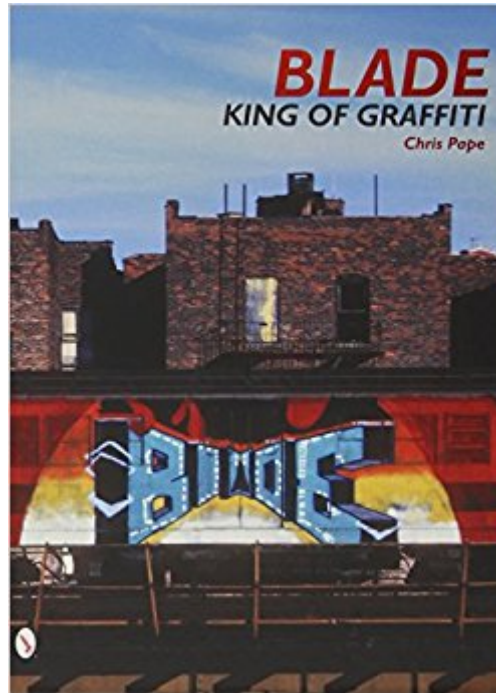




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# Blade: King Of Graffiti



## Synopsis

BLADE has already told his life story through graffiti. Now, more than forty years into his career and armed with an incredible memory, BLADE sits down with Chris Pape to reflect on growing up in the Bronx in the turbulent 1970s, and recounts the highs and lows of his storied career, holding nothing back. BLADE is considered "The King of Graffiti" because, by 1980, after painting 5,000 wildly creative trains, he stopped counting. This book parallels the New York graffiti movement almost from its inception, moving through its glory years in the mid-1970s, when BLADE earned his title, and ending in the global art scene, where he remains a major presence. BLADE helped New York graffiti become internationally famous by making it look fun, and, for reasons of quantity, quality, and, perhaps above all, for sheer spirit, BLADE may very well be the most popular graffiti artist with his peers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Blades infectious and detailed story telling, captured by Chris Pape (Freedom) is really engaging and gives the book an added bit of depth that most graff books fail to deliver. It's what sets this book apart from most others out there and makes the story telling easily jump from one topic to the next. You want to know where some of the ideas for his concepts come from? Its in here. You want to know his fighting style when he was a young dude in high school? Its in here. The book, as you would expect, is crammed full of old train flicks. The well known classics are in here but there is a whole load more of rare flicks from Blade and members of the legendary The Crazy 5. Throughout

the book Blade drops some history, giving the reader a lesson in the development of graff and those who were key in developing the scene. The accompanying photos add some context showing the development of graffiti from the early 70s beginning of single hits through to whole car burners. 101 stories later and the book comes to an end with a story of the TC5 get together in a bar and what they are all up to now. A book worth getting your hands on? Definitely. -

scottishgraffiti.blogspot.co.uk Oct 2014

Chris Pape was born in 1960. He grew up on the upper west side of Manhattan where he watched the birth of the graffiti movement. In 1980 he started painting in a tunnel that would eventually become known as the Freedom tunnel. He currently lives in Brooklyn with his wife Elsa, and their kids Cora and Dash.

Good stuff.

Beautiful transaction.....love the book

Blade :KING OF GRAFFITI contains a vast amount of Blade's personal photo collection of his artwork. Some photos are clear, many are blurry and dark. His fellow Crazy 5 friends artwork is shown but there is not much else to see in photos from among the many other graffiti artists that he describes or was in competition with. I guess he wanted to show no others artwork was as relevant as his. Many photos from this book have already been seen in Graffiti Kings, Early New York Subway Graffiti 1973-1975 and others. Some of his childhood friends very personal information is disclosed which is awkward to read and left me wondering why it was important to reveal. Lots of people photos strangely have no captions. If you want to see many, many Blade train photos this is your book. For a more complete view of the New York's subway art there are better books to choose from.

Just for the pictures a must have ! Nice storys too

amazing!

The ultimate graffiti book by/about the ultimate graffiti writer!!! Blade's willingness to go 100% into full fearless, creative inventiveness in such a public forum (NYC IRT subway

trains) is unparalleled by anyone who ever put spray to metal. Blade was immune to the type of peer pressure that resulted in a bit of stylistic sameness throughout the 70's. He cut his own path and used the subways to explore the outer reaches of his mind, and we're talking OUTER LIMITS here! One can only be completely AMAZED by this man's prolific and amazing body of work! Kudos! Kudos! Kudos! Long live the King! BLADE TC5!

A movement that can never be replicated is the graf scene of 1970s/1980s New York City. Even today, whether peeping the throw-ups on walls along the rail lines and highways in European cities such as Rome or Barcelona or goofing on the suburban-bred pinheads instagramming phone shots of the latest Banksy (yawn)... none, and I do mean NONE, of the aforementioned happen without the events that went down back in the day in the Bronx and Brooklyn. This book chronicles one of the biggest legends in a long list of underappreciated legendary artists from that era. It's as if Blade is sitting next to you on your sofa, flaming up Mr. Party Time and walking you through his scrap book of personal treasures all the while detailing the state of affairs in his zip code and everything else on his mind during the bombing years. Personally glad Blade found someone to complete this project - one reads this or the Dondi book authored by Zephyr, for instance - and ends up with a heightened appreciation for these writers' creative talents and chance-taking. I remember riding the Lexington Avenue line everyday to school and being blown away by the tags and burners which covered the inside and outside of those subway cars. So much more interesting than what NYC has become and what so many of these mega-cities have to offer in terms of creativity. Very cool to have this book in my possession. It brought me back to a time of daily survival I miss despite all the grit and hardships that challenged most of us New Yorkers back then. Good stuff. PS - have to wonder about the few negative reviews posted, it's as if the toyboy ghosts of Caz and other failures still live on to haunt the true kings (you know who you are).

Outstanding overview of Blade's dominant rule as a Graffiti artist!! Full blast photos & insightful commentary. The man has earned his title as the KING !! Do not hesitate to purchase this book. (no hyperbole here).. It will peak the interest of anyone & everyone.! Signed.... DEATH.... THE CRAZY 5.....

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