
The Art of Peer Pressure: Stencil Street art depicting peer pressure and influence on how it changes a teenager's lifestyle.

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Abstract

Peer pressure is a social phenomenon that has likely existed as long as individuals have lived in groups or communities; it is a natural tendency for people to influence each other's behaviors and conform to certain norms. This thesis explores the dynamics of peer pressure and influence during adolescence, a crucial stage characterized by physical and psychological development, focused on the vulnerability of teenagers to thoughts and behaviors they exert from peers and the consequential impact on their identities and choices. Considering the significance of this mechanism, social identity theory enhances the understanding of why teenagers yield to peer pressure. My study employs stencil street art as a communicative medium, utilizing stencils made from paper, cardboard, or other media; the project leverages the popularity of graffiti and street art to engage a wide audience, particularly susceptible teenagers. It aims to capture the positive and negative extent of peer pressure through personal narratives and a series of stencil artwork to raise awareness, encourage critical thinking, and foster decision-making among teenagers. The project adopts an instrumentalist approach, meaning it emphasizes context over composition; my goal is not merely artistic appreciation but to use art as a tool for social influence and change.

Keywords: Peer pressure, Influence, Teenagers, Adolescence, Stencil, Street art.

Introduction

Peer pressure and influence refer to the impact that individuals within a person's social group, typically peers of a similar age or status, exert on their thoughts, behaviors, and decision-making. This influence can manifest in various forms, from explicit requests and persuasion to subtle social cues and implicit expectations. Peer pressure can be both positive, encouraging individuals to engage in beneficial or socially desirable behaviors, and negative, pressuring them into risky or undesirable actions. During adolescence, the need for social acceptance and belonging makes teenagers particularly susceptible to peer influence, which can shape their identities, values, and choices, ultimately impacting their personal growth and well-being.

Adolescence is a stage of physical and psychological development that generally occurs from puberty to adulthood. It is a phase where a teenager's growth and maturity are characterized in many different aspects. Normally, adolescents are at the stage of separating more from their parents' influence but have not yet established their values or understanding of human relationships or the consequences of their behavior (Hartney, 2022). The medium that I will be using to communicate with my audience is Stencil Street art, as it is capable of sending social messages, including those related to peer pressure. By using this medium, I can engage a wide audience, especially teenagers who are more vulnerable to my thesis statement.

My philosophy as an artist is to emphasize the consequences of Peer pressure as it is a certain part of adolescence. It can have both positive and negative aspects, and its Impact on any individual can vary depending on the decisions being made. To further convey my topic, I will share personal stories or experiences while developing a series of artworks that should aim to inspire, reflect, and raise awareness among teenagers.

With graffiti and street art gaining popularity in the past two decades, we often hear about different kinds of techniques and designs that artists develop in order to foster their own creativity (Kordic, 2017). There's a fine line between street art and vandalism; according to Pisanak, M. (2023), Street art is a raw, unapologetic form of artistic expression, showcasing the creator's passion for their craft, while vandalism is typically seen as a callous act of destruction that defaces public property without any redeeming value. Additionally, Street art is a thoughtful and planned process that involves careful consideration of location, style, and message.

The use of stencils is pervasive among street artists around the world. Rapid development emerged in the late 70s and early 80s, which meant that artists could place their tags and works in ever more prominent places in the urban landscape. Stencils made it easy for artists to reproduce their work, increase their visibility, and quickly create a design without attracting the attention of authorities (Sulley, 2022). Stencil art made out of paper, cardboard, or other media can create an observable visual aimed at a public audience that can depict peer pressure and influence in visual metaphors that symbolize the views of it, contrast and conflict that often accompanies my concept, and lastly, facial expressions of subjects that bring the emotional impact of peer pressure.

The purpose of this project is to answer the questions associated with peer pressure and influence and to discuss the theoretical framework that aligns with my thesis statement. Social Identity Theory, proposed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner in the 1970s, posits that individuals derive a portion of their self-concept from their membership in social groups; they often evaluate their own abilities, opinions, and self-worth in relation to the norms and values of their group. The theory seeks to explain the cognitive processes and social conditions underlying intergroup behaviors, especially those related to prejudice, bias, and discrimination (McLeod, 2023).

Henry Tajfel's Social Identity Theory can elaborate on the concept of Peer pressure by providing insights into how vital it is to influence someone. Since my project is trying to determine the changes in teenager's behavior, Social Identity Theory provides a framework on why adolescents might succumb to peer pressure, what are the factors and causes of peer pressure, and how the social and psychological mechanisms play when adolescents encounter the issue. By considering these circumstances, Social Identity Theory emphasizes the importance and overall responses to my topic.

For the output, stencil art is favorable when it communicates a message; in that case, the approach of my stencil will be Instrumentalism; this theory focuses on context to persuade my target audience and bring about social change rather than just being appreciated for its artistic qualities. According to Ingram, C. (2019), An instrumentalist is not concerned with composition, only context. Through the lens of instrumentalism, the best artworks are those that convey a message or shape how we see the world. Unlike other art theories, instrumentalism says that art is good when it functions as a tool to influence or change society.

