

# The City Beneath: A Century of Los Angeles Graffiti

WITH

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Graffiti is an under-examined visual and textual material that creates radical decentralization in the writing of history. Drawing on extensive research within the city's urban landscape, Susan A. Phillips (Pitzer College) traces the hidden language of marginalized groups over the past century—from the early twentieth-century markings of hobos, soldiers, and Japanese internees to the later inscriptions of surfers, cholos, and punks. Whether describing daredevil kids, bored workers, or clandestine lovers, Phillips profiles the experiences of people who remain underrepresented in conventional histories, revealing the powerful role of graffiti as a venue for cultural expression.



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