

# Street Art in Brazil

by Caitlyn Meagher



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*This is a photo of street art made by Os Gemeos.*

Art can transform communities in small, but powerful, ways. In Brazil, one of the most popular forms of self-expression is street art. The walls in cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are covered in all different styles of street and graffiti art. In 2009, the Brazilian government made street and graffiti art legal, as long as artists had permission from the owners of the buildings. This law made it much easier for artists to use their talents around the city. Nearly 25 miles of a metro line is covered with street art. This art is inspired by the parts of the city the metro passes. Now, tourists from all around the world travel to see Brazil's colorful streets.

Who are some of these artists that transform Brazilian streets? Otavio Pandolfo and Gustavo Pandolfo are identical twins who both have a talent for street art. They started off breakdancing and soon became inspired by American hip-hop. The artist duo is called Os Gemeos. "Os gemeos" means "the twins" in Portuguese. Os Gemeos combines Brazilian culture and American hip-hop in their art. Their pieces often have brilliant colors. Their works often include paintings of bright yellow figures.

Although many Brazilian street artists are male, some women have made names for themselves. Nina Pandolfo is one of these women. She uses plastic, spray paint, and other materials to create portraits of women. These women have large eyes and expressive faces. She also paints people in magical environments. She wants to remind people that the small details in life can sometimes be the most beautiful.

Artists from around the world promote street art as a way to uplift communities. In Brazil, there are many nonprofits that teach graffiti techniques to young children. Through these lessons, children learn about Brazilian culture, improve their writing skills, and contribute to their community. The Brazilian street art movement continues to grow and be a popular form of self-expression and protest.



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*This is a photo of street art made by Nina Pandolfo.*