

WAKA WAKA

MODULE 1 = Tagging.

crea.ey



The  
Writer's  
Bench

@ 149th St Grand Concourse Bronx

The writers bench was never just a place to sit. It was a living gallery. Writers flipped through each other's black books while trains rolled past, studying styles, debating who was up, who was biting, who was pushing things forward.



In Make Your Mark, the writers bench is where you can get inspired, check out the train art, and explore how to tag, & write in VR.

Based on '149th Street Grand Concourse subway station in The Bronx, on the 2 and 5 IRT lines.

It was active from the 1970s until the decline of subway painting in the late 1980s.



The Writers' Bench

create!

Before walls,  
there were  
sketchbooks.  
Writers built  
their style in  
black books:  
sketching letters,  
testing ideas,  
borrowing tricks,  
crossing things  
out.

In this course,  
this is where we  
begin.



create.

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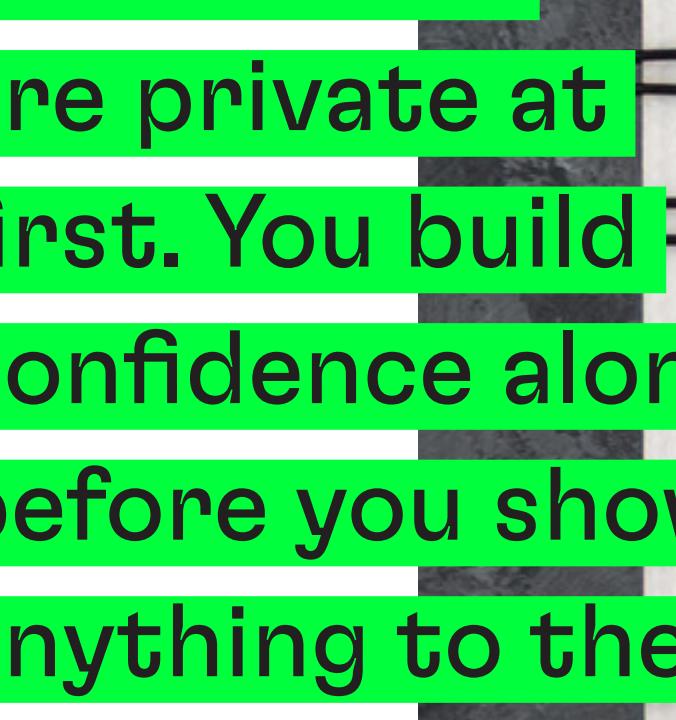
© Martha Cooper

create!

Sketch tags,  
explore  
letter shapes,  
and collect  
references.  
Moodboards,  
rough ideas, half-  
finished thoughts  
all welcome.  
This stage is  
about repetition,  
curiosity, and  
developing  
muscle memory,  
not perfection.



create.y



Black books  
are private at  
first. You build  
confidence alone  
before you show  
anything to the  
world

# King of the Sketchbook : Dondi



# Step 1: The Tag

create!

learn the movement

Start with a simple tag.

One continuous line. One rhythm. Focus on flow, pressure, and speed rather than detail



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# Step 1: The Tag

create!