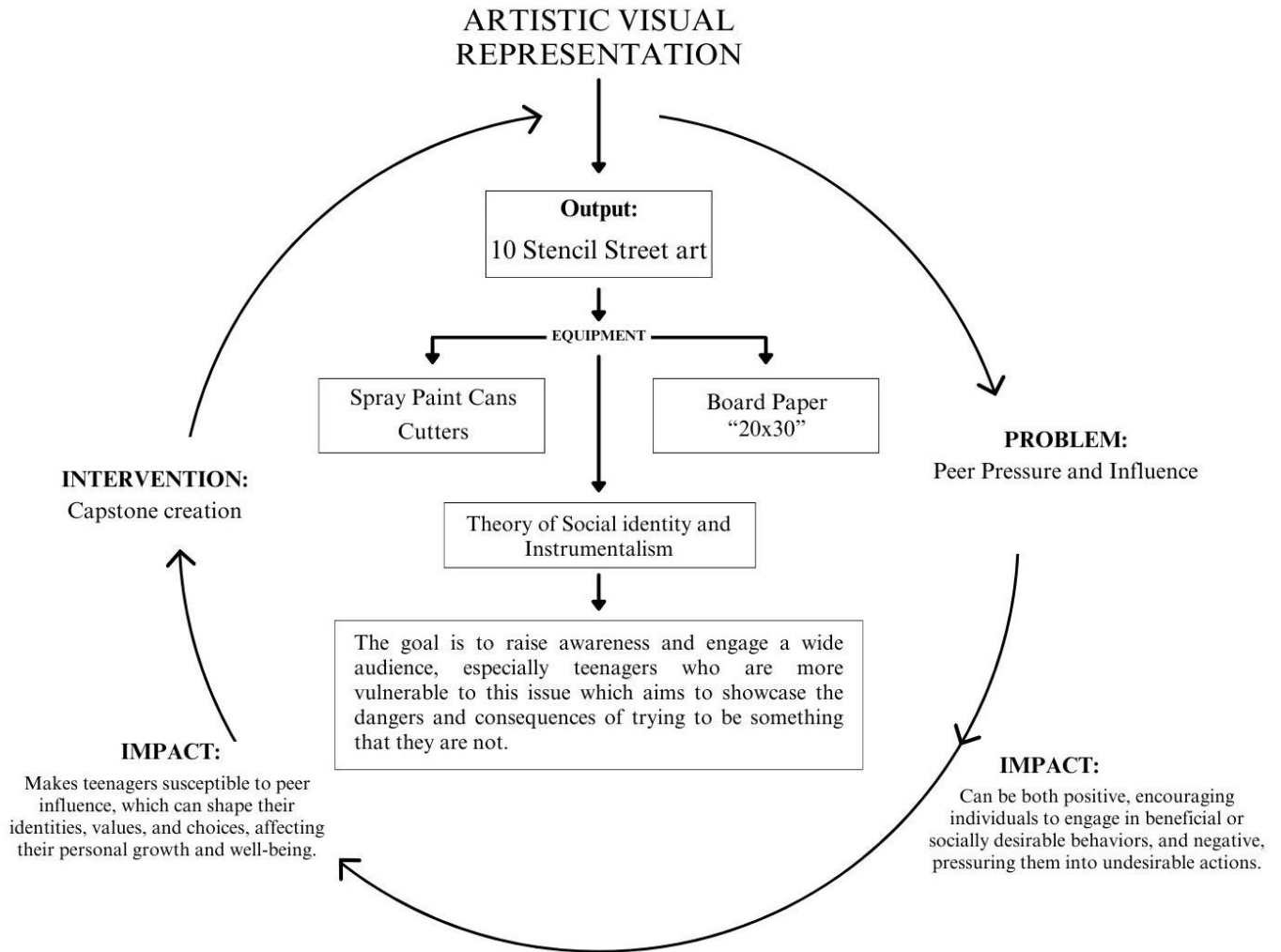


Figure 1 Framework Visual Representation of overall concept and method of thesis project: The Art of Peer Pressure and Influence on How It Changes a Teenager’s Lifestyle.

This section is an overall summary of the proposed project, the creative framework demonstrates the structural details of how I come up with the step by step process of executing my outputs, it also derives the materials, problem, impact, theory, and goal. The following statements will further elaborate the background context of the study.

The inspiration behind this thesis project came from a Hip-Hop song written and produced by Kendrick Lamar, who has become a world-renowned artist for his introspective lyrics, progressive musical styles, and socially conscious songwriting that often tackles the ambitious and important issues like racism, drugs, and violence. What makes his music powerful is the commitment that he prepares to document the truths of his neighborhood, "it's not just that he depicts their lives, it's that he makes you feel their pain." (Pryor, 2020). One song in particular, entitled "The Art of Peer Pressure," showcases how inevitable it can be, especially as a teenager in Compton. The song is an exploration of the dangers of peer pressure and the consequences of trying to be something that you are not.

When I first listened to the song “The Art of Peer Pressure,” a sudden glimpse of memory came up as I related to what the lyrics were trying to demonstrate because back then, I used to pretend that I was willing to engage in certain behaviors just to be accepted. I am aware of the risks that I'm taking, but I still take part in them as a way to bond with my peers. It's like a conflict between being morally responsible and wanting to belong to a group. The song alone reminded me of something that I still regret: finding the right group of peers may take time, and it's alright to explore different social circles to figure out where we really belong. If Kendrick explored the themes of peer pressure, rebellion, and the desire for acceptance through his music, I said to myself, "What if I do artworks about it that can be seen in the eyes of the public?" Another inspiration came from my older brother since Street art was also his medium; he was the one who introduced me to the world of Street art. He would often invite me to attend art exhibits, and from there, we could do freehand murals; the only difference is my brother mainly uses paintbrushes to execute his works, while I'll be using pre-cut stencil and spray paints.

The first method of my **research design** is to examine the root cause of my statement: Peer pressure stems from various causes that intersect social, psychological, and environmental factors. Its influence can be both positive and negative; more importantly, it plays a crucial role in shaping a teenager's identity, behavioral changes, and overall mental health. While searching for possible places for my medium, I have this thought of placing or displaying my stencil art in places where Peer pressure and its Influence are often observed; in most cases, peer pressure is commonly noticed in schools, but since it is illegal to do such murals near it, these are the options for possible target locations and consistently best walls or surfaces based on other artist's top picks which are Taft Avenue, Anda Streets basketball courts in Intramuros, and Aguinaldo Highway in Bacoor Cavite. There's also a specific place that I have looked upon in Barangay Moonwalk, Paranaque City, where street art and graffiti are allowed if permission is granted by the authorities.

