



CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE



JANO, AROE, COPEZ, STIKA, OLE - BRIGHTON 2005

COPE2

THE BRONX GRAF LEGEND FEATURED IN MARK ECKO'S GETTING UP... FILLS US IN ON HIS LEGACY...

Verbalists: Tom Dartnell

CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE is Cope2. A larger than life Bronx legend, he started his writing career in the '80s, kept smacking walls and steel in the '90s when many of his peers had given up, and is still going strong today.

WHO WERE YOUR INFLUENCES STYLE WISE?

"Mine was Mitch 77. He's one guy who had style - it was unbelievable. You know he's really underrated, no-one talks about him. But he came out in a pretty short period of time, from probably '77 to '82 and that was it for him. He maybe done one more piece in '85 when PJ came out of prison. But Mitch to me is my idol. He was my hero. I was a little kid and I used to see his whole cars come by on the fours and fives and I went bananas. He's one guy that definitely

inspired me, and when I met up with Delta 2 he gave me a bit of style also. I met Delta in '82 when he was king of the fours with Sharp. I had met them in the yards and in the lay-ups and it wasn't long before I became cool with them too."

WHEN WAS YOUR FAVOURITE ERA FOR WRITING?

"I started hitting trains in '81, so my favourite era is like really '82 to '85 because the trains were bombed. You know '82/'83/'84 I was killing the fours inside and out, went to the twos and fives, started hitting the ones, so it was like amazing back then because all the trains were bombed. You had competition with other writers and then when they got painted white, which was like the beginning of '85. Writers thought graffiti was dead but a whole new crew of

writers started painting. You had Dero doing whole cars, you had Sento and then you had Wane COD crew and that kind of hyped it up and a whole new trends started on the white trains. And I started killing those also and after that it was it, it was done. So it was the early '80s."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE SCENE IN NEW YORK TODAY?

"I tried to keep it alive for many years, but it's hard man. New York ain't like what it should be. There's a couple of crews trying to keep it alive like YMI, and you got Walnuts. TATS crew don't paint no more like they used to. They're too busy doing a lot of work now - they don't even have time to do walls. This summer I'm going to try and do some nice walls and big shit to put New York on the map because I used to do little walls every weekend, I want to stop that. I want to get into big walls, that people come and go like, 'Wow!' Really big shit that will put New York back on the map again."

WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

"They're cleaning so much now it should be a lot more exciting when you come to New York. A lot of people be saying like, 'Yo, what's up? No-one's painting.' People are still bombing, we've still got hardcore bombers like Skul and JA, I'm bombing. You've got kids who still do trains on the low. A lot of Europeans come over to New York, they do whole cars and they're out. It's amazing."

WHAT DID YOU MAKE OF EUROPE ON YOUR RECENT VISIT?

"It was cool. I was feeling it. I really like graffiti everywhere I go. It's like every other city, you get

there and you meet writers and everybody wants to paint with you but you're trying to paint with all these writers to give them some love and respect, but this writer don't like that writer, that writer don't like this writer and then you're caught in the middle of some bullshit. I'm like, 'This is wack. I just want to paint with everybody.' It just makes no sense."

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HOW OTHER WRITERS WILL REACT TO YOUR APPEARANCE IN GETTING UP...?

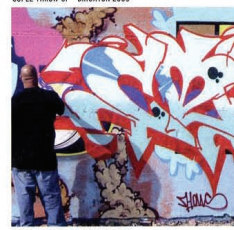
"My thing is like, I've learned in life, you grow up and you just got to do you, man. You've got to do what's best for you and your life. Whatever pays the bills, people can say sellout or whatever. I really don't care what anybody says, they can write whatever they want - Cope's a sellout or whatever. I'm going to do games, I'm going to do canvasses, but I'm going to still do trains and I'm going to still do throw-ups around the corner from your house. You're not paying my bills, you're not feeding me or my family so why you worrying about what I'm doing to survive in this world?"

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"I WANT TO GET INTO BIG WALLS. REALLY BIG SHIT THAT WILL PUT NEW YORK BACK ON THE MAP AGAIN"



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