Lettering r-evolution: a comparison between medieval illumination and graffiti-writing in the ’70

Alessandro Ossani

Abstract

Lettering r-evolution: history and evolution of the letter in a comparative study between illuminated initials of medieval manuscripts and graffiti-writing, the artistic, cultural and social movement born in New York City during the ’70. From the roman square capitals of Vergilius Augusteus to full-page initials of Books of Durrow, Lindisfarne and Kells; from Taki 183’s block letters to Phase 2’s wild style.

Keywords

letter; illuminated manuscripts; writing (contemporary art)

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everyone in the picture has the same face. In contrast, when looking at a renaissance painting, like Christ the Redeemer by Titian quite a bit more attention is given to detail, even though the scene does not encompass nearly as much.