

GRAFFITI

BJÖRN ALMQVIST



BURNERS





Func'88 UB, GT
Location: Paris, France

FUNC'88: I don't think I even know what is called a burner really. But for me it's a letter piece that makes your eyes pop out of the orbits, burning your retina. It doesn't matter if it's a silver or a coloured piece, the only thing that make it a burner is what you're feeling when you look at it. Back in the days in Paris, a simple black and chrome piece by a guy like Bando was more effective than a fully coloured themed composition, it's all about style.

With all my pieces I try to have fun before anything else. I got codes for my graffiti that I like to apply no matter what style of painting is in fashion at the moment. For this one in particular I have done something retro-futurist with straight lines and a cosmic background, something like a digital space ship letter style floating in coloured sea of galaxies. I had no sketch so it was straight from the mind. For the colours, I take what I got, it's always a surprise at the end, this one was a good surprise.

I love letters, creating new forms and dynamics. I keep a big nostalgia for the Euro old-school type of graffiti of the late 80s, so that is my lead. In addition to this, I'm inspired by science-fiction imagery. Space and galaxies fascinate me.

By now my only goal is to have fun bombing. The only goal I could have had is making original pieces and developping something which can make our crew recognized from others, perpetuate the Galactic Style that I have worked on with my partners.

🔪 HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:

No need to pressure yourself, do it the passion way. Forget about theme, forget about combined colours with your partners - it's bullshit! Do it big. Use vibrant colours, hard contrasts, black background is a must. Basic caps - soft caps kill the spirit. No need to be clean here, just precise and visually violent.

Gauge CAS, 7DC, JPC
Jeks CAS, THY
Location:
Urmula, Sweden

JEKS: A burner is a fully completed and well planned colour piece with characters and letters.

GAUGE: In a well planned spot. Both for the spectator and the piece.

JEKS: This piece was like a dream that you want to rock!

GAUGE: The process was intense, both in planning and in making. Both Jeks and me were really putting our effort in to it. We made it happen with Iron Maiden and heavy beats mixed with sunscreen and shitty pizza. It took about 20 hours, yes, we slept in a tent close to the wall. Most dedicated.

🔪 HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:

GAUGE: Keep sketching a lot.

JEKS: Paint together. Good collaborations, good inspiration and good atmosphere.





Vans The Omega TMD, F1, GM, TNB
Location: Adelaide, Australia

VANS THE OMEGA: A burner to me represents something with a lot of style foremost; meaning sound letter structure, connections and then the addition of good techniques and large scale that can dwarf the bystander. All these ingredients should balance together to produce a wow factor that makes you feel like a kid standing in front of greatness, something bigger than yourself and that transforms you into another world or dimension. To engulf and overwhelm people with a visual is very powerful and impacting, so to me a burner must represent all of these aspects.

I painted the piece especially for this book, so I kept in mind to push myself and fully represent what I feel a burner should adopt in style and performance. Being a freestyle meant it stayed spontaneous to even myself, which gave room for new things to happen and the excitement to develop it into a fine machine with all the bells and whistles. Generally I set a standard for each piece within myself, so I had to pull out my best for the time and conditions that I faced.

I'm inspired by everything I come across, but mainly nature and lighting hit the spot for me. At the moment

some types of music are really setting me off and helping me get great movement into my paintings.

My goal is to concur myself. To find some satisfaction in what I do and finally have a body of work that completely represents what's going on inside of me.

🔪 HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:

Have some balls and paint beyond your means. Don't hold back and understand a balance of letter colour and application. Lastly, my advise is to paint as if you were the best in the world so that one day it can become a possibility.



Chas LoveLetters
Location: Baarlo, The Netherlands

CHAS: I guess a burner is when everything falls into place and you've got this deep, satisfied feeling afterwards. It usually happens for one in ten pieces.

Ces (Wish) Tuff City, TM7, TMT, TNB, FC
Location: The Bronx, New York, USA





Soten SSH
Location: Rome, Italy

SOTEN: For me a burner is based on letters with swing, the right proportions, good colours and background. And the most important thing: a personal touch and not just something based on the latest trends from somewhere in the world that you looked up in some magazine.

This was done on one of my travels, visiting some friends that I got so much love for. It was the first night and I was really keen to do a nice burner with a character. I really wanted to do some nice quote beside the piece and remember it as I had a good one before I started, but I kind of forgot it when I was finished. It was one of those nights when business and pleasure come together, you do a nice piece but have time to chill and have a good time with friends.

Stylistically I'm inspired by the older Copenhagen generation like Bates, Swet, Trick and Sabe, for example. And of course old shool styles from New York. For the sake of going out and keep spraying, the motivation can be everything from love over to hate, or it can be the autopilot switched on with no reason at all.

🔪 HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:

I advise to study the basic letterforms, not to constant follow the latest trends and not compare yourself to other writers. That was some of the things that I was taught in my earlier years and what I feel helped me evolve and progress in terms of burning.



Stray RTR
Location: Auckland, New Zealand

STRAY: A burner to me is a piece with style. Something original that still holds good strong letter structure, smart colour choice and overall execution. Something with a signature stamp.

This piece was painted as part of a battle, so I tried

to step it up a little more than usual. Lots of different fill techniques, battle arrows etcetera. The interchanging colours throughout came from necessity as it was all the paint I had left at the time

I don't really have any goals as a writer. Painting to me is an escape from the everyday grind.

🔪 HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:

Have a good breakfast.



OjeY Chosen Few
Location: Hamburg, Germany

Suko The Crooks
Location: Bremen, Germany

SUKO: A burner to me is aggressive letters, a good background idea, good skills and the correct arrangement on the wall. All this together makes a burner.



Askew TMD, SUK
Location: Auckland City, New Zealand

ASKEW: For me personally a burner is a piece where more energy and detail is focussed in it’s execution. Of course it’s a highly subjective thing but if you’re trying to paint a burner, it will be a piece where you have invested the right amount of time to tick as many boxes as possible. By that I mean that you give consideration to things above and beyond just the raw structure of the letters and put additional time into the embellishments.

This piece is inspired by the west coast of New Zealand. Anyone that has set foot on our black volcanic sands, seen how close the rain forest grows to the coast-line or has braved our rough oceans knows what I mean.

I work on these pieces much like a canvas painting - it’s not a race for me anymore. I just want to feel totally satisfied with the work. This particular piece is very close to my studio so I can run power cables to it, play music and paint into the night while hanging with my friends.

I’ve been inspired by many things in my life and as I grow these things can change - that’s part of evolving. A couple of years ago I was really about proliferating in as many shapes and forms as I could and was very active. Right now I’m really focussed on developing particular “ISM’s” specific to my own thought processes and it’s a very reflective and self indulgent time.

I try my best to think long term, and as a writer I want to be known as someone who explored every possible facet of this game. I feel like I’ve been very lucky to have such a varied range of experiences and opportunities to do just that.

🔪 **HOW TO MAKE A BURNER:**
Having an actual idea that you’re exploring in your work helps, rather than just attaching a series of popular treatments to your piece. I’ve done both, and the work I’m often happiest with stylistically is the work where I ran with a cohesive vision right through. It’s hard sometimes, being that I have ADHD and my mind tends to race through ideas and go hot and cold on things really fast, but as I said, each time I persevered was the most rewarding.

