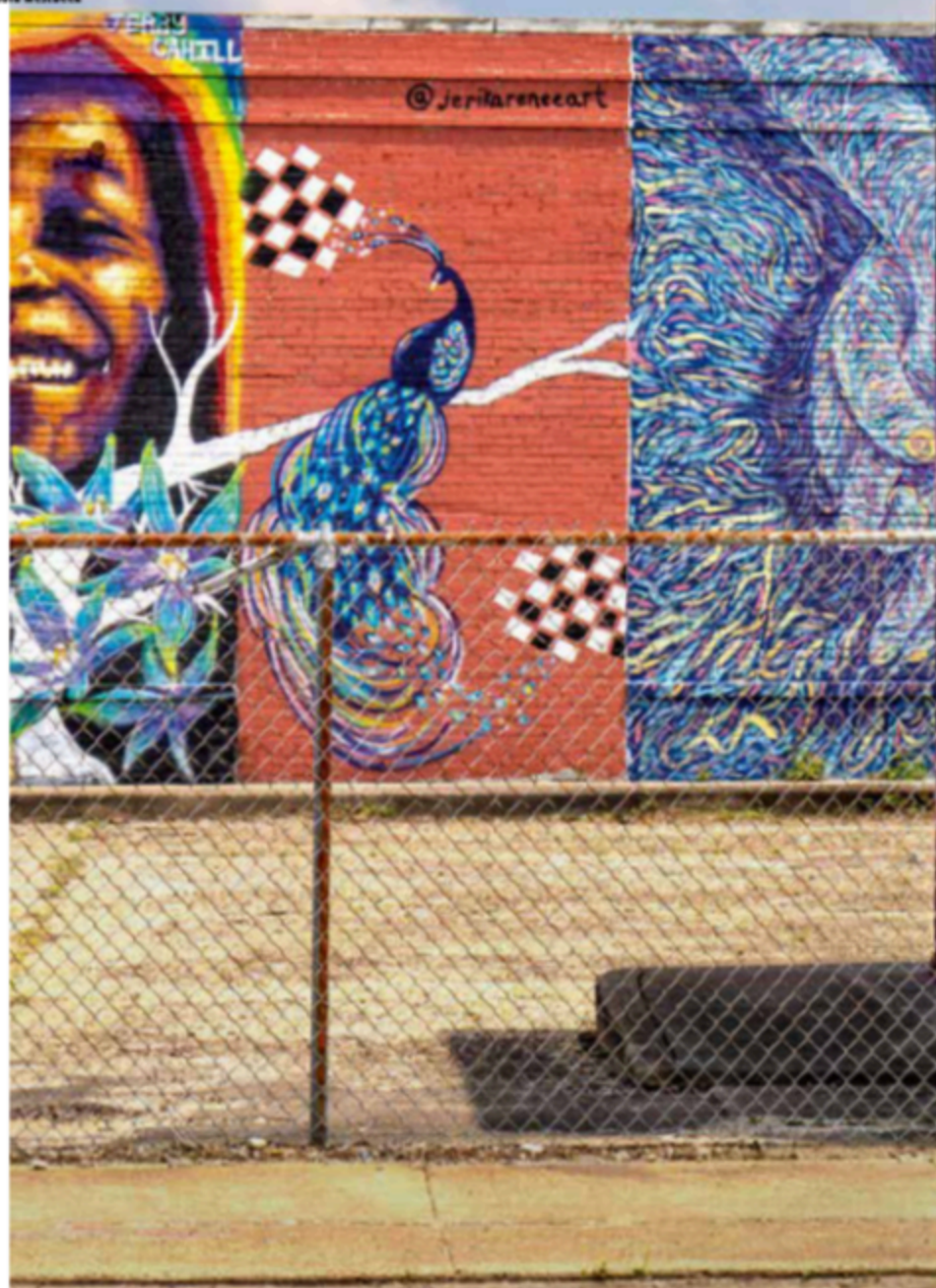


WALL-TO-WALL ART

Once considered vandalism, street art, thanks to the likes of global phenomenon Banksy, is now a celebrated art form. Let's tour the streets worldwide and see what we can find.

Text: Paula Westbrook



Memphis, US

DON'T FEAR THE OTHER SIDE

When Kirsten Sandlin, from Memphis, Tennessee, created *Don't Fear the Other Side* as part of a mural festival in 2021, she drew inspiration not only from her children, but also from her life challenges: "I wanted to remind people that you can't fear change; often, something exciting and unexpected is waiting just around the corner." Depicting the innocence and curiosity of childhood, this tender painting of a little boy peeking around a wall, carries a powerful, open-ended message; whether it's about stepping into the unknown, or finding comfort during life's difficulties. *Don't miss:* The mural is located at 660 S. BB King Blvd in downtown Memphis, just a three-minute drive to Beale Street, the birthplace of the blues.



Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

HALF RABBIT

Long famed for its port wine cellars and coastal allure, the city of Vila Nova de Gaia has more recently become known for its street art, too. Since 2017, the corner of a weathered building on R. Dom Afonso III has housed *Half Rabbit*: a rabbit sculpture made from a jumbled mosaic of city waste, disguised in rabbit hues on one side and left in its original bright colours on the other. Created by the acclaimed street artist Bordalo II, this visual metaphor confronts us with the impact of the 'take-make-waste' linear economic model wreaking havoc on our environment by using resources to produce goods that usually end up in landfills. **Did you know?** The colossal work can be seen from the Gaia Cable Car, which runs alongside the Douro River.

Ariety



Brussels, Belgium

RIC HOCHET

If there's a mecca for street art, it's Brussels. Since the early 90s, the Belgian capital's quirky Comic Book Route has been delighting visitors with a cheerful collection of more than 70 murals showcasing the city's strong tradition of comic art and graphics-based storytelling. Among the many famous characters, you'll find *Ric Hochet* (created by French cartoonist Tibet and Belgian writer André-Paul Duchâteau), the adventurous reporter known for his humorous crime-solving escapades. The Disneyesque piece, painted on Rue du Bon Secours by G. Oreopoulos and D. Vandeguerde, is sure to bring a smile to viewers of all ages. **Don't miss:** Discover the more than 150 frescoes – part of the city's PARCOURS Street Art project – by local and international artists.



Montreal, Canada

TOWER OF SONGS

In November 2017, a year after singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen's passing, the metropolis of Montreal unveiled a mural as monumental as the legacy of its legendary son. Rendered in shades of sepia by American street artist El Mac and the city's own Gene Pendon, the striking work rises 21 storeys above Crescent Street, famous for its lively nightlife. A powerful tribute laced with quiet nostalgia, *Tower of Songs* beautifully captures Cohen's gentle spirit. The artist is depicted wearing his iconic fedora and with his hand over his heart as he keeps watch over his beloved hometown. **Don't miss:** The mural is even more magical at sunset, when Cohen's portrait is bathed in a veil of golden light, and later in the evening, when it's illuminated.