The intended **target audience** for my thesis are Teenagers (aged 13-19 years old), since Peer groups are vital especially in that adolescence, they often seem to follow each other because their intellects derive more pleasure from social acceptance and are more willing to engage in behaviors against their better judgement in order to be acknowledged.

Given the list of possible locations to deliver my output, I chose the Stencil technique because it is unavoidable to think of when you talk about street art. Many artists use this to depict their works due to its advantages compared to other forms of expressionism. Thus, it is a fast and efficient way of sending a message, according to Artetrama (2019). Artists such as Banksy or his predecessor, Blek Le Rat, have helped to expand and internationalize this technique; this media is simple and basically entitles creating a negative image or form by cutting a flat surface (cardboard, for example), creating the stencil itself, following, it is placed on the medium and spray paint is applied over it, so the positive left is depicted on the surface.

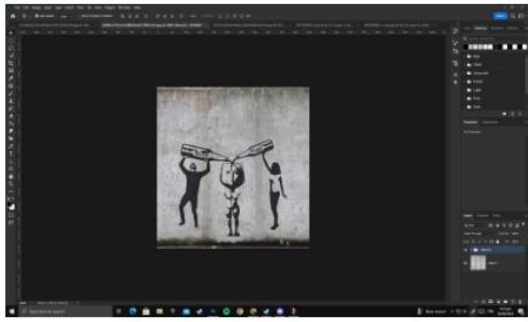
For the **design process**, the output will consist of a total of 5 Stencil street art, each with a different design and context. Before going into the application of spray paint on surfaces, I have first traditionally sketched out ideas and constructed digital examples of my stencil studies; conceptualizing ideas was a visionary part of the process, as I had to incorporate my creativity in graphic design along with studio arts. Using Adobe Photoshop, I was able to visualize my rough sketches and acquire the stencil form with threshold adjustments, blur, and filter gallery effects. I

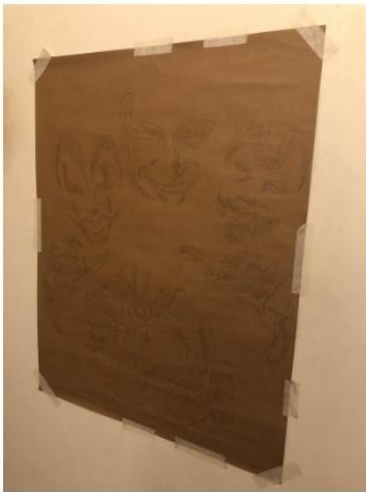
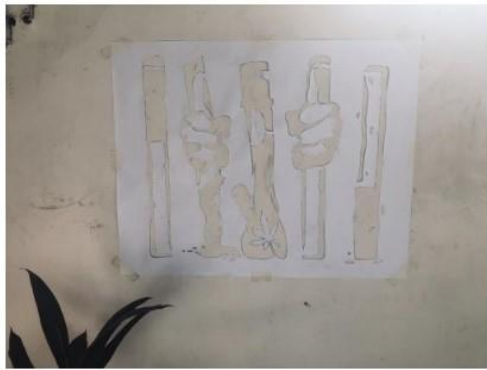
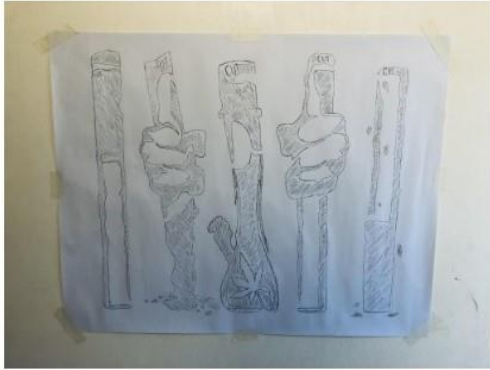
have also produced 33 stencil studies so that I can choose a wide variety of choices on what fits in the location; my first stencil study, entitled “Shot Puno,” symbolizes alcohol use through peer pressure; it is a typical result of where someone refuses to say “no” just to be accepted, allowing their peers to fill them with negativity. Makati was supposedly the finest spot because there are many bars, nightclubs, and entertainment venues where alcohol consumption is commonly involved, but since I haven’t found a permitted place yet, this concept will be on my reserve inventory, so I won’t run out of options. The studies mostly contain subjects and elements that align with negative peer pressure, such as alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs; these are examples of how dangerous peer pressure and influence can be, resulting in imprisonment or, in worst cases, one’s loss of life. During Studio Elective 2, I was able to experiment and try different base materials; the first one is the acetate paper, which has pros and cons: it is efficient for reusing but kind of difficult to cut, and it needs to stick to the least edges to maintain a good detail on the stencil. The board paper, on the other hand, is just like a Carolina but thicker, and it is favorable in terms of reliability and very easy to cut, allowing me to put as many details in my stencil. Layered stencils or multi-layered stencils are an efficient way to recreate structured and different color images as artwork; instead of using a single stencil, I decided to level up my output by turning it into multiple stencils that can be painted on top of one another.