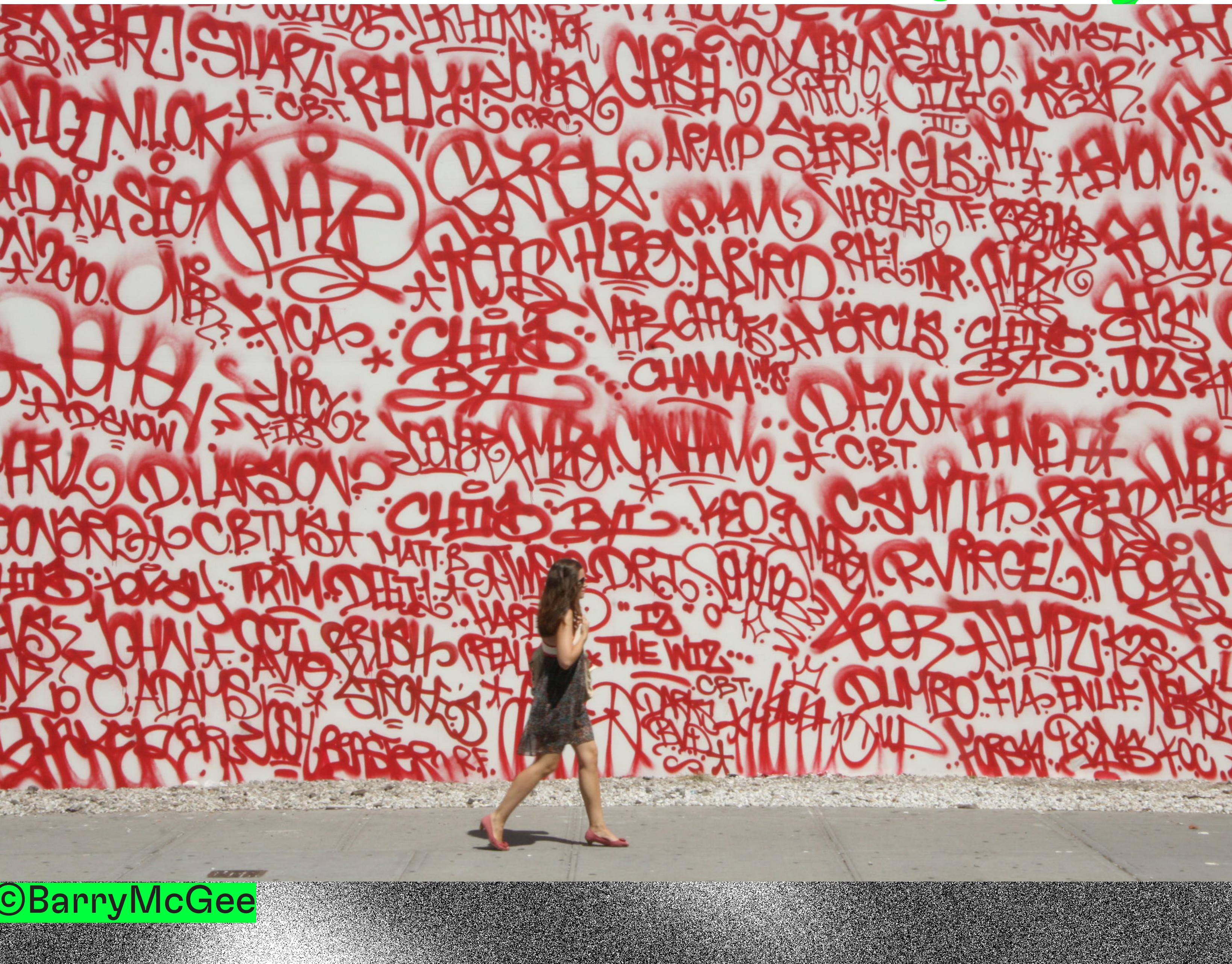
learn the movement

Start with a simple tag.

One continuous line. One rhythm. Focus on flow, pressure, and speed rather than detail



