

"TERRIBLE KID"  
"T-KID"

## **The Nasty « Terrible » T-Kid 170**



T-Kid in 1979 on 125<sup>th</sup>'s elevated platform.

**Retrospective from the 20th of Oct. to the 4th of Nov. 2004.**

**Taxie Gallery & Righters.com**

37, rue des Acacias, 75017 Paris (France), Métro Ternes or Argentine.

Opening on the 20th of Oct. with T-Kid, Mist, Jay & Martha Cooper

Presentation of drawings, sketches, painted model trains, photos by Martha Cooper, old and new canvases.

A special collaboration between Mist, Jay and T-Kid was produced for the opening.

**PRESS > [contact@righters.com](mailto:contact@righters.com)**

**TAXIE  
GALLERY**



**MARtha COOPER  
HIPHOPFILES  
\*\*\* PHOTOGRAPHS 1978-1984 \*\*\***





T-Kid tags on a New York subway car in 1982, dedicated to Henry Chalfant.  
Daze, Skeme & T-kid at the GPI opening in 1982 from the book *Hip Hop Files* by M. Cooper.

**T-Kid** is one of the people who have left their mark on the history of graffiti. Now in his 40s, he came up in the golden age of Hip Hop and became one of the leading figures in the emerging New York graffiti scene. Few artists today can tell a tale like his – a ghetto childhood, gangbanging and daring feats of graffiti. Many of the others who were there left their lives or their art behind. T-Kid, who won fame early on, lived to tell the tale and withstood the test of time. His work reproduced in the book *Subway Art* by Martha Cooper and Henry Chalfant (Thames & Hudson publishers) made him an international legend. His style, 3-D letters and unique characters have been a source of inspiration for many other writers.

An icon of an historic moment, he is still a style master, a pioneer of Hip Hop culture and a part of the artistic heritage of the graffiti movement.



T-Kid letter style on a wall done by the TDS crew at the Graffiti Hall of Fame in Harlem in 2003.



RAC 7 & T-Kid of the TNB crew in a New York night club in 1985 with their customized jean jackets.

The show and the book retrace the life of T-kid from the early 1970s to 2004 through his written accounts and his artwork.

The partnership of Righters.com and the Taxie Gallery for this occasion makes it possible to really appreciate T-Kid, his contributions to graffiti, the stories of the difficult and chaotic origins of Hip Hop and the passion for graffiti that drives the built-to-last, shrewd “old timers” who have become legends, of graffiti culture.

The words, images, collectors’ books and original artworks come together to form something that is more than just an exhibition. It is a journey through a life, a place and a time that will shed much light both for those who thought they knew about it and those just becoming curious.

*Mist* and *Jay1*, who consider themselves heirs to T-Kid’s art, will paint a wall (on a panel in the gallery) in real time.

The exhibition is scheduled to travel abroad to further this effort to present not just a movement or even an artist but a whole slice of the history of graffiti through the work of one of its most prolific practitioners.



T-Kid's Style >



Piece by T-Kid on paper, originally painted on a New York subway car in the mid 1980's.

T-Kid's work has been influential in the graffiti world for 25 years. His style and graphic vocabulary represent the environment where Hip Hop culture was born, the Bronx. While *Tracy 168* taught him to draw characters, *Padre Dos* influenced the evolution of his style.

### **Characters and Lettering – Two for the Price of One!**

In the '80s it became common to see characters associated with letters. Placed beside the tag, they supplemented the lettering – their purpose was to draw attention to the signature.

Motivated by a desire to be the best and stand out from all the rest, T-Kid worked on his characters and gave them a central importance, playing an important role in bringing figuration into graffiti as a dimension in its own right. After the experience of this initial breakthrough, and pushed by his own search for fame (a signature trait of graffiti artists), he further developed his letters with 3-D effects, just as Tracy 168 had done before him, copying comic-book headlines. Finally, this gave rise to the approach he is known for, a mix of influences and mentors, a style that is unique to T-Kid and copied all over the world.

What defines his work and makes it so singular is its characteristic movement (arrows, rhythm, b-boys and other characters), lettering (3-D and wild style) and colors (hot yellows, red, green and other shades).