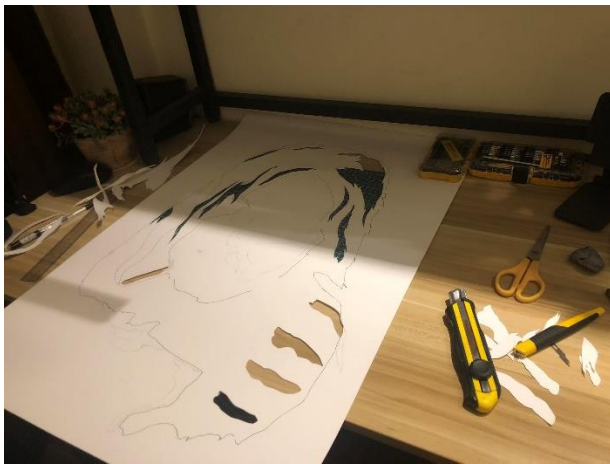
Pre-production

The pre-production phase involves planning and preparation before I actually create my project. An essential part of the stencil-making process that allows me to have more quality and effectiveness in terms of delivering the message of my final artwork. The first step is to think of a concept and design sketch using digital design software like Adobe Photoshop. It serves as my brainstorming phase, where I browse images and elements online that I can use to create a rough sketch and do some photo manipulation to visualize the stencil even if it's not yet printed. The next step is selecting the base materials. There are quite a lot of options, but the common choices include paper, cardboard, Mylar, acetate, or stencil film; the choice depends on the level of detail, efficiency, and reusability. After deciding on the base material, I will determine the size and scale of my stencil to compose my design accordingly. The next process is drawing the final artwork on a large piece of paper or cardboard, and after that is the cutting process; for this phase, I will be using X-Acto knives and a cutter for clean cuts; this careful process may need to employ cutting techniques, such as positive and negative space cutting, bridges (to connect islands within the stencil), or multi-layered stencils for added depth. For the last step, testing and refining, before I create my final stencil artwork to the target surface, it is better for me to create a test stencil; this allows me to make necessary adjustments to achieve the desired effect that I want. Pre-production in stencil artwork is a crucial method as it ensures that everything goes smoothly, with careful planning, wise choices, and attention to detail at this stage. It will save me more time and effort during the actual stenciling process and will lead to a more successful output.

Production assets







Production

After preparing the materials, tools, and techniques during the pre-production phase, this is the actual process, where I will be applying the stencil to a specific spot. For this method, I will start off with surface preparation to make sure that it is clean, dry, and free from any debris. A damaged surface may affect the stencil as it will cause improper placement and produce unclear lines. Next is securing the stencil using tape to prevent it from moving during the application of paint. For the paint material, I will use a spray paint can (customized valve cup for less spread and pressure, used for street art). And apply it consistently to avoid dripping under stencil edges. The next step is to allow the painted surface to dry completely before peeling the stencil. Lastly, I will record my work process for documentation to show the challenges during the production. The hands-on phase needs patience and, of course, precision to ensure that my final output matches the initial concept that I've created from the sketch. Additionally, this will provide insights and experience to produce more polished results over time.

Post-production

This refers to the steps taken after applying the stencil in a designated location. This stage is the editing process, compiling all the works, and preparing for presentation or displaying for exhibition. Using the photos and videos from the pre-production and production time period, I will create a short video that will dive deeper into the context of my project. Since I'll be creating

multiple stencil artworks, I will also maintain an inventory of my art pieces with titles, date created, and other details to help me track and organize my series of works. Digital editing is another key aspect that I can incorporate into my personal work. I will do a post-editing from my previous digital stencils to add enhancements using Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects. Properly documenting and preserving my stencil art can also help me build up my portfolio.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter is a review of existing literature, and journal articles relevant to my thesis topic, which further explores the nature of peer pressure among teenagers. This section also contributes a review of topics including the factors of peer pressure, how to deal with it, how they manifest in adolescent peer groups, and more importantly, the changes to teenager's lifestyles led by peer pressure and influence.

The phenomenon of peer pressure and influence holds significant importance in understanding how individuals are shaped by their social environments, especially during adolescence. Adolescents, in particular, are highly susceptible to peer influence due to their developmental stage, where they seek social acceptance and identity formation while distancing themselves from parental influence. This thesis aims to explore the multifaceted nature of peer pressure during adolescence, acknowledging both its positive and negative aspects. I will be using personal anecdotes and a series of stencil street artworks to convey the complexity of peer pressure and its consequences to my audience.

In conducting this literature review, I have selected sources on their relevance to my thesis and their ability to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of peer pressure during adolescence. The review includes studies that delve into the psychological aspects of peer influence, the impact of peers on decision-making, the role of self-esteem, and the moderating influence of parental support. Additionally, I have included research exploring the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral consequences of social acceptance and rejection as it is incorporated to provide a well-rounded perspective on the subject. Through an analysis of these sources, this review aims to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing literature on peer pressure, as well as its implications for adolescents.

According to SIT (Social Identity Theory), categorization of our social world is a natural instinct to humans, serving to simplify the environment. As we categorize into groups, we also categorize ourselves into some of those same groups; this is the essence of social identification. Once we "belong" to a group, we inquire about ways to gain feelings from that group (Hardwood, 2020). Social Identity and group membership can have very strong effects on an individual's behavior, such as social comparison, where they often evaluate their own abilities, opinions, and worth in relation to the norms of their social group.

Peer Pressure and Influence

Peer pressure is a pervasive influence in the lives of individuals, particularly during adolescence. This phenomenon is rooted in the concept of peers, those individuals who hold an equal standing in one's social circle, it could be friends, family members, or acquaintances. (Beniwal, 2017) emphasizes the significance of peers in shaping individuals' lives, often without them even realizing it. This review explores the various dimensions of peer pressure, its impacts, and the factors influencing an individual's susceptibility to it.

The influence of peers during adolescence is a complex phenomenon with far-reaching consequences. (Beniwal, 2017) highlights that peers play a crucial role in shaping an individual's behavior and self-esteem, particularly for those with lower self-esteem and weaker family bonds. Adolescents may succumb to peer pressure for various reasons, ranging from the desire for acceptance to curiosity about new experiences. However, the extent to which individuals are determined by their peers depends on their personal goals, perspectives, and the strength of their family relationships. This suggests that peer pressure can lead to both positive and negative outcomes.