©Barry McGee



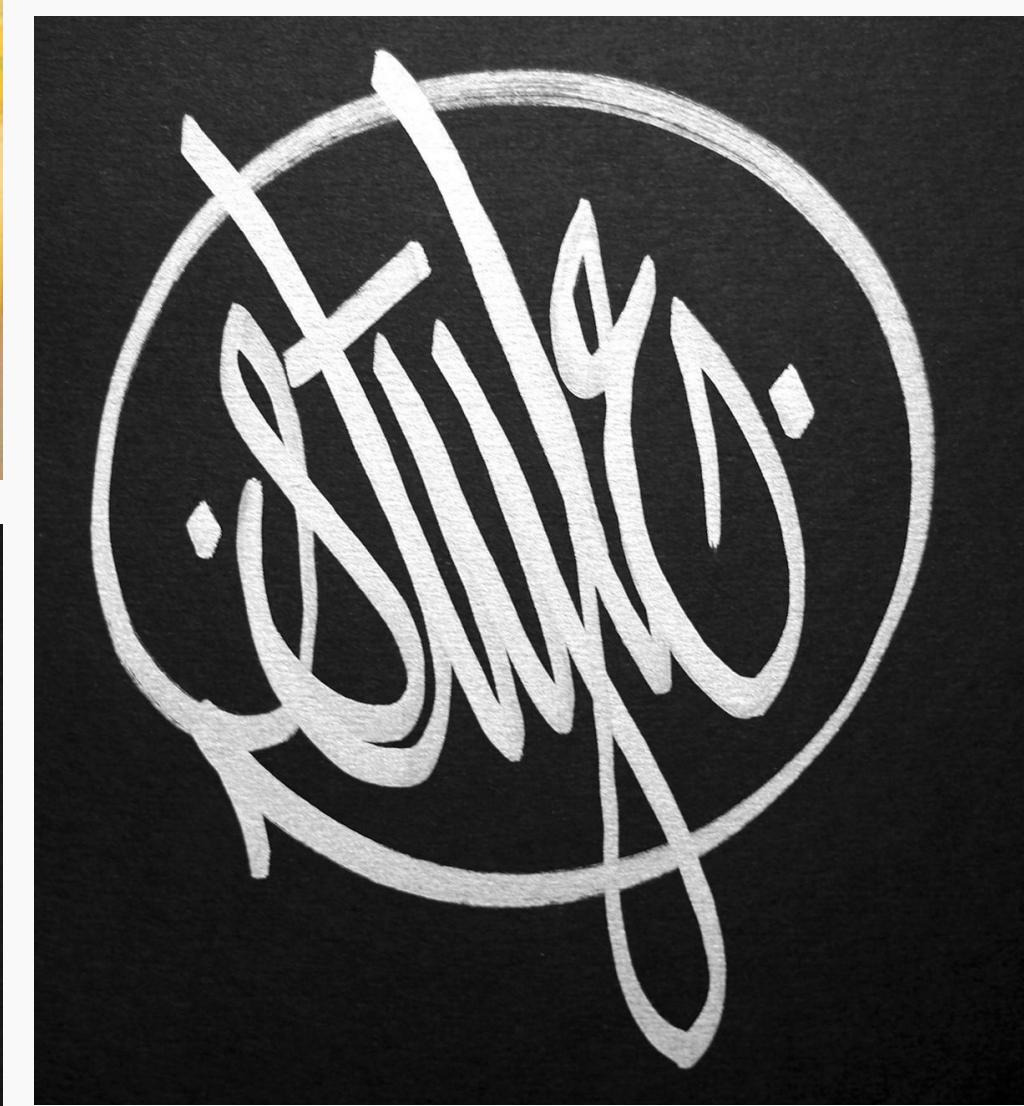
