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Vino

Cologne 6 February 2015 9:05 Shot with a Fuji EX2

I remember getting up at 4:00 AM to go pick up Vino from the airport in Frankfurt. We were going to spend 24 hours in Cologne and we would use the opportunity to see our friends and paint a few trains, since we both had to be in Frankfurt for the Paperworld fair the next day. We met up and gave each other a big hug and took the ICE train into town. In Cologne there was already a posse waiting for us – 78, along with March, Runis and Boyer from Oporto. The latter two looked like kids, they were super cool and friendly. Good vibes flowed all around... jokes and laughs... we all wanted to paint and share a nice day. We went straight to the yard. The trains weren't parked well, so you could only paint between them, which wouldn't leave us with a good photo op. But that was secondary. We went into the trains, prepared the paint and we jumped. March cordially volunteered to keep watch for us and so we were able to paint more freely. We began and I painted a little, and stopping to shoot some photos of the boys – trying to capture a magical moment. I started to observe how Vino paints and I realized what a pleasure it is to see him in action. To see how he outlines, the colors he uses, the characters he includes... it's incredible. It's like watching Zidane playing for Real Madrid, a spectacle. When you see him paint, it seems so easy to do what he does, and even more so when you see how much he enjoys it. However, in reality it's the total opposite. What he does is the most difficult thing in the world of graffiti; creating, maintaining and renovating a unique style that open up new universes with unpredictable tricks – that's a job which very few writers can do.

TSK VLOK



Bookmark





VIENNA





Whel

Stockholm 17 November 2018 21:18 Shot with a Fuji X100F

Whel is one of my biggest references in graffiti. Aside from being a legend in Europe, he's a wonderful person with incomparable humility. He's always full of positive energy and has a really polite and friendly attitude, fitting of a true gentleman. I remember first meeting him in 2007, outside the Montana Shop in Barcelona. We conversed a little and I was struck by how well he spoke Spanish and how completely different the people he was with were from him. It was a very strange mixture, like olive oil and balsamic vinegar. We had some laughs and talked about some spots in the London underground. Unfortunately, we weren't rolling with the same people and we didn't end up having any more contact while in Catalonia. But, in 2009 I went to Stockholm with Rioga and Muse, and we met again. We stayed in his house for 3 or 4 days and had an amazing time. We were treated like kings, survived a few adventures and got to know each other a little better. And now, in 2018, when the people of Montana Colors put me in contact with Dokument Press for the publication of this book, it was the perfect excuse to go back to past years. In the end, things didn't work out with Dokument Press, but it was still cool to refresh the contact with Whel. The light in this picture is incredible. It gives me a feeling similar to watching a Star Wars film: the light reminds of those laser-sword fights. The only difference is that in this case the light is coming from a prepaid mobile phone – something used by drug dealers to work their hustle and by train writers to keep in touch with the checkers during the missions.

FAME



CHICAGO

The first time in my life I heard anything about Chicago I was 9 or 10 years old. I went to the cinema with my parents to see the movie «The Fugitive», starring Harrison Ford. I think it was the only time I went to the cinema with them.

Almost thirty years later, I had the chance to visit this incredible city with my girlfriend. When I arrived I met up with my friend Stil and his girlfriend, and we went to eat tacos at his house, enjoying that hospitality characteristic of Spanish-speaking people.

MTN USA had sent my cans to their house, so I could take some photos and use them throughout the city as well. After lunch we went to check some yards and began to plan what we would do in the days that followed. The vibe was really good, Stil and his girlfriend were super friendly to us. They took us around the city and showed us the all the tourist spots, but also the secret places that only locals know about, which – as is true for almost all cities – tend to be the most interesting.

On one of my last days there, Stil came to pick me up at 2 in the morning. We went to his house to prep the materials and he introduced me to his friends from the TDM Crew. It was great, they were all very friendly and they spoke Spanish. What else could I ask for while being in the States?

We got going. The guys wanted to do a group wholecar with MADMAXXX and I wanted to do a quick piece so I could focus on taking pictures and recording the mission as best possible. A job that's not as easy as it seems, but that was my goal. Everything was ready and we drove to the yard.

It was in the middle of a highway, with the subway cars parked between the lanes... a very unique yard that reminded me of a couple of spots in Santiago de Chile.

We looped around with the car a few times to see how many workers were left inside and which units were still being cleaned. Those factors would dictate where and for how long we would be able to paint. We checked that everything was as it should be, so we parked the car and walked to the

highway. The cars were zooming by us at crazy speeds, and despite the ungodly hour there was a lot of traffic!