The Role of Peer Pressure on Adolescents: risk-taking, self-esteem, and the excessive use of alcohol

Research explores the impact of peer influence on adolescent risk-taking behavior. Adolescents are inherently more prone to risk-taking, as evidenced by elevated rates of involvement in activities such as substance use and criminal behavior. (Ciranka & Van den bos, 2019) Indicates the role of peer groups in fostering risk-taking behavior, with adolescents gravitating toward delinquent peers. This highlights the significance of peer dynamics in the developmental trajectory of adolescents and emphasizes the need for a deeper understanding of how peer pressure operates within different contexts. In this stage of development, excessive alcohol use is also frequently observed. It is formed by its social environment and interactions, such as parents, family, and peers (Calonia, 2023). Thus, the study investigated the impact of parental influence and peer pressure on susceptible alcohol use among college students.

The phenomenon of peer pressure on college students has become more and more common today, not only in terms of their work but also in their studies. (Chen, 2021), stated that peer pressure is like a double-edged sword; it may bring motivation to adolescents while it may also cause a loss of confidence and anxiety. In addition to the statement, (Hambrick, 2018) claims that hereditary and environmental factors play a role in whether college students feel pressured or not. It is also apparent that the use of alcohol is normalized at the college level.

(Yavuzer et al., 2014) Explore the relationship between peer pressure, automatic thoughts, self-esteem, and aggression among adolescents. Their study reveals that peer pressure and automatic thoughts are significant predictors of adolescent aggression, shedding light on the psychological processes underlying aggressive behavior in the context of peer influence. The interplay between self-esteem and aggression suggests that increasing self-esteem may exacerbate anger experiences and aggressive behavior. This highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of peer pressure's impact on adolescents' emotional well-being and behavior.

In conclusion, peer pressure is an inevitable part of the lives of individuals, especially during adolescence. The literature reviewed here capstone its various essences, revealing how peers can shape decisions, influence risk-taking behaviors, and impact emotional well-being. Moreover, parental support plays a pivotal role in moderating the effects of peer influence on adolescents' development, challenging the notion that "peers matter more than parents during teenage years" (Havewala et al., 2020). Understanding the signs of peer pressure and its effects on individuals is crucial, as it can lead to both positive and negative outcomes, depending on an individual's ability to navigate these influences effectively. This body of literature provides

valuable insights into the complex interplay between peers, cognitive processes, and parental support, offering a comprehensive understanding of the role of peer pressure in human development.

Street Art and Consent

Street art has exploded, according to Bacharach (2016); it pervades our back alleys, surrounds us at bus stops, covers billboards, competes with advertising, and generally serves as urban wallpaper in most cities. It is a far cry from mere graffiti that has gained social acceptance, but it remains neither officially sanctioned like public art nor institutionally condoned, like its more traditional artistic cousins in museums. Somewhere in between these two extremes, street art has emerged, occupying a metaphysically suspect grey area between illegal activity and bona fide art. Likewise, street artworks are radically different from public art. First, public art is sponsored, supported, and funded by government agencies, while street art is not. On the contrary, some government agencies often want street art removed. This journal article argues the thinking about street art, as there are distinctions between Street art, Public art, and graffiti. Street art uses the street as an artistic resource, while graffiti is usually street art made on a property without the consent of the property's owner. And on the other hand, public art is funded and allowed by authorities.

Defining Visual Street Art: In contrast to Political Stencils, Stencil Graffiti, and Street Reading

Street art has a variety of expressive forms and themes. (Philipps, 2014) It presents findings about a particular medium of street art, stencil graffiti, and its markers in Leipzig. In three analytical procedures, stencil makers' orientation and practices are investigated in order to explore visual street art. Stencil graffiti is a visual street intervention with various contents; these contents can be detected by employing street reading, a method of exploring environmental-specific everyday cultures. "street reading" was established by examining communication devices like signs, text messages, and symbols used in interactions. Another approach similar to that of graffiti writers is "reading the walls," which is used to decipher stylish signatures. Apart from reading, the journal article also provided insider knowledge about graffiti writers and their styles. In contrast to street art, graffiti writing, and stencil graffiti are addressed to the public using pointed, reduced icons and texts. In many cases, the commonly used elements of stencil are signs, phrases, and pictures that are deployed for the purpose of mobilizing demonstrations and social movements and propagating political ideologies.

Multi-layer stencil creation from images

This journal article is a detailed process of creating a stencil that is capable of handling multiple layers; according to Arjun Jain et al. (2015), using multiple overlapping stencil layers, artists can create intricate, reproducible imagery on a variety of surfaces. Traditionally, they have to design not only the final appearance but also each individual stencil layer. The layers must be connected, geometrically simple, and physically stable. This study further highlights the use of stencil creation, as it helps reduce the need to add bridges and a physical simulation that helps the stability of stencil production.

REVIEW OF RELATED WORKS

Review: ‘The Art of Banksy’ lacks the wit and hard truths that make the controversial artist memorable

One of the key inspirations for my project is the works of "Banksy," a notorious street artist who rose to prominence in Bristol during the 1990s and gained fame in the 2000s for his iconic, usually political murals and art stunts. His work of art benefits tremendously from context, something the exhibition tries to provide. For those unfamiliar with his work, it offers an educational aspect that even longtime followers might learn from. His greatest hits are charted, including mural projects commenting on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, his 2015 theme-park parody “Dismaland,” and pranks that added his work to rides at Disneyland and in major museums (Bravo, 2021). Moreover, the art on display loses much of what makes it work when presented in mural form. Many of Banksy’s most famous works, including “Girl with Balloon,” are shown only in prints. “Turf War,” depicting Winston Churchill with a Mohawk; “Flower Thrower,” originally presented as a mural in Jerusalem showing a masked Palestinian tossing a bouquet of flowers like a Molotov cocktail; and “Can’t Beat the Feelin’,” showing Mickey Mouse and Ronald McDonald holding hands with Phan Thi Kim Phuc, the screaming napalm victim captured in Nick Ut’s Pulitzer Prize-winning photo during the Vietnam War, are shown in repetition, with subtle color variations to the prints.



