**City Graffiti**

**Essential Question** How do graffiti artists express themselves through lettering?

**Grade** 2nd

**Time** 30–60 minutes

**Art Concepts** Graffiti, street art, block/bubble letters

**Materials** Two pieces copy paper, pencil, eraser, colored pencils and/or crayons, markers

**Artwork in Focus** [*The Corrido of LA*, 2010 by Gajin Fujita](https://collections.lacma.org/node/2238468)

**Talking about Art** We’re going to spend some time looking at this **graffiti** art.

Graffiti artist Gajin Fujita wrote “The Corrido of LA,” and under each letter there are smaller words that read, “Ozomatli, LACMA, USC, LAUSD, KIIS, Gajin 2010.”

Can you tell what is drawn inside the letters? Do you recognize it? There are palm trees inside the letters and a drawing of downtown Los Angeles.

How do you think this artist feels about L.A.? Through his art, he is able to express how much the city means to him. Fujita is an important presence in the L.A. **street art** and graffiti community; he even helped with “The Corrido of LA Project,” for which students were asked to create a ballad, *corrido*, about L.A.

How are the words different from how you write normally? They look 3-D (**block/bubble letters**).

Do you consider this art? Why or why not?

**Making Art**

1. What are some places that you remember visiting either in your city or in other city? Pick one city that you really enjoy. It could be L.A. or in California or anywhere else in the world. Practice spelling out the name of the city on a piece of paper using block or bubble letters.
2. In the background, draw some famous landmarks from that city or the places you remember visiting there. (For example, San Francisco and its Golden Gate Bridge, L.A. and LACMA, New York and the Statue of Liberty). Make sure you take up the whole paper!
3. Outline the block/bubble letters in marker and leave them white inside. Color in the background with colored pencils or crayons

**Reflection** Fujita is a well-known graffiti artist and probably spent a lot of time developing his graffiti style. How did you decide what style you were going to write in?

In the *Corrido* drawing, the artist wrote down places/things that remind him of L.A. What did you choose to represent your city?

**Curriculum Connections** California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

2.VA:Cr1.2: Make art or design with various art materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

2.VA:Cr2.1: Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

2.VA:Pr6: Analyze how art exhibited inside and outside of schools (such as in museums, galleries, virtual spaces, and other venues) contributes to communities.

2.VA:Cn10: Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life.

Prepared by Alessa Quiroz with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) Education Department