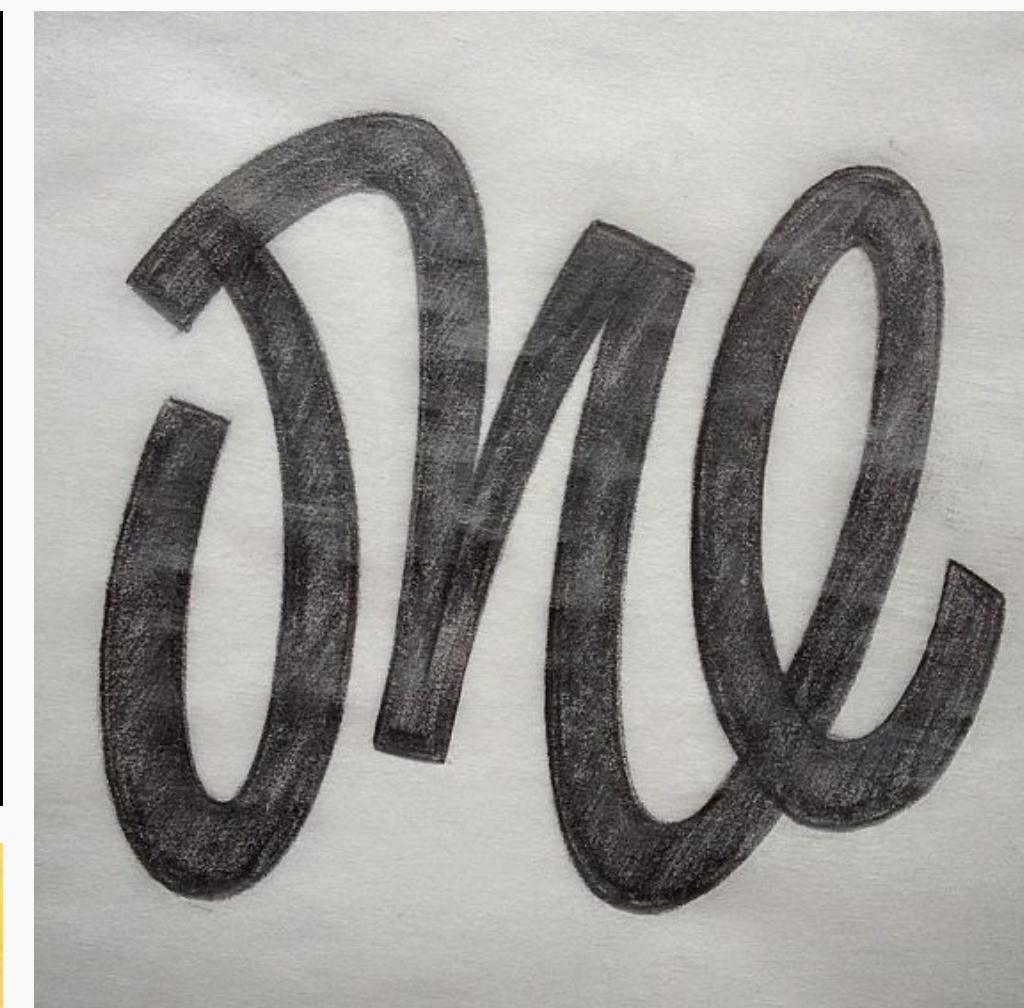
# Step 1: The Tag

