



Street Art As A Symptom

Economic divides on display

This project highlights the economic disparities along Bank Street in Ottawa through a visual contrast of vandalistic tagging and commissioned street art. Red represents the chaotic presence of tagging, while cool, calming blue signifies curated murals. Notably, one side of the bridge features significantly fewer tags, reflecting a community effort to maintain a cleaner, more curated environment. The bridge serves as both a physical and symbolic barrier, separating this pristine area from spaces with higher concentrations of homeless individuals, where tagging is prevalent.

This disparity reveals a deeper narrative of neglect and marginalization, as the lack of effort to preserve these public spaces contrasts sharply with the careful curation seen elsewhere. By using colour to map tagging, this cartography underscores the stark division, prompting reflection on how urban spaces embody intersections of art, neglect, and social inequality. It invites viewers to consider how the presence or absence of tagging signals broader societal attitudes toward certain neighbourhoods.

