contributors to join these ongoing conversations by submitting manuscripts to be considered for inclusion in a Special Issue of *Arts* on the topic of "Hip-Hop, Art, and Visual Culture".

Dr. Jeff Broome and Dr. Lisa Munson

Guest Editors

Special Issue