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## **“Works without future perspective (...) are fast interventions without impact“ - or the idea of a travelling urban art library to document the development of contemporary muralism**

### **Jens Besser**

urban script continues, Dresden, Germany

jens@anartchy.com

### **Abstract**

In 2014 the mural project meeting Time for Murals took place in Dresden. The question of the origins of the new muralism was a result of numerous discussions about the future of mural festivals. That's why the wish for a historical reappraisal of the new muralism in the form of a travelling urban art library emerged: a library that is not fixed to a place, but can travel to across all of the world's continents.

Keywords: contemporary muralism, documentation, research of mural history

In 2014 the mural project meeting Time for Murals took place in Dresden. The question of the origins of the new muralism was a result of numerous discussions about the future of mural festivals. Nearly all festivals (and their organizers) are based on illegal activities, such as graffiti or uncommissioned painting on walls. But their origins have been inadequately documented and poorly analyzed. According to public opinion, the new muralism is only based on legal activities. That's why the desire was expressed for a historical reappraisal of the new muralism in the form of a travelling urban art library: a library that is not fixed to a place, but can travel to all continents.

The key element of the travelling library would be a digital archive. It would serve to collect analogue information mediums such as graffiti magazines, photos, videos, newspaper articles, and sketches. All analogue mediums are digitized on-site.

The origin of the new muralism lies in the era before the massive spread of digital media when most artists documented their works on film. To protect their anonymity, the library needs a hatch or a “confessional box” where photos or films can be left, digitized and instantly given back anonymously.

A research team would accompany the library. The team would order the library to make it usable. Additionally, the team could archive the street art of the cities to which it travels. Researchers could travel along the paths of artists, be present at events (such as festivals or art projects) or just archive contemporary street art.

Furthermore, the library could function as a meeting point, place for discussions and exchange or starting point of guided tours.

