

Tag, you're it!



Ron Bolt  
Cobourg Graffiti, 1978  
graphite and pencil

Born in Toronto. Studied at Northern Technical School (1956) art and graphic design at Ryerson Polytechnic and the Ontario College of Art, music at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto (1961). He spent twelve years as a designer, illustrator and typographer of studios and advertising agencies in Toronto, Ontario and London, England. In 1970 he left the design field to concentrate on a career in fine art. A painter and printmaker working in oil, acrylic, etching and lithography, he is known for his dramatic ocean scenes and more recently, mixed media collages of life in San Miguel, Mexico. His style has evolved from lyrical abstraction to Photo Realism. He also painted in Newfoundland (1972-73), the Arctic (1978), Italy and Jamaica (1986), Mexico and the Caribbean, and St. Ives, Cornwall, England. He has exhibited widely in commercial galleries across Canada.

### Conversation + Analysis:

1. What is happening in this piece?
2. Is this composition balanced? Is it symmetrical?

3. What could the heart shape and letters mean?
4. What is the difference between the left and the right side?
5. What do you feel looking at this artwork?
6. Where do you think the artist got the idea for this?

Curriculum Connections: D2.1, D2.2, D2.3, D3.1, D3.2



Antoni, Clavé  
Roi Bande Rouge, 1960  
lithograph on paper

Clavé worked as a poster designer and illustrator, in stage set design, and also made comics. Later in his life his paintings became more abstract and enigmatic; inspired by wall textures and graffiti, Clavé began integrating scraps of newspaper and other similar materials into his paintings in a collage-like manner.

## Conversation + Analysis

1. What is happening in this piece?
2. What do you think the red dot might represent?
3. How many red lines do you see?
4. Using what you know about the artist, and looking carefully at the artwork, what might the artist have said about his artistic choices?

Curriculum Connections: D2.1, D2.2, D3.1, D4.1

## Projects Ideas:

1. Draw your own graffiti! Combine pictures, words, numbers and symbols that represent you. Add lines, arrows and colour to draw attention to certain parts. Curriculum Connections: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D1.4, D2.2
2. Take your art outdoors (driveways, backyard fences) Using chalk create a graffiti mural. Can passers-by see the graffiti? What message do you want them to read or see as they pass by? Curriculum Connections: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D1.4
3. In graffiti, a tag is the artists' personalized way of writing their name or their signature. Create your own tag! Experiment by using different fonts and handwriting styles to create your tag. Bubble letters? Sharp and pointy letters? Get creative! Curriculum Connections: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D1.4