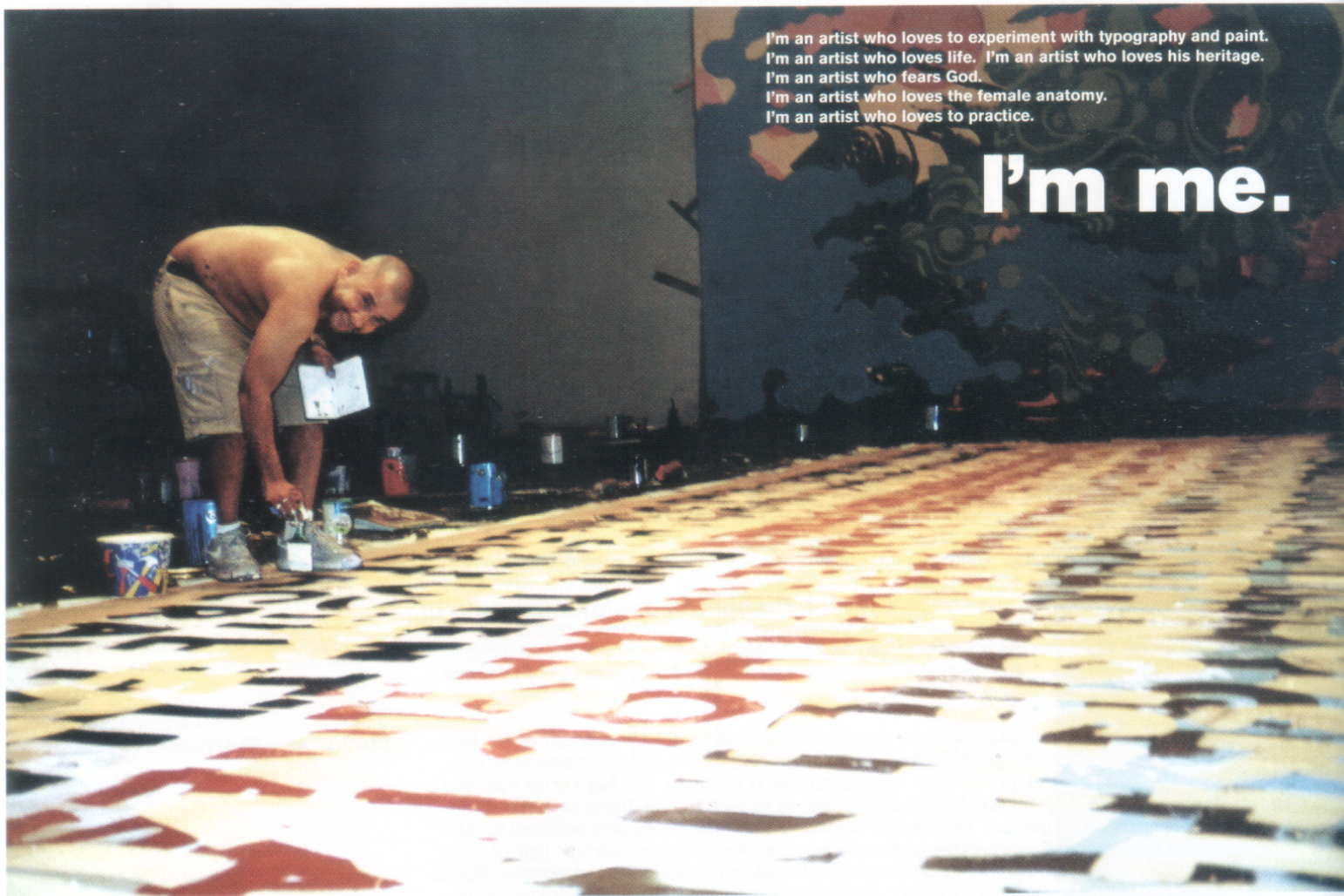


Hello, my name is... **BLUSTER ONE/FC**

BY ROOSEVELT FRANKLIN (BLACK FIREMAN)



Straight up and down, he's one of the main reasons I got back into graf and write these articles. We met right before he and partner Brue started PNBnation. The godfathers of graf t-shirts have since become global trendsetters in urban fashion. Would there even be a store like Yellow Rat Bastard without them?
Shhhiiiiittttt...

“To me, keeping my background in graffiti in the foreground is important, because it is graffiti that has made me who I am today.”

Bluster's larger than that, though. Him and his crew are like prince of the city. As part of FC, he's one of the few who've kept graf alive throughout the 90's on the streets of Manhattan with flavor wall productions. He reps in galleries, as well, still finding time to bodypaint exotic naked women at parties he hosts in nightclubs around town.