*“Over the years I learned to pay attention to what people were doing in terms of getting there names up and I learned to take bits and pieces from everything. I never saw the whole, just what I liked, combined all the styles and use of color and let it drop inside my piece. Each letter is different from the other the same as all pieces must be different from each other. Each flow with its own rhythm, its own style. Why should a piece be confined to several colors in chromatic sequence? Its art, not a study.*

*To achieve individuality you must explore the things we are taught not to do. Colors clashing at times can offer a view to be compared with the galaxy colliding. Imagine opposite colors fading into one another and becoming one, I say what better way then to honor the art that was started by early man, You know the one's, the ones that chiseled there marks on stone and trees to leave the legacy of their lives. In my heart I believe graffiti was the wellspring from which all art developed.*

*So for me I'm inspired to make each letter in T-Kid stand apart from the next.*

*The thought of where this started is inspiration enough. All that surrounds me and all that involves my life is reference to the way I flow my style. Not one of us is better then the other. We are just different. I have evolved from the mid 70s to the present. I use all styles that I see and my letters evolved to what they are now always keeping the New York flavor. Padre Dos taught me flow.”*

T-Kid 170. from the upcoming book **“The Nasty ‘Terrible’ T-Kid 170”**,

Published by righters.com – 250 pages (5 colors) to be released in Spring 2005. [contact@righters.com/](mailto:contact@righters.com)

## T-Kid Biography

1961: Born in New Jersey.

1968: First encounter with graffiti at 7 years old. He starts to notice names like **TRACY 168**, **PHASEII**, **STICH ONE & THE MAN 500**.

1969: After his parents divorce, he leaves the South Bronx and goes to live in Puerto Rico.

1972: Moves back to Queens. Soon after, he runs away to move in with his father in the Bronx. T-Kid begins to build a solid reputation as a great acrobat on the swings and starts to write **KING13**. He is quickly noticed by a gang called the "Bronx Enchanters" and recruited as he starts taking up b-boying. He changes his name to **SEN102**

1977: Badly wounded by three gunshots in a gang shout out, he is left almost dead in a park. Hospitalized in the emergency unit, he survives. While in bed for many weeks, he draws endlessly and chooses to become T-Kid 170 (T for the tall and skinny look he had, and kid was just what many people called him). He gives up his gang life to focus on his art.

The adventures of T-Kid 170 begin. **Tracy 168** becomes his mentor **Padre Dos** teaches him rhythm and style.

Along with Peser, he starts a crew called The Nasty Boys (TNB). He paints trains with **BOOZER**, **KEL 139**, **SHY147**, **RIN**, **SHOCK 123** and **CRAZY 505** (his brother Alex).

1979: Starts getting up on the subway cars of New York – lines # 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 – and does enormous paintings with his crew. (See photos.)



"Bombing Time," whole car > piece by Booze, T-Kid & Rac7, early 1981.



"Cocaine car," on a New York subway car > piece by T-Kid & Booze, early 1981.

Today T-Kid's crew T.N.B. is a cross-border organization. Its members include people from Germany, France, the UK and Spain. Its unique lettering style with inserted characters has become well known throughout the world and inspired many imitators and followers. Mist and Jay (who are taking part in the exhibition) acknowledge T-Kid's influence. He has been shown at many exhibitions in Europe as well as New York.



For any questions or needed material contact@righters.com

**For T-Kid press photos please visit>**

<http://www.righters.com/presse/tkid-press/Tkid-press.html>

Please be sure to send at least two copies of your editorial or book review to

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FROM HERE TO FAME Publishing is a young, motivated venture run by Hip Hop individualists in collaboration with other independent publishers around the globe, who focus on Hip Hop culture. We connect a diverse group of experts including artists, journalists, authors, and anthropologists who, from their different perspectives, have observed and participated in the development of Hip Hop.

FROM HERE TO FAME Publishing envisions the foundation of a Hip Hop museum and cultural center. We want to communicate the history, evolution and influence of Hip Hop culture on our society, especially to the younger generations. Our motto is:

### **KNOW YOUR HISTORY!**

An ambitious project like a museum can only be realized with the support of cultural departments and government, and with the help of dedicated people from the Hip Hop community, students, supporters, and sponsors. *Hip Hop Files* was the first of many books and projects to come. More will follow and help to pave the way to realize our vision. The T-Kid book planned for 2005 will be our next move.

### **FEEL FREE TO JOIN US!**