Figure 1

“Flying Copper” hangs at right in the “Art of Banksy” exhibition at the Palace of the Fine Arts.

Art Review: Banksy

Despite revolutionizing street art, Will Ellsworth-Jones from SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE describes the anonymous artist as a "graffiti master, painter, activist, filmmaker, and all-purpose provocateur," a very accurate portrayal of him. Banksy can find humor in many serious situations, and his works compel the viewer to think about what he is trying to communicate. His captivating, provocative, and audacious works speak to many different people. Banksy may not be for everyone, but he always evokes a reaction from the people who follow his work. While his shifty display has helped him maintain a level of mystique and intrigue, it has also sparked a controversial debate in the history of the art world. Some consider him a vandal, while others see him as a legitimate and influential artist.



Figure 2

Banksy – Girl with Balloon, 2002, stencil, Waterloo Bridge, South Bank, London.

Banksy's Rage, The Flower Thrower – Everything you need to know

The Flower Thrower, also known as Love, is in the air and shows a masked Palestinian throwing a bouquet of flowers. It is a portrayal of the street and campus riots of the 1960s; the anger and frustration can be seen in the man's posture as he tries to bomb the establishment with flowers. Just by looking at the facial expression and posture of the man in the mural, we can say that there is a violent intent. However, by replacing a Molotov cocktail or grenade with a bouquet, Banksy advocates for peace instead of war. Like many of his other works, the Flower Thrower draws inspiration from political and social situations and always wants the public to be aware of what is happening, as some occurrences might pass over to the general public. Banksy uses these circumstances to not only make himself known but also to get his pieces of work out there and educate the public about what is happening around the world.



Figure 3

Banksy – Love Is in The Air (black and white), 2002, spray paint on canvas.

Trip63 – Local Artist 1

A multi-disciplinary artist based in Manila, who started painting in 2008. He is part of an artist collective, Pilipinas Street Plan, focusing on pushing the boundaries of street art in his country, utilizing the urban landscape as a canvas. The trip has painted murals with overlapping lines with thick and thin strokes to create an illusion of the depths of his works; he also elevates graffiti by combining the usual elements of letters and numbers into abstract images of characters and flowers.



Figure 4

Trip63 – Vedder, September 15, 2021, Spray paint on canvas

Neil Javier (@a.lien42) – Local Artist 2

Also known by his street moniker A.lien is an art vigilante who utilizes poster, stickers, and markers to propagate his views about resisting “the system” and the complacency of the society.



Figure 5

Frances Abrigo – Local Artist 3

One of the self-taught artists who comes from a family of creative practitioners. An expert when it comes to paper-cutting techniques. He is a member of the Paper Cutters Guild in the Philippines, an art group that specializes in traditional and contemporary paper-cutting art. The artist also travels across the city, expressing themselves through graffiti with a multi-layered stencil and spray-paint in hand.



Figure 6

Multi-layered Stencils: the complete guide

A step-by-step guide on how to create a multi-layered stencil, from determining the number of layers to cleaning and storing the medium. Generally, the more layers are chosen, the more detailed and realistic the design will be, or to simply put, one layer is equivalent to one color. This guide was very convenient for my study as it breaks down the procedures of multi-layered stencils into the smallest structures, with tips and recommendations to further increase the quality of what I'm currently doing to my outputs.

