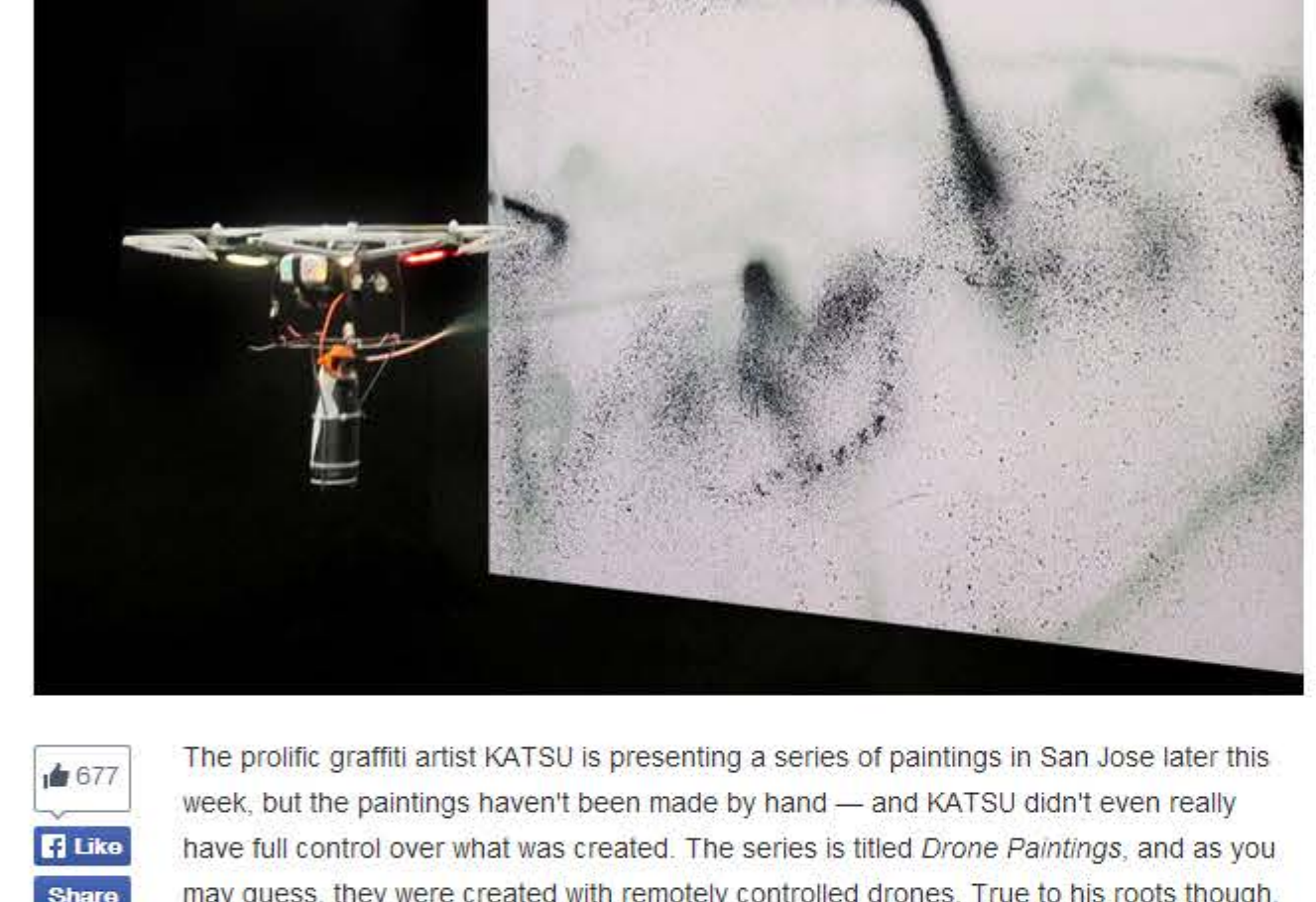


# Graffiti artist KATSU creates abstract paintings using drones with spray cans

By Jacob Kastrenakes on April 7, 2014 11:30 am Email @jake\_k

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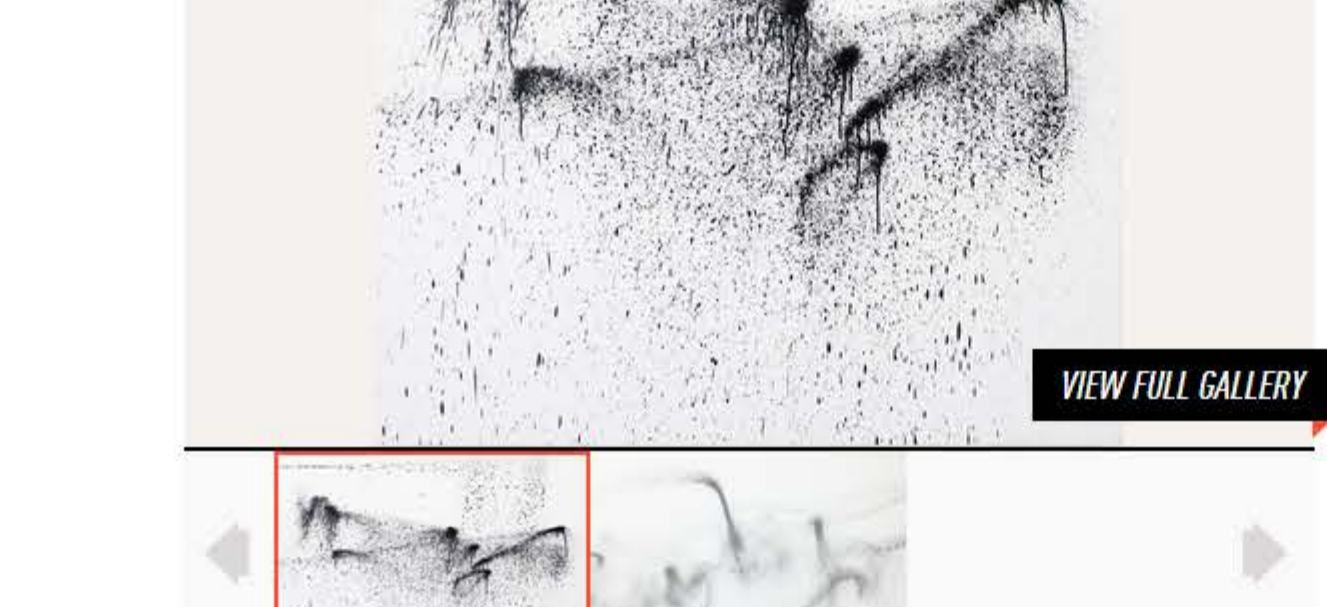


The prolific graffiti artist KATSU is presenting a series of paintings in San Jose later this week, but the paintings haven't been made by hand — and KATSU didn't even really have full control over what was created. The series is titled *Drone Paintings*, and as you may guess, they were created with remotely controlled drones. True to its roots though, the drones were armed with cans of spray paint, which KATSU used to create abstract works over blank canvases.

According to [The Hole gallery](#), which will be hosting the works at the [first Silicon Valley Contemporary art fair](#), KATSU spent several months experimenting with different weights of paint and different methods for activating the spray cans. Alongside the paintings, the gallery will show a video of how the works were made and the technology that KATSU used to create them. The full fair runs from April 10th through the 13th and includes a body of contemporary works, including video art, multimedia presentations, and digital installations.

KATSU apparently began work on the drones with the intention of programming them to write graffiti. In the end, it seems that their results became too imperfect: the force of their twirling propellers would whip the paint around, and the force of the paint would cause the drone to wobble as it attempted to stabilize itself. While that creates a decidedly abstract result, it was still created by KATSU's hand — just a few steps removed and distinctly colored by the drone.

