Graffiti in Vienna's Residential Areas (A Snapshot)

An Omeka project.

What?

For this project, photographs of graffiti in the 21st and 22nd districts of Vienna were taken and digitised using Photopea, a free online photo-editing tool.

Afterwards, Omeka was used to both host the images and contribute to the metadata tagging.

On a personal note, this project forms a love letter to the city where I was born and grew up, without rose-tinted nostalgia. By making these images accessible online, I want to share the sense of curiosity and connection they evoke in me.

Documenting these works also highlights the cultural meaning found in ordinary neighbourhoods, and I hope the collection encourages others to recognise the value of these overlooked urban spaces.

Steps Taken Towards Digitising

1. Gathering Information

Walking through Vienna to see what kinds of graffiti were present, and deciding to limit the project to the 21st and 22nd districts.

2. Capturing Data

Taking photos at different times of day using a mobile phone.

3. Preparation of Data for Processing

Uploading all images to a dedicated Google Drive folder ("Graffiti") and naming each file descriptively (e.g., graffiti_on_green_bin) to support a smooth workflow.

4. Editing Photos in Photopea

Making minimal adjustments, such as cropping and brightening, using the online tool Photopea.

5. Uploading to Omeka and Metadata Tagging

Adding each edited image to Omeka and applying Dublin Core metadata.

Categorising the Items

The table below shows the metadata assigned to each photograph in the collection. It illustrates how every item is described, organised, and made searchable in Omeka.

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Using metadata strengthens the collection by making it searchable, ensuring each item is properly contextualised, preserving information about location, materials, and environment, and supporting the project's goal of documenting ordinary urban spaces.

- makes the collection searchable

Identifier	Title	Creator	Source	Contributor	Date	Description	Subject	Type	Format	Coverage	Rights	Publisher	Relation	Language	File N
GRAFFITI_ViennaTrashBin	Graffiti on Green	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Night-time photo	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaRustPanels	Graffiti on Ruste	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of m	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaStonePane	Graffiti on Stone	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of g	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaUtilityBox	Graffiti on Electri	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of a	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaSmiley107	Graffiti Smiley ar	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of bl	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaOrangeTag	Graffiti Orange T	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of or	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI
GRAFFITI_ViennaPostBoxWa	Graffiti on Wall E	Unknown	Anita's Vienna C	Anita (photograp	2026-02	Photograph of a	Graffiti; Street ar	Still Image	JPEG image	Vienna, Austria	Photograph © A	Self-published d	Part of the Graffi	Not applicable	GRAFFI

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The primary challenge of this project was deciding which images would not make it to the project, as Vienna contains a lot of graffiti, but the project had a set deadline. Consequently, time management and pragmatic decision-making were important factors for this project.

The project taught me more about editing images and gave me better insight into how to take pictures.

Now enjoy a brief clip of the project :)