**Graffiti mecca 5 Pointz erased overnight | New York Post**

The warehouse is owned by developers Jerry and David Wolkoff and will now face the wrecking ball. Curators and managers of the project accused Jerry Wolkoff of purposely ruining the art to sabotage their efforts to get the building landmarked. They said they were prepared to submit more than 20,000 landmark forms to the Landmarks Commission this week, 1,000 of which were collected during a rally on Saturday. “It’s vandalism from the guys who want the building back,” said Marie Flageul, a lead organizer to save 5 Pointz. “This is a tragedy. It’s a signature Jerry Wolkoff move. If things don’t go his way, he takes them in his own hands. This is artistic murder.” 5 Pointz after it was painted overnight. Photo: Tamara Beckwith. But Jerry Wolkoff and his lawyer defended his decision to whitewash the art – dooming the landmark effort – and knock down the building, insisting they were within their legal rights to move forward with their plan to build new condos. “I know it seems like a bitter pill to take, but it’s medicine,” he told New York magazine. “All I did was the right thing.” Wolkoff argued it would be easier for critics to swallow the ”medicine” in one dose rather than spread out the pain. “The judge gave me the right to demolish my building. It would take three months. To watch the [art] pieces go down piece by piece by piece would be torturous. In New York, you can’t implode a building. So let me just go in and paint it in one morning, and it’s over with,” he said. But it wasn’t an easy call, he added. “I had tears in my eyes while I was doing it. In my new building I’ll have walls for them to express their aerosol art,” he said, adding that he requested a police presence because he didn’t want any confrontations between supporters and workers. Wolkoff’s lawyer, David Ebert, added that the artists “knowingly painted with the understanding that their works would be replaced with other images, by other artists, within a short period of time.” Flageul said the paint job was done between 1 and 7 a.m and that workers were guarded by cops, who kept people off the property as they finished the work. The 5 Pointz Building Photo: Getty Images. Jonathan “Meres” Cohen, the building’s curator, said, “Tell Jerry I said I hope he’s happy. He destroyed the artwork and the biggest tourist attraction in Queens. I don’t care if he builds the tallest building in New York, nobody’s going to remember him for anything but that.” in response to Wolkoff’s promise that the new development would have walls inside for artists to paint on, Cohen said, “Those walls will remain white. No artist will ever paint on anything you own again. “ Jake Fry, 40, neighborhood resident who works in wardrobe on Broadway , blasted the overnight move. “Why did they do it in the night, so know no one would know, so no one could do anything about it? It’s a slap in the face. It’s just really upsetting. The owner insulted everyone around here and all the artists,” Fry said. Flaguel said there were more than 1,500 pieces of art by more than 300 artists from around the world on the building. Brooklyn federal Judge Frederic Block cleared the way for the work earlier this month, denying an attempt by artists and fans to preserve the graffiti. Even the elusive British street artist Banksy got into the act during his October “residency” in the city, sending a supporter to hand out leaflets supporting 5 Pointz at the proceedings in Brooklyn Federal Court. Was 5 Pointz an art mecca or an eyesore? I had gone to New York for my 16th birthday and we went to 5 pointz it was one of the coolest, and most unique place I had ever been too. It is a shame to destroy this building and if the owner is going to setup up an area for artist to put up art then why paint it white. If you don't find graffiti to be art, that's fine you are more then entitled to feel that way. Yet, to belittle those who do is just ignorant. The building was beautiful, full of life and history. there was so much truth in it, graffiti is true and real and if you don't see that, that's ok. Those pieces on that building meant something to a lot of people and that's important. Certain things shouldn't just be seen in pictures, it should be seen in person and this building was one of those things.  Different action could've been taken to keep those pieces alive and not just lost forever. As much as many of you hate it Graffiti is part of NYC!!! Graffiti isn't art. It's vandalism. It's also an eyesore. It destroys the landscape. They impose this trash on us. I'm happy that they covered it up. Reminds me of Rudy Giuliani and his war on graffiti on subways. Wherever there is graffiti there is black crime. Who do these so-called "artists" think they are?  This is a privately owned building on private property.  If anything, they should be arrested for trespassing.  I, for one am glad the owners covered up this giant eyesore! We obviously all have our own opinion...but one fact we could all agree on is that graffiti has been here long before any of us were born, and it will be here long after we are gone.. it has evolved and devolved, some graffiti is created in less than 10 seconds, some pieces take weeks to finish. It spread out to almost every corner of the world... graffiti will live forever through me, and i will live forever through graffiti...hopefully your children can appreciate it more than you did... or they will be surrounded by "eyesores" as well... bomb till death. At least name the condos 5 Pointz. lol Graffiti will never die just because of one bldg. I've relocated to Atlanta and miss the graffiti of NY (The graffiti goes with the rats and the taxi cabs). But every time I see a freight train roll by in one of these sleepy southern towns, I'll see a few on those cars masked with graffiti. Ahhh... home sweet home. Why didn't these knuckleheads just make a collection instead of wasting time in the courts?  Buy the building from the owner, what's so complicated about that?  Asking a judge to stop a person from demolishing a building they own?  Ridiculous. Crazy idea here but if this place was soooo important why not pool your money and just buy it from the owners.  As treasured as it might be in some circles it's still vandalism of private property.  Just because the act of vandalism was "appreciated" by some people does not give them the right to ownership.  