

Lecco

YOUNG!

SMART GUIDE



Street Art Tour

If you don't like the world,
you can paint over it! [Banksy]



In collaboration with



Introduction to Street Art



Comune di Lecco



INFORMA **giovani**

Street Art, also known as urban art, is a branch of hip hop culture that concerns forms of art displayed in public places. To make this kind of works, artists use many techniques: spray paint, stickers and stencils. In this particular field is necessary to make a distinction between murals and graffiti.

Murals vs. graffiti

Murals are paintings made on walls or on other permanent surfaces. This pictures aren't necessarily linked to "lettering", a kind of art that transforms written words in images, but they raised from protest movements as free and creative expressions of street artists. Usually, they represent allegories inspired by political reasons and ideals. The technique used to paint murals is the same employed in frescoes: the colour is coated on fresh plaster by using acrylics or tempera. Instead, if you say **graffiti** you are talking about motifs composed by writings or by words that, just later, have started to be composed by representations of people or objects. Graffiti are exclusively based on the expression of the artist's fantasy thanks to the pictorial interventions realized in

urban areas, just like low walls, shops' shutters or specific spaces. At first, they developed in New York at the end of the Seventies as a transgressive activity. Then, in the Eighties, some youngsters decided to write their "stage names" [tag] on the walls of the city's streets using especially spray paint: in this way, graffiti spread around as Street Art. Unlike the past, now graffiti are a real form of art, legitimated and accepted in some exhibitions, valued by public institutions or private subjects that commission them for decorative purposes.

Avere cura del Bene Comune [Take care of Common Good]

Avere cura del Bene Comune is a project that has arisen from **Lecco Street View** and that is organized by **Art Company** in collaboration with the **Municipality of Lecco**. Since 2011 it attracts both local and worldwide known artists, who have only one aim: qualify the slummy areas of the city converting them in an open air gallery.

This map will guide readers in a visit to discover an artistic itinerary proposed by Street Art in Lecco.

I will draw as much as I can for as many people as I can for as long as I can.

Keith Haring



I

Railway station

Roa, an artist from Belgium, was born in 1975, and he's known all over the world thanks to his giant black and white animals. He grew up in the Eighties in Gand, where he has been influenced by hip hop and graffiti culture and approached lettering. He wasn't satisfied, so he decided to focus his attention on his childhood favourite subjects: animals. He started from his land, the eastern Flanders, painting especially abandoned spaces, old monasteries, disused farms, until he discovered another passion: travels. Then, after he went in London and painted a giant rabbit on a wall of a building in Hackney Road, he began to travel and to decorate, with his creatures, cities' walls all over the world: a sleeping hare on Grand Canyon's border, a winged animal in Johannesburg, a bat in Paris, a turtle in Turin, a firefly in Vietnam...

The artwork, made on the wall next to the railway's underpass, portrays a blackbird, an animal of local wildlife. Usually, Roa pays homage to the places where he paints. He realized this work in the 2013 edition of Lecco Street View which subject was "Art and legality". In the event collaborated the prison of Lecco, the Ministry of Justice, around twenty institutions and associations occupied in a more human and equal justice: they trust in people's reintegration and not just in their punishment. Roa interpreted the topic in a particular way: he tied a paw of the bird to the ground, as it would be a prisoner that cannot fly anymore. Usually, the artist doesn't accept every proposal he receives, but he decided to participate in Lecco Street View because he was motivated by the opportunity of painting with detainees. This gives a particular value to his work of art.

➔ Next stop: **two steps to the left**



2

Railway station

Lucamaleonte, a street artist, was born in Rome in 1983. When he was 19 he finished the high school and attended the “Central Institute for Restoration” where he graduated and discovered his aptness to art. He started painting walls with posters and stickers around 2002 but his attention immediately focuses to stencil technique. Thanks to his search for perfection and maniacal rigour he acquired an unmistakable style: is one of the few artists who use stencils and paint to realize multilevelled and elaborate artworks, which are characterized by numerous coats of colour. The world “camaleonte” [chameleon], his pseudonym, tells about his passion for medieval bestiaries, from which some of his works take inspiration. It also refers to the artist’s ability in working, without being invasive, in the environment.