learn the movement

Start with a simple tag.

One continuous line. One rhythm. Focus on flow, pressure, and speed rather than detail

WAKE  
UP  
TO  
YOUR  
WORK



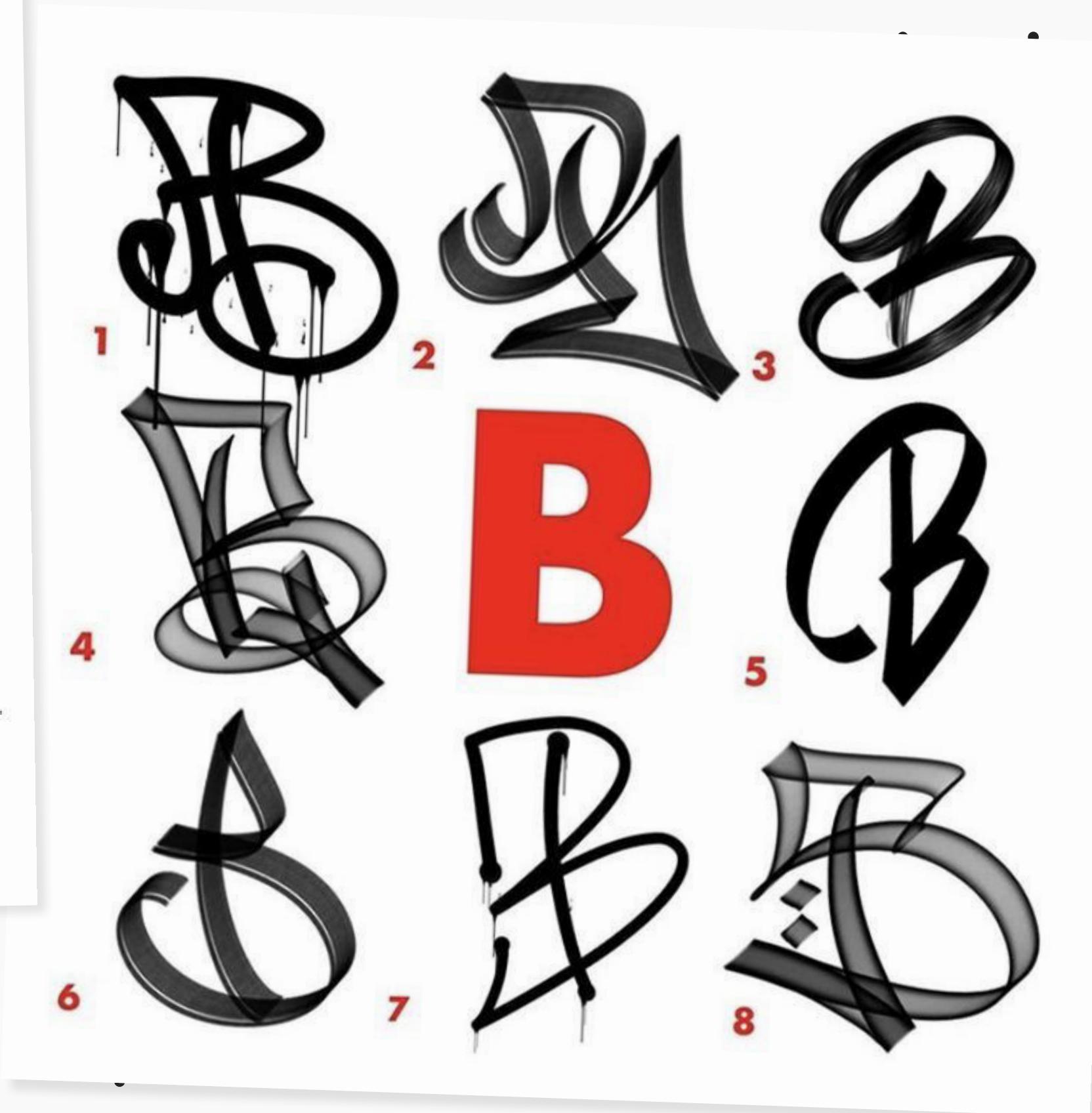
create!

# Step 1: The Tag

create!

