

ONE MORE TIME

A GRAFFITI SAGA, ABOUT THE CONQUEST
OF THE BERLIN S-BAHN SYSTEM
BY OUTSIDERS

FEATURING:

CESS3.. AS JACK IN DA BOX

MILK.. AS BACK AND MORE

DESHAMER.. AS DRUM

NEON.. AS SPEED

PIND3.. AS FAST





Ossie (East Berlin) Cop car, 1991, picture by Gregor Dreykluft.

Conquest of Berlin, the buildup.
By CES53.

When I was 11 years old, my family moved to Rotterdam in summer of 1983, and graffiti was everywhere, small scribbles with markers, and some spray paint tags where present.

I had an interest for graffiti from an very early age, I did a brush paint tag of my name on our house in 1978, being 5 years old, and got punished by my dad.

Since 1983 I went around outside carrieng markers, drawing cartoon characters on electricity boxes and light poles.

I loved comics, and wanted to be a cartoonist at that time.

Spring 1986, The Dutch graffiti boom.

Since 1985, I started noticeing older guys painting graffiti pieces around my city, I did a couple of designs on paper, doing my name on my school paperwork. Then in February, 1986, my drawing teacher got a VHS tape of the infamous graffiti documenatry "STYLE WARS", he got a video player and TV set and showed us in class, that docu inspired me to go large, do big colorfull pieces, using spray paint.

So a week later, I hooked up with a school thug, we went out, and racked 6 cans, cans being way to expensive to buy for us at that age. We got the paint, and I sketched a piece on the front of our school, it said MA'S, MAUI ALIAS, MAUI being a school friend, and me being ALIAS, one of my first writing names.

That was the beginning of my career as a writer.



In 1985, 1986 graffiti exploded in Holland, in Rotterdam, the city where I lived, there was at least 1000 writers, many meeting every friday night, at the Berenkuil, in the center of Rotterdam. At that location was a LEE piece, which of course inspired me and the other writers a lot.

In a couple of cases, riot police had to clear the Lijnbaan shopping centre, the riot police came with horses, tear gas and shield and stick armed cops. Crazy things happened during those nights, writers would go into the local office shop, with a huge posse, like 25-40 guys, and ransack the place for markers and ink, wild times for sure.

From there it went fast, within a couple of months, the only thing that interested me was, graffiti. Racking paint and markers, tagging 3, 4 times a week, doing pieces, meeting writers, going out taking pictures of my work and others. It was a full time job. I fucked up school, got arrested for racking, tagging many times, and did not give a fuck, I knew that this was going to be my life.



LEE, Berenkuil Rotterdam, 1983.

Beating the kings.
By CES53.

In 1985, 1986, there was a couple of articles in Dutch magazines about graffiti. The articles were about the USA crew from Amsterdam, the best Dutch graffiti crew at that time, it featured JOKER, DELTA, JAZ, SHOE, JEZIS. Their pieces were amazing, especially JOKER his work I liked, when I saw his Elephant characters and styles, he blew me away. The only thing I wanted, was to be as good as JOKER. He was my first graffiti role model.

At the end of 1986, JOKER stopped painting, the USA crew was done. SHOE got in contact with BANDO, from Paris, and they continued to paint under the CTK name. DELTA, CAT22, SIGN, BOXER, SHOE and BANDO were my new role models, also other writers like AGAIN, ALIENS, BEAT53, ERAS, JEAN, SAVE, SENSE, JIM, SEA, from other crews and cities in Holland also got my attention.

I remember clearly, somewhere at the end of 1986, that I planned in my head, that I would be the greatest Dutch graffiti writer in a couple of years, I wanted to beat them all. I wanted to be the most shocking writer Holland had ever seen. And I would need a couple of years to beat them, all the mentioned writers were a bit older than me, like 3-7 years. I was 14 years old at that time.

End of 1986, I started to travel to Amsterdam on a regular basis, sneaking in the train for free, chilling in toilet.

At the same time, JEAN, a graffiti king from Rotterdam, gave me the copies of the BANDO blackbook, which inspired me a lot, like many writers at that time. I respected JEAN as a writer, but when I met him, I was a bit disappointed that he was a weirdo, talking about dicks all the time, showing porn magazines, he gave me a weird vibe, which I did not like. Later he turned out to be an undercover rainbow warrior, so my senses were right, to stay away from him.

He was also a bully, dissing people and making uncool jokes, not my type of person.

Meeting my graffiti heroes,
SHOE and JOKER.

By CES53.

Somewhere in 1987, I went to Rusland 10, the address in Amsterdam, where SHOE and JOKER had a design studio. I was 14, and wanted a SHOE and JOKER tag in my blackbook. I rang the door, and JOKER opened it up, I asked "can you tag up my blackbook man, and he said, "yeah buddy, of course", so het tagged it up, took a few seconds to look at my sketches, and said "cool, your doing all right, not bad at all". SHOE was sitting at a desk, I asked him for a tag.. A he did not say anything, just waved to get me out, not very friendly, I thought, what an arrogant dick that SHOE dude is, for not giving me a tag, fuck him I thought to myself.

Meeting BANDO.