The artwork, realized on the wall next to the railway station in occasion of the edition 2013 of Lecco Street View, has been made in collaboration with around ten young detainees or guys exposed to restrictions, involved in an art action against social exclusion. In the rooms of “Centro Giovani” in Lecco [centre for young people] floated around the atmosphere of a Renaissance workshop, where the master elaborated the moulds and the students managed cutters to create the stencils of the artworks that took life on Saturday, 7 September. The aims of the picture were to teach the stencil technique to participants and to create, at the same time, a work pleasingly embedded in the city. The two little birds have been easy subjects for newbies who shared and supported the sense and the meaning of Roa’s artwork.



3

via Ferriera

Via Ferriera is the pedestrian street that links via Balicco to via Carlo Porta. On one side, it runs along the railway and, on the other, next to the shopping centre Meridiana, very exploited by students and by commuters as car park. The regeneration of via Ferriera started in the first edition of Lecco Street view and involved more than 50 writers and street artists, leaders of the national and international artistic scene, and 10 artists who won a contest for under 35 young designers from Lombardy. A lot of people participated, both with years of experience and young guys who strive for a future as artists. This is how the street became a place symbol of these creative creations: everybody painted side by side, showing a real urban jungle of styles, shapes and poetries. The topics are many and different,

they refer and interpret in new artistic ways the socio-economical changes of the city and the society from artists' point of view. The works realized in artistic workshops are particularly worth of note: they have been made with the involvement of some students of schools in Lecco, in addition to the works of worldwide known artists. Some of them are the Parisian **Madame**, **Federico Massa a.k.a. Iena Cruz**, born in Milan but adopted by New York City, and **Zibe Lk-Tso**, from Mexico. In the course of time, some original murals have been damaged and in 2016 two artists, **Afran** and **Pier**, with the help of **D-Mace** and a group of young students, restored the most ruined parts. Through the route along via Ferriera, the spectator can enjoy a free exhibition that is extended up to its end, along all the 250 meters of the street.

➔ Next stop: I.S.S. [State Professional Institute] Fiocchi



8'



5'



I.I.S. Fiocchi
via Belfiore 4

M-City. Mariusz Waras, also known as M-City, was born in 1978 in Poland. His hand signed different murals scattered all over the world. His career started with the graduation at the Graphics Department of Danzig University. He introduced himself as graphic designer, street artist, outdoor painter and architect. He animates the urban spaces with stories whose main subject is the metropolis. He prefers this kind of scenarios because of his childhood: his house overlooked a big construction site that covered the surrounding area with a thick blanket of smog emanated by chimneys. He used the stencils to produce post-industrial murals with geometrical textures characterized by precision and by a particular compositional rhythm. The second source of inspiration that dominates its work is videogames graphic.

The artwork has been realized in 2015, in the 4th edition of Lecco Street View entitled "Avere cura del bene comune". The topics were the attention to the territory, the respect and the civil responsibility, the legality, the valorization of differences and the expressive strength of multiple subjects joined together. After months of intense study at the desk, M-City got back in the streets to propose one of his most iconic works. The walls of a State Professional Institute host the representation of a gigantic steam engine on green background, amplified by a series of quivering details. The effect is made by black and white contrast, tones variations able to represent the eclectic universe of an artist that interpreted in this way the essence of Calcotto, an hamlet of Lecco, developing it from the personal experience that characterizes him.



5

b&b
Polvara 3I
via Polvara 3I

D.Mace10 is the stage name of Gianluca Perri, who was born in 1991 in Lecco and attended the State Institute Bovara. The school environment and the people he met, created his need and desire to express his feelings. The passion for street art rose when he was just a teenager and saw, through the city's streets, Tenia's artworks. From now on, starts, in odd moments, his artistic travel. His artworks always want to give a specific message and they didn't end in themselves. He started his collaboration with the "Informagiovani" in Lecco in 2013. He also worked with international artists and associations: in Italy in Milan S.Siro, Florence, Lecco... abroad in Lisbon, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Malmö, Varna... He considers Street Art as the most immediately kind of art, cause it need no mediators. His motto is: #onestepbeyond.