Pony up the cash or shut up. Rich You have no place to preach about education, when it just hurt trying to read what you said. Please try to work more on your grammar, than try to sound all high and mighty... You say this isn't a form of art ? Do you even know what the word art means? It is how you express yourself in any means necessary.. There are so many different forms of art, and some that just come out weird. Just because you don't agree wit hit, doesn't mean it isn't what it is..... Which is a work of ...... ART~~! Rich Pipe down you old grumpy humbug. Firstly, if you're trying to sound the slightest bit intelligent than check your spelling instead of poking fun at others reading skills. You are misguided on so many levels that I cannot even begin to be mad at you, just upset, or rather disappointed that someone who presumably lives in New York has such a half-minded way of living and looking at the lives of millions of your fellow residents. Why are you so upset and angered about this? Do you really need to post so many damn comments? Did you sit on a spray paint can old man? Secondly, your argument only speaks to your ignorance. As a born and raised Manhattanite who has traveled the halls of our most prestigious museums and galleries countless of times, I can most certainly say that you are a dimwitted ignoramus. While I can respect your distaste for the building, its art and what it stands for, I can by no means put any value or worth to your slander and insults. This building was a behemoth and landmark in the art world, ask any artist with their head not lodged up their underside and they will tell you the same. It is unfortunate that you cannot put aside your own personal opinion and understand that outside of your own diluted and misguided mind, this building meant so much to so many people. You sir are an intolerable excuse for a man with a sore lacking of taste, manners and civility. So please, shut your mouth. I can't believe the ignorant assumptions about graffiti artist being made here. I know of plenty successful graffiti artist who do own cars, homes and live well. They make amazing pieces better than most of the work i have seen in fine art galleries. So for people that spend so much time hating on something that can be so beautiful i honestly feel sorry for you. GET OVER IT!  There's more important things to worry about like missing children.  If it was such a big deal to people, your local electeds would have chimed in and been at your pathetic rallys encouraging vandalism.  Heck, DiBlasio would have been there before the election to win over votes…oh wait, vandals probably can't vote anyway with the records they have or they probably can't read! Katherine McChesney haha i see you also have no idea on what ART really is, for people like you art is nothing but someones portrait on a piece of paper, you cant even imagine what Graffiti really is,and all people with an opinion like that ,are "just" people from the grey society and nothing else,like on my good friend told me once:) daniel YOu cant even imagine what did they painted over, you say "artists"? everyone can draw on papers and canvases ,but none of them can take a can and copy it on the wall exactly like it is on their sketch, this is one the most beautiful and amazing type of ART in the world, when writers can express all their feelings emotions or their mood on walls and create something beautifull out of old grey wall, and if you call it eyesore you just dont have any imagination and i feel sorry about you :) have a nice one. John WaitforIt Golaszewski Rich Do you know what the world "Graffiti" means? It does't mean Art. You wrote about Art that " It is how you express yourself in any means necessary.." - I don't understand what you meant by "[...] in any means necessary", perhaps you meant "...by any means necessary" - regardless you just defined the action as legally or more so, illegally. So when you purport such an idea when criticizing someone else's grammar, you may want to check your own, as well as your analytical explanation. What would you call the cave art left by many cultures and tribes in European caves, What are the drawing left by the ancient Aborigines in Australia? What about the hieroglyphs in Egypt? You might also be ignoring or discounting the carvings and drawings of the Incas, Mayan, and Aztec cultures. They did not use aerosol cans to spray obnoxious, not necessarily environmentally friendly, gases so I guess you would not consider them artists. Katherine McChesney LOL .  You are the ridiculous one based on this comment, as well as your previous one.  Graffiti is defined as ' writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place.'  Why don't you use your brain for a second and think about what that definition might apply to.  Graffiti can be linked to some of the earliest forms of writing.  Which, I don't know about you, but I don't know anyone who is 4,000 years old  . Here a link if you're still confused: http://www.uchicago.edu/features/20110221\_oi/ Therefore, Funkdoc is absolutely correct.  Graffiti is a beautiful form of art and expression that has evolved over thousands of years. Katherine McChesney Funkdoc actually its you with the low IQ... mayans used to scribble on walls.. all the civilizations before us used to scribble on walls... just because it wasnt called graffiti back then doesnt mean it wasnt...  same concept..  you dumb bitch.. you dont know how much of a stress reliever and how peaceful you feel when you do graffiti or any kind of art on a wall until you do it...  so dont judge because you know nothing about it!!! Joseph Newman chris Condict Hey dopey - ever hear of the Broken Windows Theory? Once stuff like this is evident it attracts more and more socio-economic strife. And it does cause tax-payers money. Aside from it being vandalism to a persons private property, like me painting your car, the businessman will obviously demolish the site since the surrounding area has now been brought down to an economic mess, eliminating the tax of the building portion leavening only real property to be taxed. Do you think the city will just say "Okay, thats a few hundred thousand dollars gone from the coffer"? No - they will pass that on to the public - use what little you have in that head! ak chris Condict LOL - That's a good one! Because those that pay high enough taxes want to be taxed even more so that an EBT Card Holder can go out in the shadows of the night and tag up private and public property, so they can sleep all day, thus causing even more taxes...you're a smart one... ak i never heard anyone who did not like to see a nice Graffiti Burner...people do not love tha Graffiti Tags (i do) but a Graffiti Piece....i never heard anybody who did not like to see a nice piece.....Never. Vet eran Joseph Newman chris Condict Actually, 5 Pointz has nothing to do with Broken Window Theory as it transcended common vagrant vandalism into artwork. This building brought tourism money in from around the world and, being such a boom in art circles, was seen less as miscreant behavior of "EBT Card Holders", as you so eloquently put it, and more of an art space for the growing popularity of graffiti art.