

Sonny

As part of his job, Tim Jentsch gets to travel the world. And instead of wasting his time off watching TV in hotel rooms he goes out and photographs the best street art cities have to offer.

"Choosing a favourite image for this edition wasn't an easy decision for me to make, as I've come across a lot of great murals in this busy art festival season. The picture I finally decided upon shows the art of British born, South African raised Sonny, an artist I've been excited about ever since I saw his work in Johannesburg. He paints beautiful large scale murals of endangered animals in an attempt to raise awareness of their impending existence. His world tour, entitled 'To the Bone Project', began earlier this year in June. In the chosen mural, a 10 meter lion sits proudly looking over New York's Lower East Side, which I found incredibly appealing from the moment I laid eyes on it. This is the first mural of his tour, which also aims to raise funds for endangered wildlife. I was lucky enough to get up close and personal to it by climbing up a ladder onto the roof of a yoga studio where it is painted above. The detail is phenomenal! Sonny used a mixture of spray paint and brushes and a huge double arm cherry-picker to reach this tricky wall. I think it's fair to say that he has left a lasting impression on the city. Great thing about it, is that it's almost inaccessible to taggers and unlikely to be painted over anytime soon, because it is an independent piece - a true blessing in the fast moving scene of street art in New York City.

Since painting the lion in June, he has created another mural in the Lower East Side of NY, as well as others in Canada, Russia, Ireland and soon in London. Nowadays, an in-demand street artist's schedule can be compared to those of rock stars; they're always on the road, either painting or moving to the next paint location. This reflects the popularity of this form of art and the growing acceptance of it's nature. For art hunters, like myself, it ensures that we never run out of great pieces to photograph and share with an ever growing audience. Cheers to that!

If you would like to support the project, donations are accepted on www.sonnyonline.com/tothebone and collected for IFAW, an organisation that supports tiger sanctuaries in Russia and Africa. Also keep an eye out for Sonny's print releases in line with the project and his concluding canvas exhibition (date and location to be confirmed)."

text: Tim Jentsch

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