The artwork. In the project "Avere cura del Bene Comune" in 2016, D.Mace collaborated with **Giovanni Locatelli** to realize a mural that represents the topic of travel: they wanted to reflect the function of the bed and breakfast in via Polvare 3I. The work of art, made with spray paint, is 2 meters high and 7 meters large and depicts a globe behind two happy travellers on a Fiat 500, iconic emblem of Italy. The work is very coloured and has a strong effect: it seems that the car is coming out from the globe and that the gaudy clouds shows the fantasies of the two characters that pile up on each other. The protagonists are D.Mace and a friend of him during a travel in Hungary. At the right, linked to the main picture, there is another artwork realized by Giovanni: a scuba diver and an explorer that recall the topic of travel.



6

Germanedo Civic Centre

via dell'Eremo 28

Orticanoodles. Orticanoodles is the pseudonym of two well-known Italian artists. The name refers both to the weed [nettle] and to the Milanese quarter of Ortica, where stands their productive laboratory. Wally was born in Carrara where he attended the School of Art. In 1996 he move to Milan to attend an Advertising Art Direction course of IED [European Institute of Design]. Here he met Alita, whom he started working with. Both in love with the technique of stencils, they carried the Italian Street Art around the world by realizing peculiar drawings that quickly distinguish them. They don't have a specific referent figure and their work is characterized by a strong influence of Pop culture that they elaborate in a particular way through techniques, concepts and different aesthetic solutions. In spite of their short-life, the urban artworks are studied in details.

The artwork has been realized with handmade stencils in 2015 in via dell'Eremo on the Civic Centre Sandro Pertini. The letters that stick out at the core compose the word "Lecco", integrated, in a graphic game, with the three big windows of the building's architecture. The letters are enclosed in two hands joined together that symbolically form the shape of an heart. It indicates the concept of respect and care of Common Good, promoted by the project supported by Informagiovani. The stylized effect is given by the accurate use of colours: the parts in the shade are red and light pink, while the areas in the light are put in relief thanks to different shades of yellow. The green background makes a strong contrast with the rest of the representation and gives a particular relevance to the main subject.

➔ Next stop: **stay here and watch to the right**



7

Germanedo Civic Centre

via dell'Eremo 28

Sbafe was born in 1981, he lives and works in Milan. His artistic education comes from the practice in the street as street artist, without any specific study. He won the Meridiana prize, through which he could realize the artwork painted in this place.

Rendo was born in 1969, he finds inspiration from sci-fi movements. He's one of the first writers who have realized giant works with a unique style: in his paintings he encourages the watcher to explore a world that rises from his fantasy.

Hemo was born in 1980. He elaborated his great passion for writing through artistic studies. He is searching for uniqueness, variety and for truthfulness in the representation of reality.

The artworks have been realized in 2012, in occasion of the edition of Lecco Street View dedicated to multiculturalism. At the left of Orticanoodles' mural there's a giant tablet, the symbol of the digital regeneration in technology era realized by Sbafe. Instead, Rendo's work integrates, just in one image, the mixture of humanity's faces: the black, firm, lines, depict the bridges that link all cultures. The world map in the mind of the figured subject, highlights how every man is a world citizen. Hemo's work is composed by twisted ellipses that are intersected by numerous marked curved lines. The shades are pretty dark because he used especially cold colours. However, there are some points of light, sparkles provoked by a huge explosion. The technique used by the artist is the ratification of textures, letters pattern and dimming.

➔ Next stop: A. Diaz Primary School in San Giovanni



32'



25'



10'



Nicholas Turba is an artist born in Lecco in '92. He attended the artistic high school "Medardo Rosso" and a bachelor's degree in painting at the University of Venice. Now he's carrying on his studies at the "Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera", in Milan. He's stage name is **Kol'ja**, nickname that comes from a character of a Dostoevskij's book. His works aren't just limited in Street Art, but he's always glad to do something for the city's Common Good. He collaborated different times with Informagiovani for events or laboratories in schools, as in the case of this artwork. His artistic expression is linked to a figurative dimension and he mainly uses acrylic paints with rolls and brushes.

