

## = Knitta Please =

Knitta Please , also known as simply Knitta , is the group of artists who began the " knit graffiti " movement in Houston , Texas in 2005 . They are known for wrapping public architecture ? e.g. lampposts , parking meters , telephone poles , and signage ? with knitted or crocheted material . It has been called " knit graffiti " , " yarn storming " and " yarnbombing " . The mission is to make street art " a little more warm and fuzzy . "

Knitta grew to eleven members by the end of 2007 , but eventually dwindled down to its founder , who continues to travel and knit graffiti . Internationally , as many as a dozen groups have followed Knitta 's lead . Sayeg and the group have shown their art across the United States and around the world .

## = = History = =

The group began with a self @-@ taught knitter known as PolyCotN . She founded the group with anonymous member AKrylik in October 2005 as a way to deal with frustration over their own unfinished knitting projects . It started with a doorknob cosy for the front door of Sayeg 's Houston boutique . She loved it and , unexpectedly , so did the passersby . That inspired them to make more . "

The name of the group and the nicknames of the members were inspired by a desire to " resemble graffiti , but with knitted items " . The group mixed crafting terminology with a hip @-@ hop style , then changed the spelling " to represent traditional street art monikers " . PolyCotN and AKrylik came up with their own names , then invented names for other members . Some former member names include Knotorious N.I.T. , SonOfaStitch and P @-@ Knitty .

By 2007 , Knitta 's membership had grown twelve members and there were an estimated five to twelve cpycat groups internationally . By 2009 , there was a groundswell , according to Sydney , Australia author and academic Emily Howes , who identified groups in Scandinavia , Japan , South Africa , and the United States . However , membership in Knitta eventually dwindled , leaving only the founder .

## = = Art = =

Usually tagging on Friday nights and Sunday mornings , Knitta taggers would leave a paper tag on each work , bearing the slogan " knitta please " or " whaddup knitta ? " . They tagged trees , lamp posts , railings , fire hydrants , monuments and other urban targets , Another popular piece involved hanging knitted @-@ bagged sneakers over aerial telephone cable . The crew would mark holidays by doing themed work , using , for example , pink yarn for Valentine 's Day pieces and sparkly yarn for New Years . When Knitta was not working with a theme , they would work on projects , tagging specific targets or specific areas . The group and their followers consider their graffiti " a method of beautifying public space " . However , such work is considered vandalism in some U.S. States .

In 2006 the group decided to visit New York City , where they did their first large scale piece . Using more than 50 feet ( 15 m ) of knitted material donated by volunteers of the crew 's mailing list , they wrapped the top half of a monorail column . Knitta also called on others across the U.S. to get tagging and send in their images .

For another large project , the group tagged all 25 trees in the median of Allen Parkway in Houston for the annual Art Car parade in May 2006 , wrapping them in blankets measuring two feet tall by two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half feet long . A year later , they were invited to the Standard Hotel in Los Angeles , which caters to an edgy clientele , to tag a glass box featuring trendsetters ' designs and concepts .

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Bergère de France , the first manufacturer of French yarn , the company invited Knitta to Paris to " revitalize urban landscapes with knitted pieces " . While there , they also tagged the Notre Dame de Paris . Knitta 's work has also been seen in London , Sydney , Rome , Milan , Prague , Sweden , Montreal , Mexico City , El Salvador , Netherlands , Germany ,

Luxembourg and atop the Great Wall of China .