

# Ministère de la culture et de la communication

## *Concours externe pour l'accès au grade de professeur des écoles nationales supérieures\_d'art*

SESSION 2016

**Les 18, 25 et 26 mai 2016**

### **Épreuve orale d'admission de langue Langue anglaise**

**Cette épreuve orale consiste en une conversation à partir d'un texte en anglais.**  
*(préparation sans dictionnaire : 20 minutes ; durée : 20 minutes ; coefficient 1)*

#### **Avertissements :**

- l'usage de la calculatrice, d'un dictionnaire ou de tout autre document est interdit ;
- avant de commencer, vérifiez que le sujet qui vous a été remis comporte toutes les questions ; signalez aux surveillants tout de suite les anomalies éventuelles (page manquante, page illisible...).

#### **Ce document comporte 3 pages au total :**

- Page de garde (1 page)
- Sujet (2 pages)

## Washington is fighting graffiti artists — but it loves the graffiti aesthetic

The music is blaring, the air smells like paint fumes, the bricks are splashed in red and now here comes a cop. The heads in the alley turn.

“We’ve got a guest,” somebody quips, but nobody runs.

Seven artists are hanging out in a U Street alley, where a vacant building is covered in elaborate graffiti. A guy in a fedora who goes by Viceversa is perched on a ladder, filling in his name on a wall already painted with the words MIZTA, GONG and R.I.P. DABS. Cory Stowers, president of the graffiti crew Double Down Kings, walks up to the officer.

“I was just checking to see — if you were concerned about what’s happening?”

“Oh,” the officer says, shaking his head. “Mm. No.” He turns to the wall, just admiring it.

This is how mainstream the graffiti aesthetic has become in 2016. Everyone wants big, beautiful murals these days — city officials, real estate developers, coffee shop owners — to make the District’s corners and alleys look authentically urban-cool. This cop just assumes that because it’s 3 p.m. on U Street, Stowers and his friends were *asked* to paint here.

They weren’t, but they’ve been painting this wall for years, so the owners hoping to redevelop it don’t mind; a little graffiti splatter might make the neighborhood appeal to hip retail tenants.

If police had found them painting at night, Stowers knows, this scenario would play out much differently. Because although murals are more popular than ever in the city, the art form they started from — illegal graffiti — is being quashed.

Former graffiti hot spots are now outfitted with security cameras. In nearly every neighborhood, popular walls have been replaced by new buildings, often made of steel or glass, which are harder to paint. Art Under Pressure, the city’s only spray paint store and artist hangout, closed its doors last month to reinvent itself as a skateboard shop: Paint sales weren’t paying the bills. And if two D.C. Council members pushing new legislation get their way, the minimum fine for illegal painting will rise from \$250 to \$2,500, with jail time of up to 180 days as a possible penalty as well.

There’s less at stake for artists such as Stowers, 38, or Viceversa, 42, now both established artists who get paid to create murals. But graffiti is where they started, and they wonder how the next generation will have the chance to navigate an art form that is reviled as much as it is revered.

When D.C. Council member Brandon T. Todd (D-Ward 4) drives down Georgia Avenue every morning, he doesn’t see art. He sees vandalism.

Each time, he dials 311, the information hotline that will file his complaint to the Department of Public Works, which spent \$447,000 removing 6,606 graffiti sites last fiscal year. “Graffiti can have the potential to breed crime,” he says. “It’s unsightly. It doesn’t make people feel welcome or safe in their community.”

That's why he and fellow council member LaRuby May are pushing for tougher penalties, via the Anti-Graffiti Amendment Act of 2016, currently under council review. D.C. police don't keep track of how often graffiti artists are caught. But, Todd says, he doesn't want to see them arrested, anyway. He wants them to stop.

"I want this bill to be a deterrent," Todd said. "I don't want people to get fined, I want people to look at this fine and say, 'You know what? Putting this graffiti up isn't worth the potential that I'll get fined \$2,500.'"

Meanwhile, graffiti-style murals are flourishing all over the city.

JESSICA CONTRERA, *The Washington Post*, March 22 2016