The artworks have been made during a workshop realized by Nicholas in

Armando Diaz school

via Monte Santo 22

8

October, 2016 for and with the students of the Armando Diaz Primary School, in collaboration with Giovanni Locatelli. During this laboratory two artworks took life. The classes 1st and 2nd directly worked on a wall at the back of the building, while the children of classes 3rd, 4th and 5th worked in the main courtyard. Here, because of the awful conditions of the wall, they used removable wooden panels. The subjects, painted with acrylics, are inspired by the children's drawings that they made at the beginning of the project: there are different kinds of animals portrayed in the act of playing various musical instruments [this is the orientation of the school]. At the centre a panel reproduces the school's logo. The sequence is closed by a panel in which children left their hand-print as signature.



9

Rancio gym

via Caduti del Lavoro

Giovanni Locatelli was born in May 1992 in Castello, one of the numerous Lecco hamlets. He doesn't reveal his stage name so he can keep his artistic identity secret. He attended the Manzoni Classical High School and, then, the Design faculty without finishing it. Throughout these studies he produced his first artworks as autodidact. Giovanni hasn't got much visibility, cause he has no blog or website to promote his artworks on social media, but, in spite of it, his talent guaranteed him to realize various artworks in Lecco's surroundings, such as Rancio gym, the wall of bed & breakfast Polvara 31 and a project with Diaz Primary School children.

The artwork has been realized in Rancio in 2016, in occasion of the event "Avere Cura del Bene Comune". Giovanni

started this work with a group of friends, but he finished it by himself. The main subject on the wall is a monkey inserted in a tiger's head, all settled in a wood with a magical atmosphere. The author declared that he has chosen the subject following a purely aesthetic criterion. The only aim was to recall the topic of the industrial decayed reality, from which nature emerges with renewed vigour. It's like an escape route from the oppression of the modern society. This effect is made by the naturalistic setting of the green forest and by the mushrooms at the monkey's feet, that recall Lecco's landscape. For the central figures he used spray paint and for the background dark acrylics. Before having been painted, the shape of the monkey has been projected on the wall, to define details in a more precise way.

➔ Next stop: **via Belvedere**



20'



15'



13'



10

via Belvedere

Pier, Pierluigi Pintori, was born in Milan in 1978. He graduated in illustration at the “Scuola d’Arte Applicata del Castello Sforzesco”. The creativity is the driving power of his own research in which he tests various pictorial methods. He prefers ink and watercolours for the instinctivity of gestures, but he values every technique as long as it’s effective. He finds inspirations from nature: for him, it’s a therapy and paint is one of the greatest things in universe. He instinctively depicts landscapes, architecture at the limit of gravity, creatures living in his woods. The symbolism is expressed in fantastic elements, in three-dimensional worlds and in dreamlike characters. It’s vital that the artwork brings something beautiful to the community. He guides artistic and creative laboratories for institutions or schools of the territory.

The artwork was born in 2016 from the collaboration with Afran in the “Avere Cura del Bene Comune” project. The artists have been able to join together two very different styles and to create a link and a dialogue between them. The first mural, realized with spray paint, starts on the left with a series of concentric branches with a light blue sky as background. The artwork depicts the mind of Pier, a kind of braincase in which thoughts intersect themselves to the deep of the creative engine. The tree is the most favourite topic of the artist: he started from the roots to develop in different kind of plants that characterize fantastic environments. Recurrent elements in many artworks of Pier are the branches, in particular of the holm oak, a typical tree of Sardinia, isle from where the artist comes from.



Next stop: **two steps to the right**



via Belvedere

Afran, Francis Nathan Abiamba, was born in 1987 in Bidjap, Camerun. He graduated in ceramic at the Institute of Artistic Education in Mbalmayo. He applied himself in painting, his real passion, at the ateliers of the greatest artists in Camerun and Congo. In 2006 he landed to contemporary art thanks to Salvatore Falci, professor of visual arts of Accademia Carrara in Bergamo. In 2008 he presented his first personal exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre in Bata, in Equatorial Guinea. Then he came back to Cameroon and went to Spain and Italy where he lives today. The Public Art - installation and performance - actually represents the most coherent and adequate language for his research around the safeguard of the cultural identity in the contemporary world. With his murals he offers his art without the conditioning of critics.

