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Street Art in Naples

Naples sinks its roots into art since its foundation by the Greeks. Throughout the centuries, all the main art-styles followed in the area, featuring the city with one of the most heterogeneous cultural heritages in Italy.

Even urban and street-art is represented with several remarkable examples by many of the most famous artists of the industry. Both from Napoli, like for instance **Jorit** and **Bosoletti**, supported by a rooted graffiti and urban artist community; and not, like **Banksy** from Bristol and **Blu**, from Senigallia, whose works have been included in the **The 10 Best Street Art Works** by the Guardian. Historical Center and suburbs are ideally connected through a line made of decorated building and walls.

We decided to create a two-hours route among the major works in the historical center area in order to provide an exhaustive view of the whole phenomenon.

Main Street-Art Expressions in the Historical Center

Madonna with a Pistol – Banksy

The Madonna with the Pistol is the most famous gift Banksy made to Naples, and the only one in Italy.

It is usually read as a representation of consumerism in contrast with long-term traditions.



It is located in Gerolomini Square, a narrow alley among via Duomo and via Tribunali. It represents the Holy Mary with a revolver instead of the typical halo upon her head.

She is looking upwards in a sign of affliction. Banksy, who mostly paints with the stencil technique, has made raids in many cities around the world and only a couple of his creations are preserved in some museums. Some rumors claim that Banksy and the Bristol-neapolitan Massive Attack frontman Robert Del Naja might be the same person.



San Gennaro by Jorit Agosh

The work is painted on a whole building in the entrance of the "Forcella" neighborhood and represents the figure of San Gennaro, patron saint of Naples. Jorit is a Neapolitan artist who painted several other main figures of local popular culture with the same style, in the outskirts of the city: such as Diego Armando Maradona and Marek Hamsik, the current Captain of the local soccer team. He declared, about the Forcella San Gennaro:

"I sanctify persons of the people, like Caravaggio did. Perhaps it might seem blasphemous but I choose common people's faces to be Saints and Madonna, people I know or hit me. The face of San Gennaro portrait on the wall of Forcella belongs to one of my friends, a Neapolitan 35 years old laborer. "



Isis (Iside) by Bosoletti

In the Spanish Quarter of Naples, in the alleyways of the historical Center, a giant representation of the goddess Isis suddenly appeared on the main wall of a building, by the Neapolitan street artist Francesco Bosoletti.

The image appeared in the street entitled to Emanuele De Deo, a young man hanged in October 1794 by the Bourbon Reign for having conspired against the crown. On the same day dedicated to the patron saint of the neighborhood: Santa Maria Francesca. The Isis resembles "La Pudicizia"(1752) by Antonio Corradini, kept in Cappella San Severo.