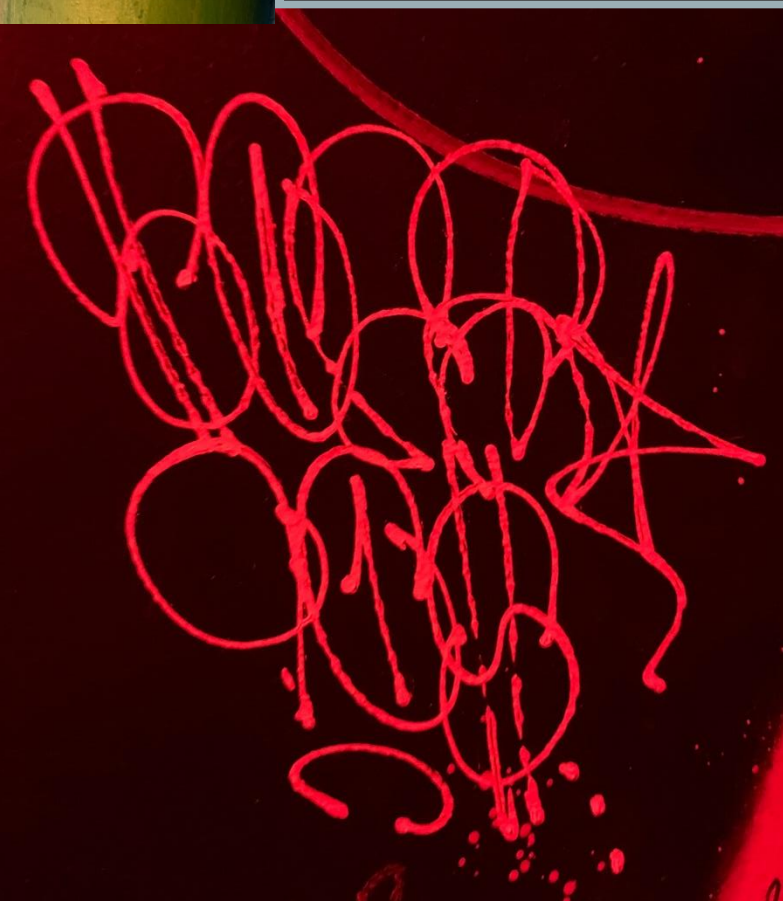


HOW TO DO THINGS WITH GRAFFITI

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Gabriel Kitsos



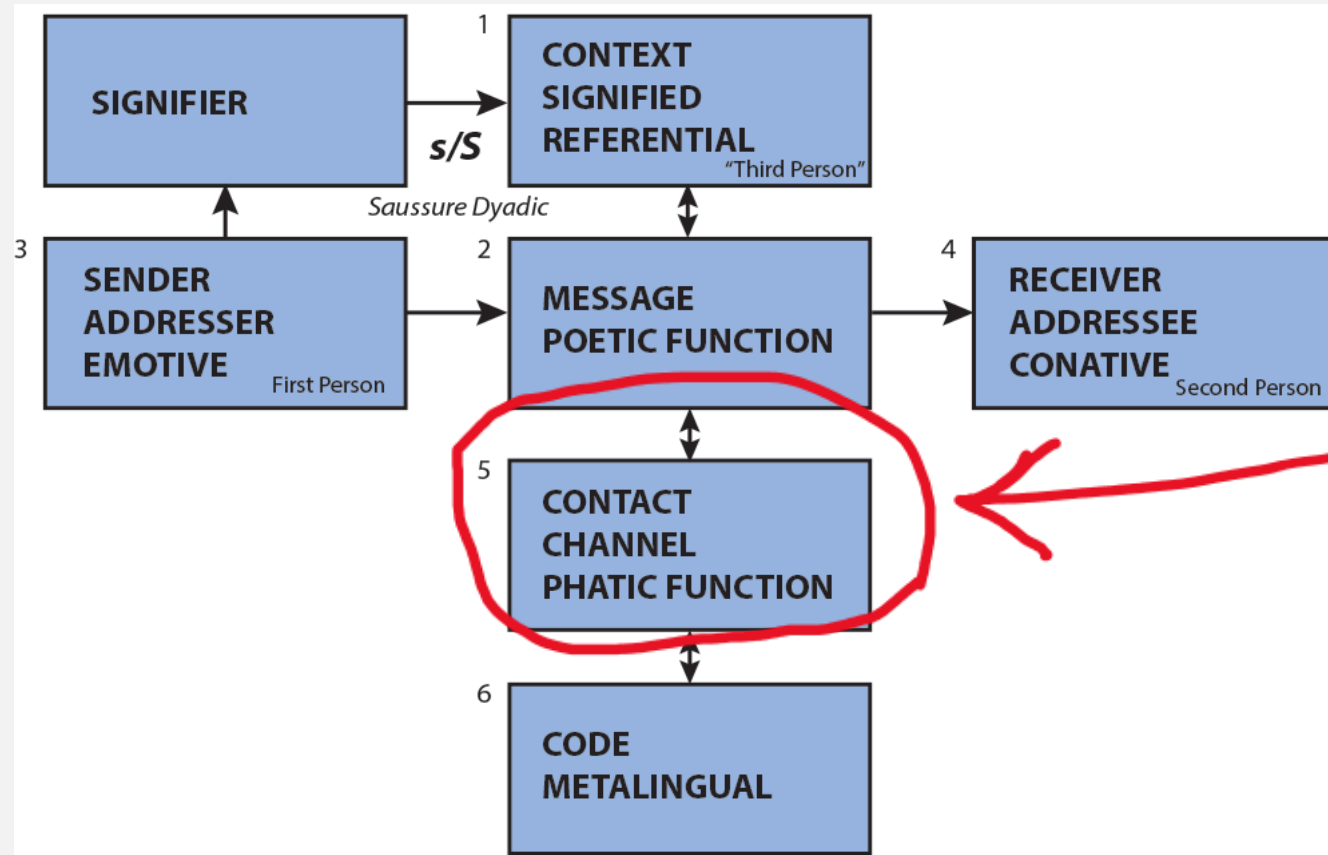
THE PROBLEM

- Cultural studies arguments that cite revolutionary anti-capitalist and anti-establishment motives.
- It's vandalism, it's art, it's an act of resistance against some higher power, its space making, space contesting, it's a popularity contest, a critique of private ownership, etc.
- “An expression of marginalized voices” (Andron, *Beyond Art and Crime* 60).
- Detective Constable E. Miller says that Graffiti tends to cause fear because most don't understand it.
- “I don't understand him” (*Style Wars* 52:37).

THE SOLUTION

- *We tell people how things are*
- *We try to get them to do things*
- *We commit ourselves to doing things*
- *We express our feelings and attitudes*
- *We bring about changes through our utterances* (Searle, *Expression*, 29).

THE PROBLEM



Illocutionary Act	Verb Phrases	Utterance in Graffiti	Felicity Conditions
Assertive	"I was here" "I am [name]"	A Tag (any word)	N/A
Directive	"Ban Cars" "Free Palestine" "Support/Endorse X" "Stop Harper"	Hortatory/Political Graffiti	Fails to meet: A.1, A.2,
Commissive	"I can attest to my being here and writing this"	A well-known tag	Meets: A.1, Must meet: A.2, B.1, B.2. Grey area: Γ .1, Γ . 2
Expressive	"I like/dislike X"	Hortatory/Political Graffiti	N/A
Declarative	"I name myself X" "I silence you"	A Tag (any word)	- Meets A.1,A.2,B.1,B.2. Depends upon Γ. 2 - N/A
Declarative	"I claim this space"	A Tag (any word)	Typically fails to meet A.1,A.2
Declarative	"I protest"	Hortatory/Political Graffiti	N/A