The artwork in via Belvedere has been made in the 2016 edition of "Avere Cura del Bene Comune" to restructure a wall defaced by some writings. Afrain painted some hyper-realistic frames, in which he inserted aphorisms thought by a young poet from Lecco, Matteo Bertuletti. Among these sentences, there is also a Manzoni's quote: "You should think about doing good: in this way you would feel better". For the artist is very important the game between classic style, the baroque frames and the contemporary background wall that hosts them. As pop artist he pays a lot of attention to signs, so he decided to represent the territory through the icons of the writer Alessandro Manzoni and of the geologist Antonio Stoppani. The conceptual link to the poems is the picture of the local poet, Antonia Pozzi, inserted in to a frame.

1 2 from Railway station to via Ferriera **3**:
underpass to via Balicco,
turn right at the rotary, via
Ferriera

3 from via Ferriera
to Fiocchi Institute **4**:
via Ferriera, largo Caleotto,
corso Promessi Sposi, via
Baracca, via Belfiore

3 from Fiocchi
to b&b Polvara 31 **5**:
via Belfiore, via
G. Giusti,
via Polvara

10

11

via Belvedere
Pier/Afran

1

2

3

Railway
station
Roa/Lucamaleonte

5 from b&b Polvara 31
to Germanedo civic centre **6 7**:
via Polvara, via Grandi, via Belfiore,
via dell'Eremo

6 7 from Germanedo civic
centre to Diaz school **8**:
via dell'Eremo, viale Redipuglia,
viale Montegrappa, viale Tonale,
corso Matteotti, corso Monte Santo

9

Rancio
gym
Giovanni Locatelli

8

A. Diaz
school
Nicholas

via Ferriera
Madame/
Iena Cruz/Zibe Lk-Tso

Fiocchi
Institute
M-City

b&b
Polvara 31
D-Mace10

4

5

8 from Diaz school to
Rancio gym **9**:
corso Monte Santo, via
Agliaiti, viale dei Partigiani,
via R. Fucini, via don
Bosco, via P. Fumagalli, via
Caduti del Lavoro

9 from Rancio gym
to via Belvedere **10 11**:
via P. Fumagalli, via
G. Arrigoni, via Monte
Sabotino, via Gorizia, via
Milazzo, via Petrarca, viale
Turati, via Belvedere

10 11 from via Belvedere
to the Railway station **1**:
via Belvedere, viale F.
Turati, via G.B. Grassi,
via A. Volta, piazza Lega
Lombarda

Germanedo
civic centre

Orticanoodles
Sbafè/Rendo/Hemo

7

6

CULT CITY *in* LOMBARDIA

LEC
— CO

weekend da collezionare

Lecco Cult City

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€ 3,00

This “smart guide” was born in the **Avere Cura del Bene Comune** project [Take Care of Common Good], coordinated by the **Servizio Giovani** [Youngsters Service] and in collaboration with **Teka Edizioni** and from an experience of school-work alternation of the **class 4 SA of the I.I.S. G. Bertacchi** in Lecco, that took place in the school year 2016/2017.

We decided to describe the artworks that, over the years, artists and youngsters, implicated in the project and in the past editions of **Lecco Street View**, realized on Lecco’s walls, making the city more beautiful, colourful and welcoming. The young guys have been involved in the choice of the artworks, in the redaction of texts and in the realization of some pictures.

13 artworks have been selected, each one tells about the evolution of Street Art in Lecco, but they aren’t enough to cite all the artworks in the city.

We chose the most representative artworks, but we don’t want to forget anyone. This is why, for the cover, we picked Pao’s drawing, an artist from Milan who worked more than others with the Servizio Giovani, in many occasions.

We think that this is a great opportunity to thank all the artist who collaborated with us in the past editions to get our city better.

Thanks to the contribution of **Fondazione Comunitaria del Lecchese**, **Centro Meridiane** and private citizens, today is possible to print and to distribute freely the guide to every student of the city’s high schools in the ambit of the **Avere Cura del Bene Comune** project. The aim is to let know, more and more, the Street Art works present in the city.

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