He's done graphic design for big willies like Tommy Hilfiger, Sean John, FUBU, Calvin Klein and is now working on setting up his own science fiction autobiography venture – En Frente Del Bldg.: music appreciation and graphic relations.

Brother, if you would...

peace

These following words are regarded by the FBI as the X-files:

I was born in 1970 in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. My mother and father are from Puerto Rico. Me being born in New York makes me a "NewYorican" (New York + Puerto Rican = New Yorican).

The Lower East Side has always been known as the home to many artists and musicians. In the 40s and 50s a lot of Jazz musicians lived in the Lower East Side, the most famous being Charlie Parker. In the 80s, painters like Jean Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring did a lot of their initial works and networking in the Lower East Side. Another prominent artist who also called the Lower East Side home was Lee Quiñones who is still working as hard as ever.

Although it was my cousin who initially turned me on to graffiti, I was really inspired by a famous handball court that had been painted by Lee Quiñones. It was of Howard the Duck blocking himself with a garbage can lid from a radiating green "LEE" piece. That piece really moved me. I would sit in front of it as a kid with my sketch book (which was really a lined notebook with the black and white cow-camo-flaged print) and try to duplicate this remarkable painting. It never came out as fresh as Lee's, though.

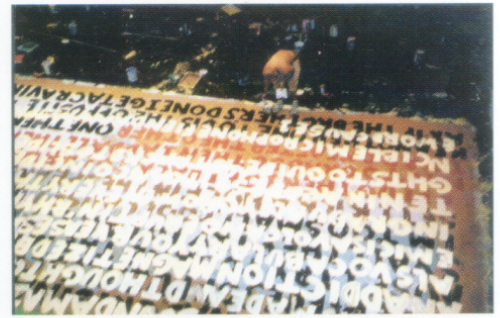
I would spend Sunday afternoons with my cousin after church in his room drawing and practicing my tags and throw up styles. My cousin wrote REO and I wrote SKI. My claim to fame (amongst us two) was my specialty in duplicating a Tracy 168 character, the one with the guy with one-piece goggles and a DA hairstyle. I had seen it in a graffiti book called

"Getting Up." Yes, my friends, I was exercising my right to free bite* (*bite= to steal parts of other artists work). I was learning. After dinner the practice made its way from the books to the stairs and eventually onto trucks, walls and telephone booths throughout Chinatown. With ink and spray paint I loved to practice...and practice.

Catholic school was where I teamed up with a fellow that we have all known for some reason or another, DMONE/ FWD and where the name BLUSTER was conceived. After five years of still being addicted to the Graffiti drug, I applied to the High School of Art & Design. The goal was to get into this school, not to really be in "school", but rather the "school" of graffiti. Everybody who was anybody went to Art & Design: DOZE/ TC5, POKE/ IBM, PAZE (Erni), SIZE (Gil), and CEY CITY just to name a few. Outside of the graffiti world, Calvin Klein, Stan Lee of Marvel Comics, and Tony Bennet went there.

I applied. I got in. That was dope. In high school I was exposed to painted Lee jean jackets and jeans (traditionally worn by POKE/ IBM), black books by the dozens, graffiti stories by the ciphers. As time went by, my interest for traditional graffiti sort of faded.

I've never painted trains as my contemporaries had. My parents kicked my ass one day after my cousin and I showed up at the house dirty from head to toe after bombing the N train at Manhattan Bridge; never again...I kept my bombing above ground. The competitive school was Music and Art, the school where my future partners and buddies WEST/ FC and SERGE/ FC went. In my 2nd year of High School, I met another future partner, BRUE-PNB. My



interest in art grew from graffiti to fine arts especially drawing. I wanted to make art my profession.

I graduated and went to the Columbus College of Art and Design where I received a degree in Fine Arts. Since graduation, my experiences came full circle when the formal introductions to both SERGE and WEST/ FC were made and the PNB Nation squad defined. I continue to paint under the name BLUSTER ONE/ FC, and my experiences have taken me to Japan and other parts of Asia. I've participated in countless productions as well as exhibitions, thanks to another inspiring individual, David "Skwerm" Ellis of the Barnstormers.

To me, keeping my background in graffiti in the foreground is important, because it is graffiti that has made me who I am today. I'm not a king of any lines, nor am I king of anything. I'm an artist who loves to experiment with typography and paint. I'm an artist who loves life. I'm an artist who loves his heritage. I'm an artist who fears God. I'm an artist who loves the female anatomy. I'm an artist who loves to practice. I'm me.

Peace
BlusterOne FC

—the above is the preliminary for BlusterOnes book entitled En Frente Del Bldg.-the X-Files, a science fiction autobiography.