1988 I went to Paris, still 15 by that time. A Rotterdam guy, had BANDO his home address, Rue de B.... I went to his house, rang the door, and BANDO opened the door. I asked him for a tag in my blackbook, and BANDO acted very wierd, autistic almost, refused to give me tag, and told me to leave, a very wierd vibe I got from him, can't explain, not a nice person, fuck him too, I thought to myself.

The dissapointment I felt that my graff heroes SHOE and BANDO dissed me, made me furious, I had to beat SHOE and BANDO, and become much bigger writer then they had ever been.

Meeting CAT22.

1989, I was 16, got the address of CTK member Cat22 from ERAS, an oldskooler from Rotterdam. ERAS assured me that CAT22 was not arrogant like SHOE, but a cool, down to earth, crazy motherfucker who would give me tag in my blackbook for sure.

I went to Amsterdam by train, to the address ERAS gave me, and rang the door, a very large man, opened the door, looking very concerned "who are you? What do you want? I was like" I am a writer, I write CES53 from Rotterdam, can you do a tag in blackbook please?

He looked for a second and said "come inside, it's cold".
I followed orders and followed him inside of his house.
He said "sit down, and explain who you are". So I sat down, showed him my photos and blackbook,
and he nodded, very well.. "Your into painting trains I see, cool.

CAT22 started rolling a big weed joint, and lighted it up, he was 26 years old at that time, exactly 10 years older then me. And started a monologue speech about graffiti for about 2 hours..
He explained everything he knew.

Then he said," Enough talking, let's go do a piece", so he got out his bag, allready ready and fixed, and we got down to his car and did a piece together.

I was surprised by how cool CAT22 treated me, he took me under his wing like a son, and later, when I got back from Munich, with a pack of whole car photos, he said.. "you beat us" (CTK crew), I am very impressed you little bastard, respect"

We have been friends since that day, one of the coolest, interesting, crazy and extreme personalities I met in the graff game.

After being dissed by SHOE and BANDO it became a goal to me, to beat arrogant assholes SHOE and BANDO graffiti wise, and become a bigger writer then them, it had been accomplished, I was satisfied, I had destroyed the CTK crew.



Elephant by JOKER, 1985.

CTK in Munich.
By CES53.

In 1987 there was interview with CAT22 in Aktueel mag. He talked about getting busted in Munich for killing 100 trains with tags, throws and a couple of occasional pieces, and being put in jail for 2 weeks there. I was very impressed by this story, and intrigued.

The CTK was the most aggressive crew at that time still, hard street bombing and burning walls, great combo, but the trains where still missing in their diet, and them starting to paint trains exited me. To me instinctively, or rationally, graffiti has to be done on trains too, that is the NYC tradition. End of 1986 CTK did a Euro tour, starting in Amsterdam out to bomb trains, ending in Munich, Germany with them getting busted, SHOE, BANDO and CAT22 where picked up by the the Munich police and spend 2 weeks in prison.

I noticed, that after that event, the CTK crew, lost its aggression, they where not eager any more, and started to paint less then they used to. No more color street burners, or crazy bombing tours. Just a piece, most legal, once in a while.. It was clear, the crew was over it's top, at that moment.

To me, both SHOE and BANDO failed, when the heat was on. They basically quit after getting caught in Munich. Graffiti is about painting trains.. And they left the steel battle they started themselves, and when it really got interesting, they both pussued out.

I knew.. I had to go to Munich, and show them CTK guys what graffiti is about. Trains, planes and automobiles, I am 3-10 years younger then most CTK guys, First in May 1990 being 17 years old, and after failing, again in September 1990, just turned 18, I was on my way to Munich, Germany To paint trains.





SHOE, BANDO, CAT22 Munich Sbahn December 1986.

Going to Munich to meet LOOMIT.

End of March 1990.

By CES53.

On my mission to go to the next level, I was invited by LOOMIT, to visit him, in Munich to paint trains. I was 17, and my mom said, "you can go, but if you do illegal graffiti I will go nuts". Since I was busted many times, and got in trouble, my mom was not pleased to say the least. So I promised her, that I would only paint a legal wall with LOOMIT.

All good, I was on my way to Munich, with evil plans, daydreaming about the action to come. I met LOOMIT on the Main Station in Munich, and we went to his place, I would stay there.

At LOOMIT's place, we started planning the action, The plan was to go to Stuttgart, Germany and do a whole car there.

LOOMIT was busted by the Munich police, and was also involved letting the CTK stay at his place, when they were busted in 1986, so the vandal squad, which Munich had, was on his tail. Tapping his phone, and watching his house and shit.

LOOMIT, the planner, he was the dominant but cool leader, always trying to be friendly and easy, but firm.

He was also the oldest of the RTA members, so a natural leader he was.

RTA members ZEBSTER and SHORE arrived, at LOOMIT's place to join forces.

LOOMIT laid out the plan, we would do a concept top to bottom whole car, "African Wildlife". We would paint our undercover names SIE, CESS, SERA, and LOOMIT would paint the "African Wildlife" theme above the panels of us, and do 2 Characters next on either end of the car, A gorilla on the left and a lion on the right.

LOOMIT owned a black horse car, with purple curtains, the LOOMIT mobile, we got in there and where on our way to Stuttgart.

It was the Night of March 24 to 25th 1990.