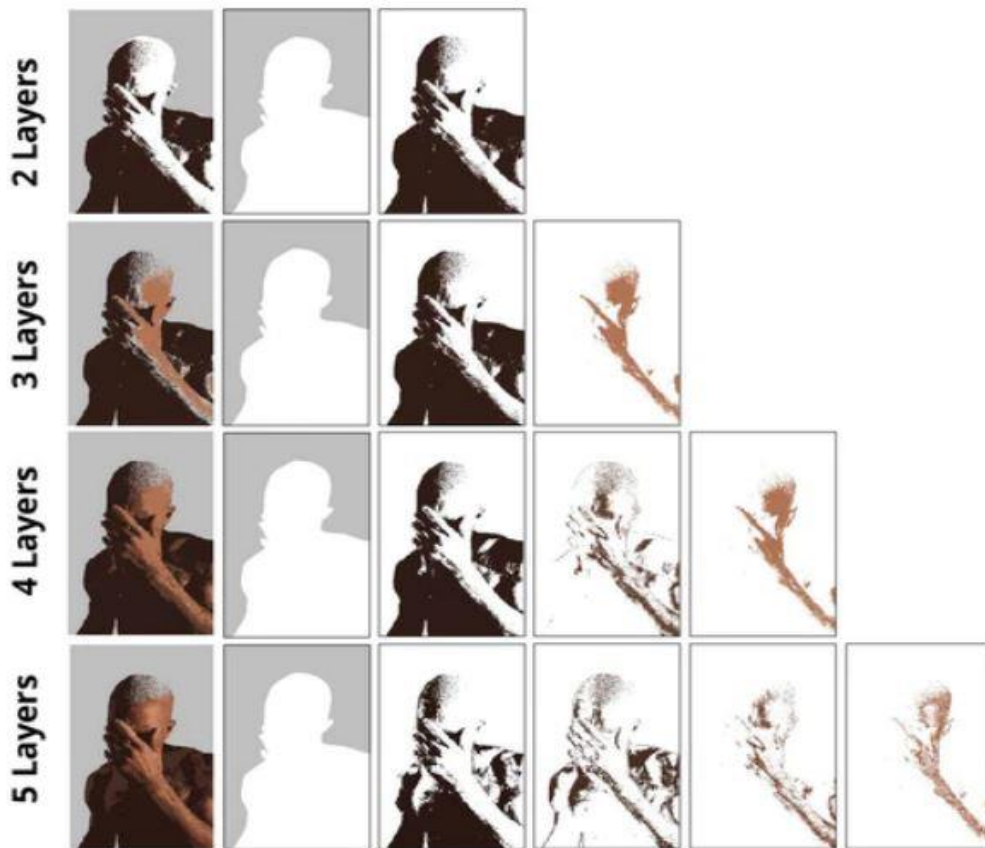


Figure 7

Article: Multi-Layered Stencils: The Complete Guide retrieved from Stencilstop.com

Beautiful Vector Illustration

Vector illustration is also part of the pre-production phase; William Beachy shares a few tips that are useful not only for digital artists but for traditional artists as well to make things much easier. One of the basics in the vectorizing process, which is also important, is picking a photo with high contrast and hard shadows to easily identify the middle values, shadows, and bright spots, allowing the artist to illustrate the vector lines with no such effort. After finding a good image, it is better to limit the details, as vector illustrations can be as simple as one color, like a silhouette, or it could go to a much more complex look that has five values in it. Since my pre-production involves using digital software like Adobe Illustration and Photoshop, this guide saves me a lot of trouble in identifying the tones and values in my stencil ideas and sketches.

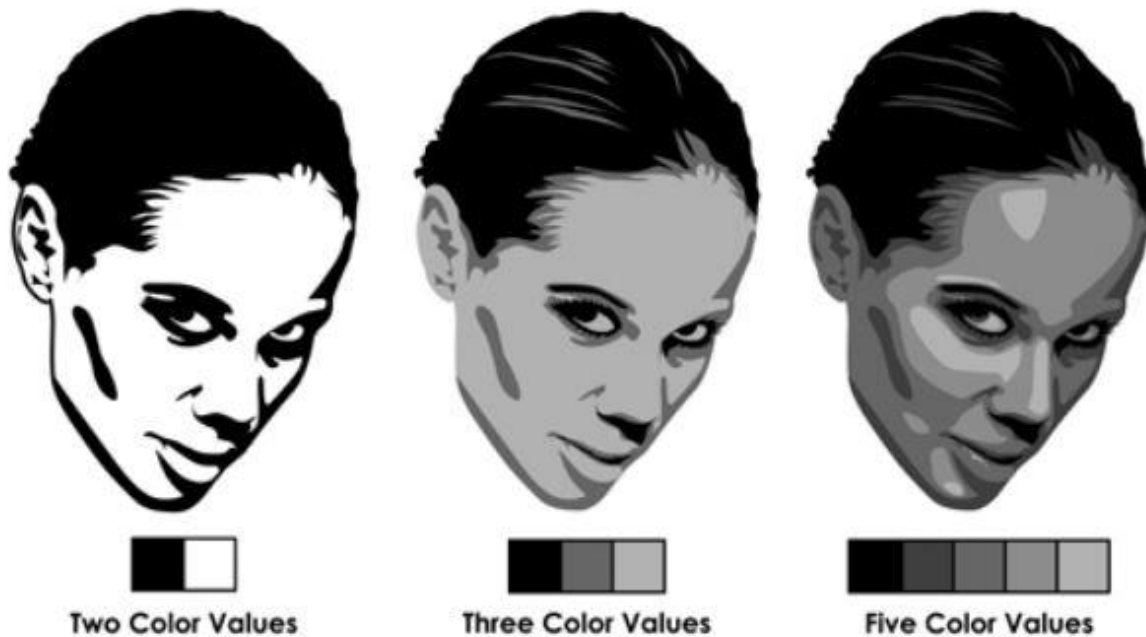


Figure 8

William Beachy, Beautiful Vector Illustration, 2006, retrieved from gomedia.com

Boyz n the Hood, Directed by John Singleton, 1991

The plot focuses on Tre Styles. As a young boy, he experienced issues with anger management against his peers. Fearing that Tre will end up like the majority of the youth of Compton. Throughout the course of the film, Tre is slowly being pulled apart by peer pressure to partake in the local gang culture and the expectations laid out by his father. Tre's father, Furious Styles, is the film's thematic character and moral center.

