

TheAmbitiousTraveller.com
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Monthly Unique Users: N/A

theambitioustraveller

I love travel and food, and I love talking about both just as much!

Art in unusual places

I was recently invited to the opening of an art residency at a hotel. The hotel was the [Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel](#) in London. The [Art Movement](#), an art consultancy, has taken up residence in the hotel and will in their programme showcase some of the world's finest contemporary artists within the hotel lobby and Lowndes Bar & Kitchen Restaurant. The first artist being [Chuck Elliott](#). The aim being that guests can view the art and purchase. It's intended to be a new way of displaying art as an alternative to a gallery. The Art Movement want to demystify the process of acquiring original art.



— Chuck Elliott
Blast/FIRST/fractureRefract
. Taken from
artnet.com

I quite like this idea of creating new 'art galleries' accessible to people who maybe wouldn't wander into an art gallery. I like it when art is accessible to all people, I think that is why I am so drawn and interested by graffiti and street art. It's a way for people to express themselves on an open canvas to a wide audience and get them thinking. Street art is something that I always look for when I am abroad as it gives you another layer to the culture and the people of the country you are in.

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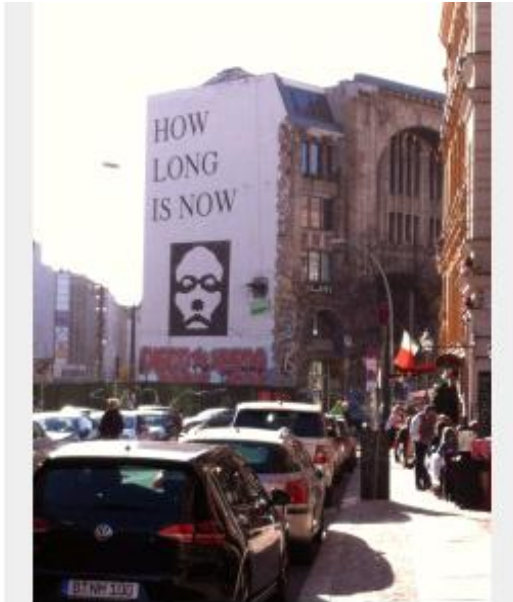
— Some of the many pieces of street art from San Jose



— Amazing use of space for art in Soweto

One of my favourite cities for Street Art is Berlin. This is a city rich with art and it has a long history of expressing itself through art – just look at the [East Side Gallery](#) – the remnants of the Berlin Wall. It is showcase of politics, oppression, freedom and culture. Its one of my favourite galleries. But along with the wall, the streets and buildings of Berlin are littered with graffiti and art all showing different thoughts and feelings.

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- Its not only the East Side Gallery that show cases the artistic talents of the city but all surfaces, no matter their height. The sides of apartment buildings are painted to look like gardens, a wall full of sunflowers or words of expression.



- The East Side Gallery, the worlds longest open air art gallery.

Of course here in London and the UK we are not short of street art. Just look at [Banksy](#), he made a name from creating art, originally on the streets of Bristol, and then further a field. In the eyes of some he is just a graffiti artist or vandal while others are willing to pay millions for an original Banksy. Wandering around Bristol and spotting a Banksy is part of the fun of going to visit the lovely city.



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Here in London of course we are spoilt... yes I am not going to deny it most of the graffiti out there is just tagging and pretty non descript but then you go to somewhere like Shoreditch which is starting to become like a living art gallery, around every corner is an artistic surprise, big and small. I follow quite a few people on Instagram but I particularly like following [Anissa Helou](#) as she is always putting up new pieces she finds wandering around Shoreditch – I can admire the art wherever I am thanks to her pictures! The art has become so popular that [tours](#) are popping up to show it all off.



— Shoreditch art



— Shoreditch Street Art

More recently I have been introduced to an art project in Cuba [Fusterlandia](#), created by Jose Fuster, known as the *Picasso of the Caribbean*. As you enter the Havana suburb you are met by block after block of mosaic creations. It's a suburb that has been turned into a living art project and encourages the inhabitants to express themselves through their houses, gates and gardens! This is definitely something that I am very excited to explore when I go to Cuba in January!

Stepping away from paint into the world of sculpture there are so many places that are now being used as galleries outside of the norm. I like the idea of [sculpture parks](#), like the [Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail](#). Putting a piece of sculpture in the context of nature, where the elements can get to it. Of course this is not art you can buy but it can be appreciated, and your perception and feelings towards it are always going to be different depending on the weather. You are more likely to rush around when its cold and wet than if it was a warm sunny day where you can linger and explore all the aspects of it. Sculpture parks and walks allow you to go back time after time and experience the same things in different ways, something that isn't really possible in a climate controlled museum or gallery.

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There is so much creativity out there that its hard to contain it all within the four walls of an art gallery – of course do not tell that to all those boutique private galleries that fill the streets of London and other cities a like trying to sell the wares of artists. As long as it isn't hurting anyone I do not see a problem with using new spaces to express yourself through art. I hope to keep seeing art popping up in unusual places. I encourage you to go out and find art in unusal places. Find something and keep going back and see how the elements effect your perceptions of it. Go and explore art – I dare you!