## KATSU 'DRONE PAINTINGS' IMAGES



VIEW FULL GALLERY

SOURCE THE HOLE RELATED ITEMS GRAFFITI PAINTING SPRAY PAINT DRONE UAV ABSTRACT KATSU SPRAY CAN SPRAY PAINT CAN

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It's easy calling yourself an artist these days. Now if we can just separate the art element from an attempt at expression and call these people what they are, expressionists!... (not artists)

At least in the music industry they are starting to distinguish between performance artists and musicians.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:48 AM Reply

Shtakeris

Yep, it's pretty silly how many "artists" are out there at the moment with, in essence, pretty random crap. I think I'm an artist that writes comments on The Verge using just one hand. Or something. Art. UUu

This is what it is — graffiti or random color sprayed with drones. And that is all.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 1:08 PM Reply

awesomerobot

This comment is art.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 3:14 PM Reply

my user name is art.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:32 PM Reply

plodoom

I agree.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:36 PM Reply

Francisco.G



Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 12:46 AM Reply

plodoom

My favorite quote explanation of art is that it is something that exists only for the sole purpose of existing.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:37 PM Reply

StankyMacTroll

Like cancer?

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 1:44 AM Reply

plodoom

well now this is my second favorite description of art hahaha

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 6:47 AM Reply

DrDapple

Almost any screenshot from projectM visualization is more interesting than this garbage.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:51 AM Reply

sbear

As long as The Verge doesn't start writing opinion pieces heralding this stuff as the new avant-garde art frontier, I'm cool with it.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 12:11 PM Reply

TechPreacher

Amen to that.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 2:20 PM Reply

ShamrockGx

"art"

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 6:06 PM Reply

runawell

Great, now even vandalism can be done at home in your underwear. This generation is so lazy. :)

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 1:10 PM Reply

TechPreacher

Lol. So true.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 2:20 PM Reply

carson.walls

Every generation would be just as lazy if they had the awesome stuff we do.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 5:47 PM Reply

mhs

Mecha Pollock!

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 1:24 PM Reply

ButterBiter

Awwwwrt!

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 1:42 PM Reply

p3310e3

So they're going to promote a known criminal?

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 3:32 PM Reply

KittenAppreciatorUSA

"Street art" is just an excuse to use the word "art" in a sentence.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 3:00 PM Reply

Steve St. Germain

Fuck Katsu. He's completely ruined the front of this CPA building in Detroit (spare the jokes).



Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 8:22 PM Reply

plodoom

Looks like normal Detroit to me

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 9:32 PM Reply

Steve St. Germain

Obviously, the folks who live here don't like it.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:15 PM Reply

vamacharana

I like it

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:47 PM Reply

Francisco.G

Looks pretty sweet if you ask me!

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 12:48 AM Reply

plodoom

Art isn't always about end result; the process is important as well. Using drones to paint a picture is rather artsy, though I can't explain why. Some metaphorical shit or something.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:36 PM Reply

g.s.s.

passing the ability to create original content from a human to a creature created by human, it's like a vague sneak peek into robotic sentience and really does make you think about the future if you are open-minded. The results themselves are lackluster, but the image of the drone "expressing itself" definitely speaks to me.

Posted on Apr 7, 2014 | 11:44 PM Reply

jakec762

This is just plain ridiculous. Duct taping spray cans to drones and then flying them about like some video game. Really! Rembrandt, Monet, Chagall, Rockwell, they must be turning in their graves. Any more now, a person can take a crap on the sidewalk, put a marble on top and call it art.

Another example of the cheapening and dumbing down of society.

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 1:15 AM Reply

nevergetthis

If the drone would be autonomous then this "art" would at least have some type of meaning...for instance: This artwork explores the idea of artistic expression not being unique to humans.

But this...I used to make similar paintings in Microsoft Paint when I was 10.

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 1:59 AM Reply

plodoom

if you take a look in MoMA, a lot of the art looks like it could be made in MSpaint at 10 years old.

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 10:37 AM Reply

Brol

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h we097we0h97web g weg 0we9gwe0 gwe

gweg 9we90gwe09g we g we0gwe

gweg 0we9g0w90e0g

^ART

Posted on Apr 8, 2014 | 12:09 PM Reply

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