Try different styles

Find your flow

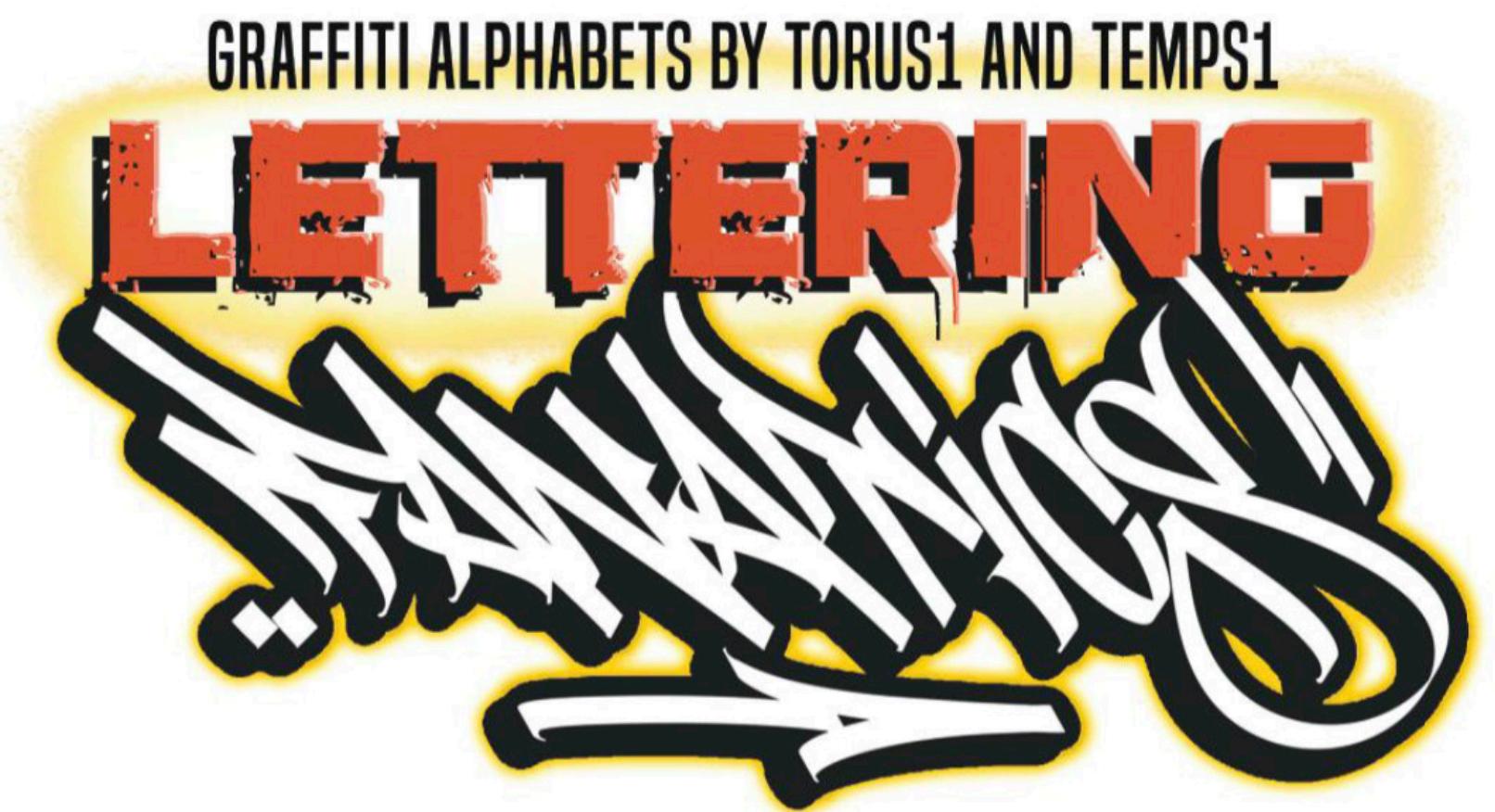


W  
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W  
O  
R  
K

# Step 1: The Tag

check out >

YOUR  
WORK



create!

# Step 2: The Throw-up

create!

Take the tag and build bubbles around it.

Inflate the strokes.  
Keep it readable.  
Balance the letter so it works at a glance.

Here you learn structure and proportion without overthinking.



## Step 2: The Throw-up

create!

HOW TO THROW UP  
AKA THROWS

### Step 1: Write

CREATE

### Step 2: Fill

SHOW  
YOUR  
WORK

CREATE

### Step 3 : Write

CREATE

### Step 4: Shadow

CREATE

# Step 3: Wildstyle

create!

Now the letter gets pushed.

Bars twist, overlap, interlock. Connections cross through the letter. Arrows and extensions appear, but they follow the logic of the form.

Wildstyle is controlled complexity.