We entered in pairs. While we were running along the highway we saw the vehicles coming at us very fast, but we had to get in as quickly and discreetly as possible through a hole that the guys made. The entry was a success, and we started painting. I finished very fast and I started taking pictures; everything was going so smoothly.

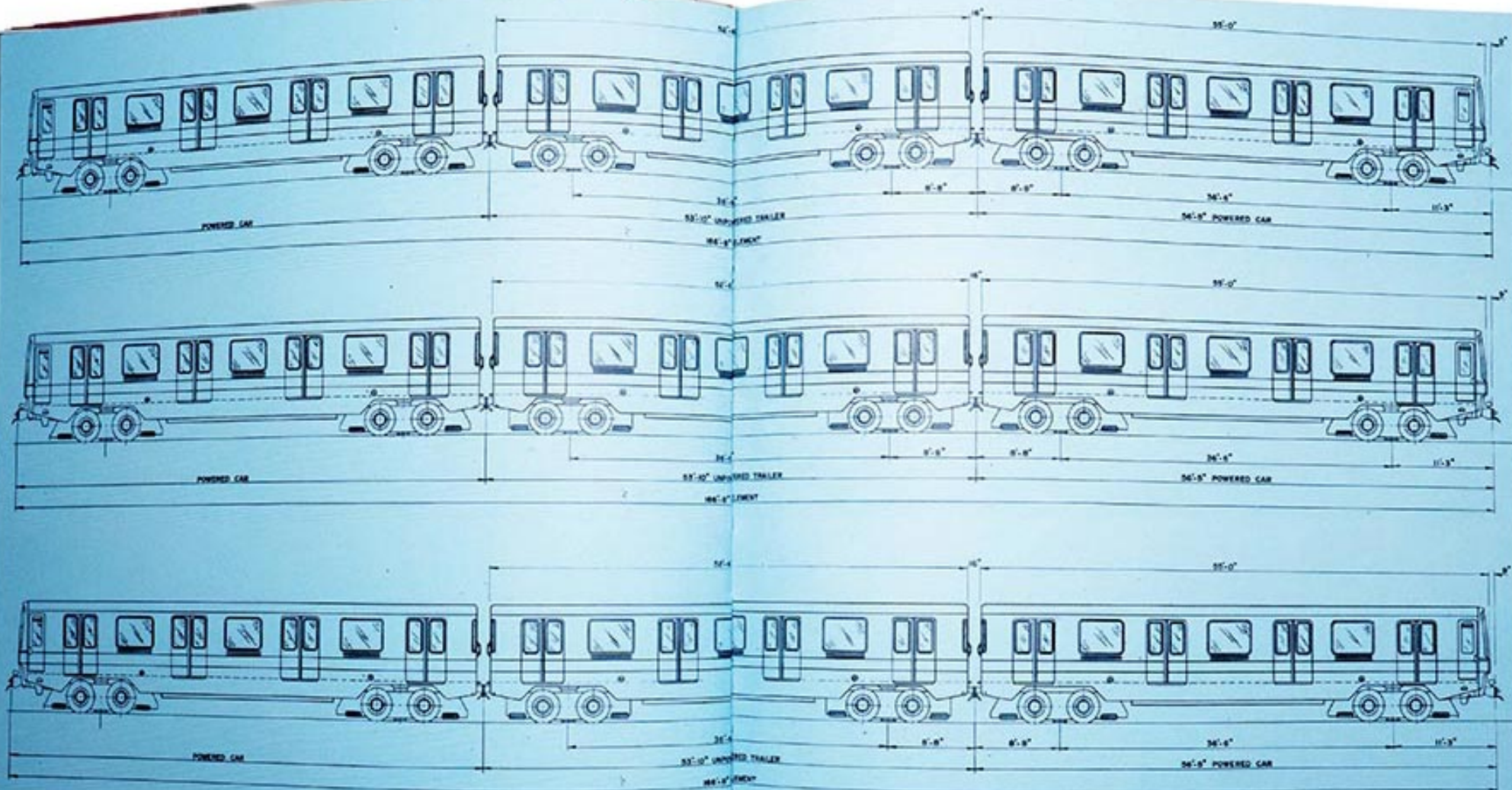
After a while, they finished the wholecar – which looked amazing, by the way. We took more pictures of the pieces and went back out on the highway, dodging cars – luckily without any issues. To finish off the day, and since we were starving by then, we went to eat an incredible «Mexican» – Polish – hot dog typical of Chicago and ended the night on the couch, looking at the photos we had taken. Pure happiness.



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STUTTGART



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