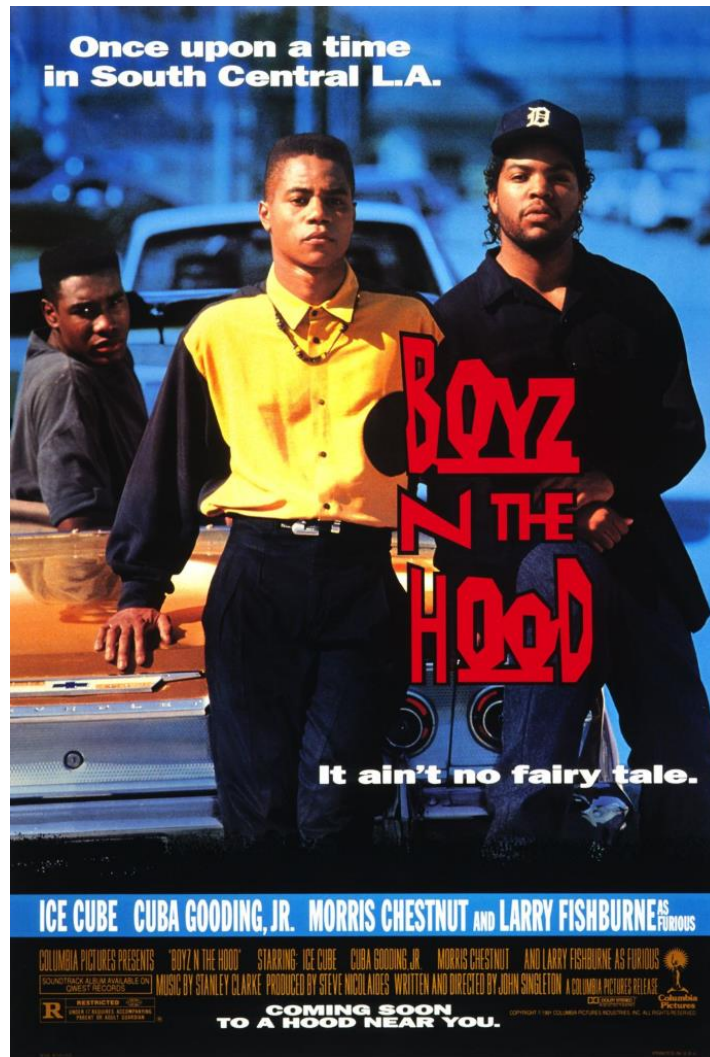


Figure 9

Boyz n the Hood, John Singleton, 1991

The Art of Peer Pressure – Kendrick Lamar

"The Art of Peer Pressure" is a song by Kendrick Lamar that explores the themes of peer pressure, rebellion, and the desire for acceptance. It is divided into two parts. The first one introduces the listeners to a group of friends who smoke and drink, while the protagonist (Kendrick) admits that he is not usually a partygoer but feels that he needs to fit in. The second part describes how the group commits criminal activities, including stealing from houses, neighborhoods, and stores. Furthermore, the lyrics demonstrate the conflict between being morally responsible and wanting to belong to a group. Through the character's actions, Lamar emphasizes the idea that peer pressure can cause an individual to act out of character and make bad choices. The song emphasizes the importance of standing up for oneself and not giving in to group pressure.



Figure 10

The Art of Peer Pressure © 2012 Aftermath/Interscope Records

Results and Discussions

In this study, I was able to try out and experiment with different base materials for my output, as there are numerous component options to create Stencil Street Art. From acetate paper to craft board paper and vellum board paper, these alternatives were based on reusability, durability, and cost. I have also tried using other supporting tools, such as X-acto knives, cutters, and scissors, as well as the pasting material for the surface, which includes glue, masking tape, and tack-it adhesive. Utilizing these available resources allows me to determine which is the best and most suitable choice for making stencils.

Each material comes with pros and cons, while all of the base material that I've used has the same functionalities, there are quite some differences, for instances the thickness of vellum board paper is 200gsm while the craft paper board is at 150gsm, and the sizes of each paper are not equivalent. during the process, I have also noticed that each paper has unequal durability, and should always be handled with carefulness.

The particular challenges I faced were searching for walls or surfaces and asking for permission to do street art. I went through many places, from Muntinlupa to Quezon City, and there were many perfect spots, but unfortunately, it is not allowed, so I have to keep on inquiring. The idea was supposedly ten targeted walls, but then my mentors told me it was impossible to accomplish given the time frame, so they set the limit to 5, and they allowed me to place my output on any surface as long as I was permitted. Moving on to the next challenge was the selection of materials and purchasing of specific products like spray paints and vellum board papers because

most were out of stock. I have also faced difficulties while making my progress, especially in the cutting process; the acetate paper was very hard to cut, while the craft paper was too thin to the point that it tore when I applied pressure in cutting; this led me to the vellum board paper which is ideal in cutting however, costlier than other materials.

Throughout the method, stenciling is efficient in delivering fast-paced street art that requires preparation and pre-production groundwork to maximize its capabilities, not just in artistic form but also in context, as the main goal is to send a message to a target audience. The study exposes the two sides of peer pressure and its effect for several reasons; the topic remains controversial because it can carry a default negative connotation, while sometimes it encourages motivation.

As an artist, I've learned contemporary ways and techniques for something that is self-taught. While working on the course of Street Art and Stenciling, I have realized that trying out unique activities that capture one's interest, even with insufficient knowledge and experience, can be considered self-improvement as it motivates me to go further and aim higher than I've ever been.

Recommendations

Research Topic

This research is still accessible for changes and improvements in terms of psychological mechanisms underlying the influence of Peer pressure. It is also open for suggestion in longitudinal studies and advocates for increased access to mental health for individuals who may be particularly vulnerable to Peer pressure with struggling issues identifying self-esteem. Furthermore, the use of street art as a medium, specifically stencil street art, can be switched to different types of street art with diverse forms and theories. The output could also encourage collaborative engagements with local artists and communities to create designated areas for street art, promoting the inclusion of street art in public spaces as a means of expressionism.

Creative Process

The process of how the stencils were made can still be improvised as there are different methods that typically start with a strong concept, often touching with irony or humor. In the design process, this could have more potential if there are templates ready and printed copies to be assisted by the utilization of computer machinery that could make the designing, resizing, and cutting process much easier without time consumption.

Conclusion

The utilization of stencil street art as a medium to explore the complexities of peer pressure and influence among adolescents offers a compelling avenue for communication and reflection. Through a thoughtful interrogation of personal narratives and artistic techniques, this project aims to provoke introspection and dialogue about the impact and social dynamics on individual behavior and well-being. The discussion of stencil art's evolution and its distinction from being a form of vandalism underscores the intention and mere purpose behind its process, emphasizing the potential for this kind of expression to serve as a tool for social change. As street art continues to move forward and revolve, the project seeks to engage its audience not only to appreciate but also to relate, prompting them to examine their own experiences and perceptions of peer pressure.

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