## Graffiti Go to College



Hugo Martinez (r), head of a new group c alled United Graffiti Artists, talks with Pedro Pietri (l) and Holwis Vasquez about a new floor-to-ceiling exhibition of graffiti at City College of New York. Created by youngsters who normally restrict their talents to decorating the city's subway walls, the exhibition stemmed from a design class project at the college.

Associated Press Wirephoto

## Semi-Retired Graffitt Scrawlers Paint Mural at C.C.N.Y. 13

By DAVID L SHIREY

"A lot of people don't like t, man, but like it or not, re've made the biggest art novement ever to hit New fork City," said Super Kool, one of the city's leading grafiti artists after putting the inishing touches on a wall painting this week.

"I have put my name all over the place. There ain't sowhere I go I can't see it. sometimes go on Sunday to he Seventh Avenue 86th street station and just spend

the whole day watching my name go by."

Yet Super Kool and nearly 100 others said they had recently given up painting graffiti on public walls. "I didn't think I would do it," said Super Kool, "but I hung up my marker."

In the face of adverse public oginion and a new law that punishes convicted graffiti writers with a \$1,000 fine or one year in jail, the scrawlers have banded together, forming an association called Graffiti Artists United.

Their first move was to place a moratorium on defacing public places with graffiti. Their second was to organize an exhibition of their work, which is currently on view at City College's Eisner Hall, Amsterdam Avenue at 133d Street.

"We are trying to rechannel the energy of these young artists toward a more constructive goal," said Hugo Martinez, a former graffiti scrawler and a City College junior who organized the show. "Maybe if people see grafifti on walls inside buildings instead of on walls outside buildings, they will think it is art."

The college provided the paper on the wall and offered the exhibition space to the youths, where defacing of subways and buses costs the Transit Authority \$1.3-million a year, according to an agency official.

"When people give us the stuff we need we don't have to paint on public walf said one graffiti writ Henry 169. Attentive grafi realers will recognize He ry's name as well as oth in the show.

There are, among othe the signatures of "Peache "Flying High," "Stay! High," "Stitch I," "Fra 207," "SJK," "The Bombs and "Shorty." Their sign tures are usually combit tions of nicknames a the streets.

## 'King of the IRT'

In painting the wall wo they each mapped out the territory, armed themselv with their conventional nerials — spray cans a Magic Markers—and turre the wall paper into a color maze of letters, squiggle curlicues and sweepi flourishes.

The "grand master" of I group is "Stitch I," of called the "King of the I and the A Trains." He p duces a signature that authoritative in size, b liant in color and economi in style.

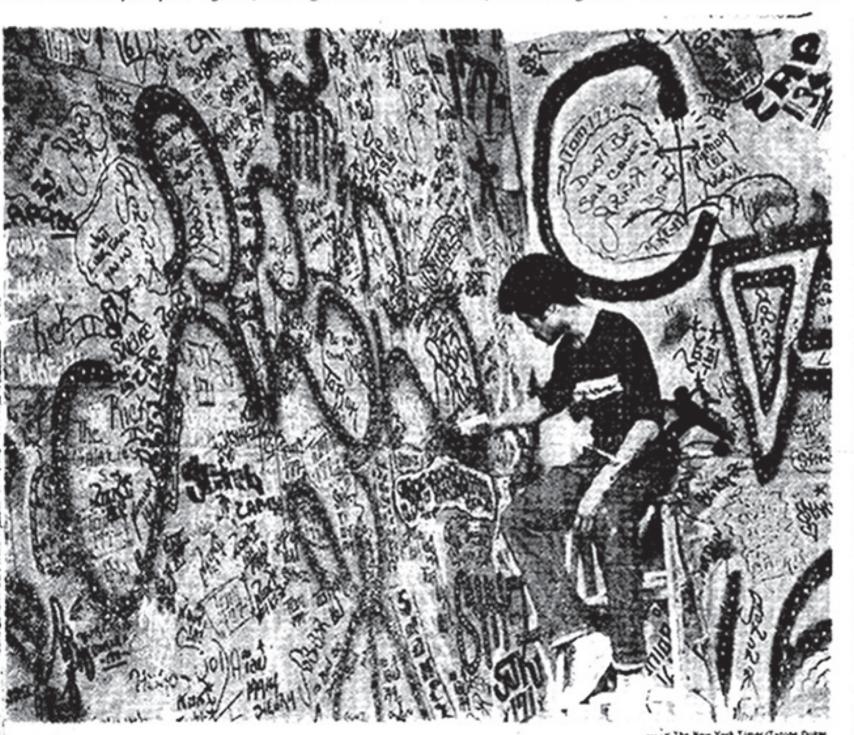
"I never get the wet ke
in my work," said Stitch
referring to sloppy signatu
that drip paint.

Many of the teen-ag have sharpened their to nique thorugh several ye of experience. Almost, have been caught at one ti or another by the poli Usually, they have be made to clean walls as prishment.

Mr. Martinez said he hog that he could get more p ple interested in his proje so that eventually the o to the public for materi would be less then the o of cleanups.

"Most of these kids I in an ugly neighborhood," I Martinez said. "They're pand maybe their parents a split up. But they have equo. They want people. know who they are, a everyone else in New Yo

"Some of us get known writing on subways. Oth write books and for ner papers. Maybe some of the kids are more creative the many of those people."



The New York Times/Treone Dutes

A youth at work recently on a wall in Eisner Hall, at City College, where an exhibition of graffiti is now on view