



Riled pol tags Time mag ad

AN INFAMOUS graffiti artist busted numerous times by cops for vandalism is getting \$20,000 from Time magazine to tag up a SoHo advertising billboard.

But the news magazine's deal with Fernando Carlo, 38, better known by the street moniker Cope2, is angering city officials who have battled to keep his spray paint off private property.

"Time magazine should have spent its money rewarding legitimate artists, not some punk whose been defacing our city," said city Councilman Peter Vallone (D-Queens), who has introduced numerous anti-graffiti bills.

But Time officials said they are betting Cope2's style will be eye-catching.

"We're not necessarily endorsing it, we're just using it as a provocation," said Time President Eileen Naughton.

The billboard on the southeast corner of Houston and Wooster Sts. is framed in Time magazine's trademark red border. Cope2 and some of his graffiti-painting pals were picked to fill in the white space.

The billboard asks, "Post-Modernism? Neo-Expressionism? Just Vandalism? Time. Know why."

Cope2 said he has no qualms about doing legitimate work in between his urban scrawls that have garnered him a rap sheet dating to 1985.

"Graffiti has two kinds," he said, "They have artists, and they have vandals. I do both."

Carrie Melago
and Nick McDonell



Fernando Carlo, better known as graffiti artist Cope2, stands in front Time billboard on Houston St. that he was paid \$20,000 to tag up.

MATTHEW ROBERTS