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# Sten & Lex



## Synopsis

The release of street artists Sten & Lex's new monograph coincides with their first official solo show at the CO2 gallery in Rome. The Roman duo took their first step into a traditional gallery setting with this exhibition, which focused attention on their new and innovative approach to the use of the stencil poster technique. Their works are new and fresh yet they recall the Renaissance, on low-definition paper with high moral vitality, as if they were the votive faces of secular beauty. Their stencils magnify the perception of tabloids and newsstands, which provide the city an abundance of visual editorials that grow in time, in a use of material that resembles the pictorial scratches of a Cy Twombly painting.

“Gianluca Marziani

The duo started working together in 2000 and have since pioneered several revolutionary stencil techniques that are showcased in this book. Also included are a number of insightful critical texts by Maria Letizia Bixio, Davide Giannella and Gianluca Marziani and an introduction by gallery owner and curator Giorgio Galotti.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sten (born 1982, Rome) and Lex (born 1982, Taranto), known as Sten & Lex, are two Italian street artists. Sten & Lex have been doing stencils on the street since 2000/2001 and today their work is part of the urban landscape in London, Paris, Barcelona, New York City, and in their home town of Rome. During that early period in Rome, and Italy in general, there wasn't a strong stencil culture such as there was in France, and Sten & Lex are seen by many as the pioneers of "Stencil Graffiti" in Italy and were the first to be considered "stencil artists". All the work of Sten & Lex results from an individual path that developed far from art academies and design institutes and far from a classic

writing and graffiti background. The duo are best known in the history of stencil-making for introducing the halftone stencil technique, in which the greater part of their stencil portraits is composed of thousands of lines. They usually produce portraits of anonymous people they have photographed themselves or found in family photos album. In 2008, they took part in the Cans Festival : Banksy invited thirty-nine artists from around the world, including, Prism, Blek, Faile, Vhils, Vexta, to exhibit their work in an abandoned tunnel near Leake Street in South East London. In 2009, they started producing what they call "Stencil Poster". The technique derives from the union of two of the main techniques of street art: Stencil and Poster. They glue a stencil cut from paper on the wall and paint over it. They then destroy the matrix and apply its scraps to the wall, thus allowing them to become part of the work itself. The bits of matrix applied to the wall wear out over time, producing work in a state of constant change. Unlike stencil work in general, the images thus created cannot be reproduced, rendering each piece original and unique. In 2011, they entered the contemporary art world with large-scale pieces in museums, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome (MACRO) in Rome, Italy and the Carandente Museum in Spoleto, Italy. That same year, they participated in major international festivals, such as the "Walk This Way" Festival in Koge, Denmark and the "Nuart" Festival in Stavanger, Norway, contributing to the growth of their fame and popularity. 2012 saw the production of monumental projects that led to Sten Lex being recognized as emerging artists increasingly in demand. They were invited to the "Living Walls" show in Atlanta, USA; the Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée in La Louvière, Belgium, as well as to the "Outer Spaces" outdoor show in Poznan, Poland and the "Open Walls" in Baltimore, USA. In 2012, they also presented their work in a large solo show at the Magda Danysz Gallery in Paris. The Shanghai, China branch of the same gallery granted them another solo show in the Spring of 2013, referring to the duo as among "the most innovative at the moment".

Great seller! Amazing book!

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