

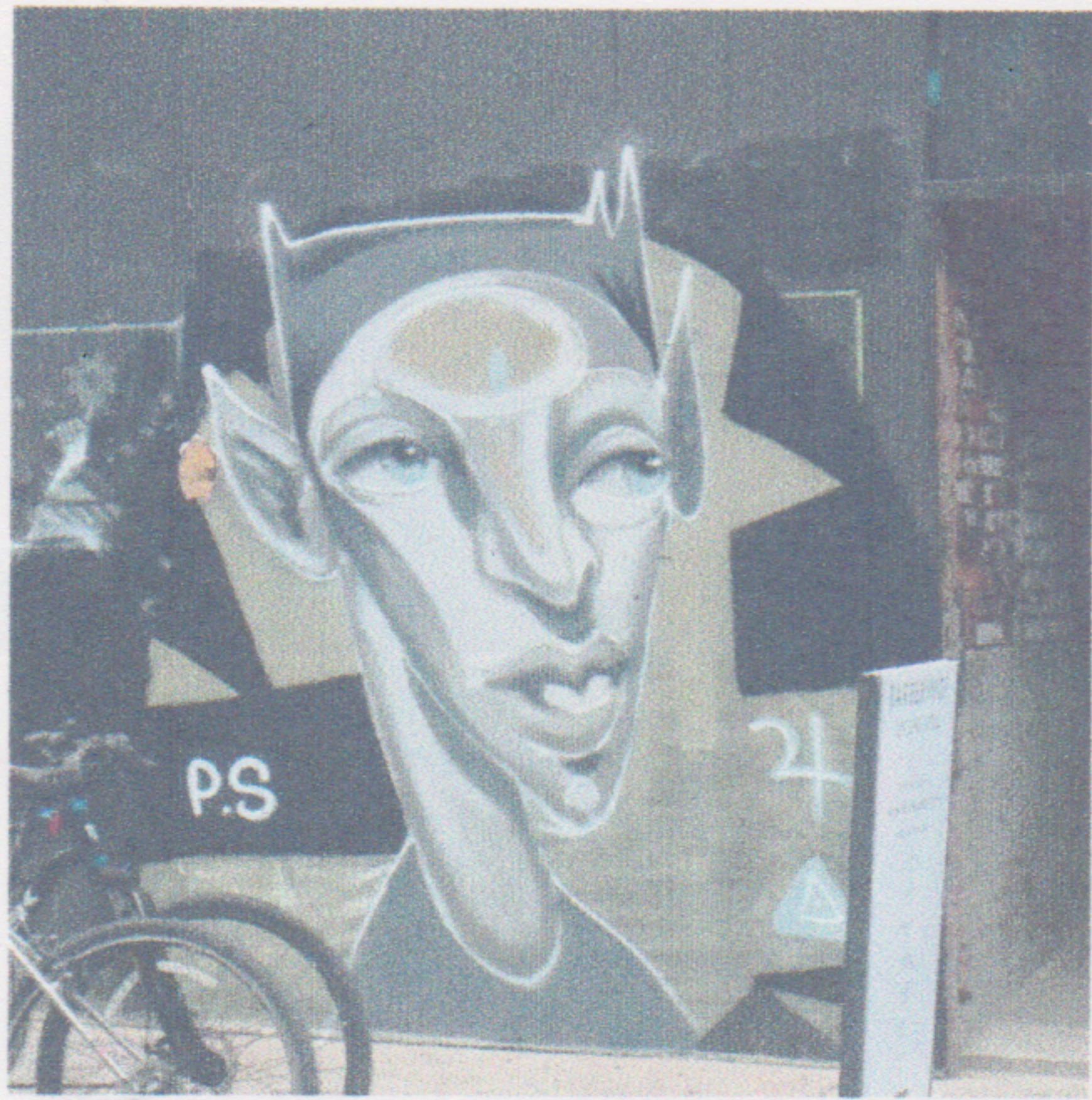


A Kensington Market Zine

Andrea

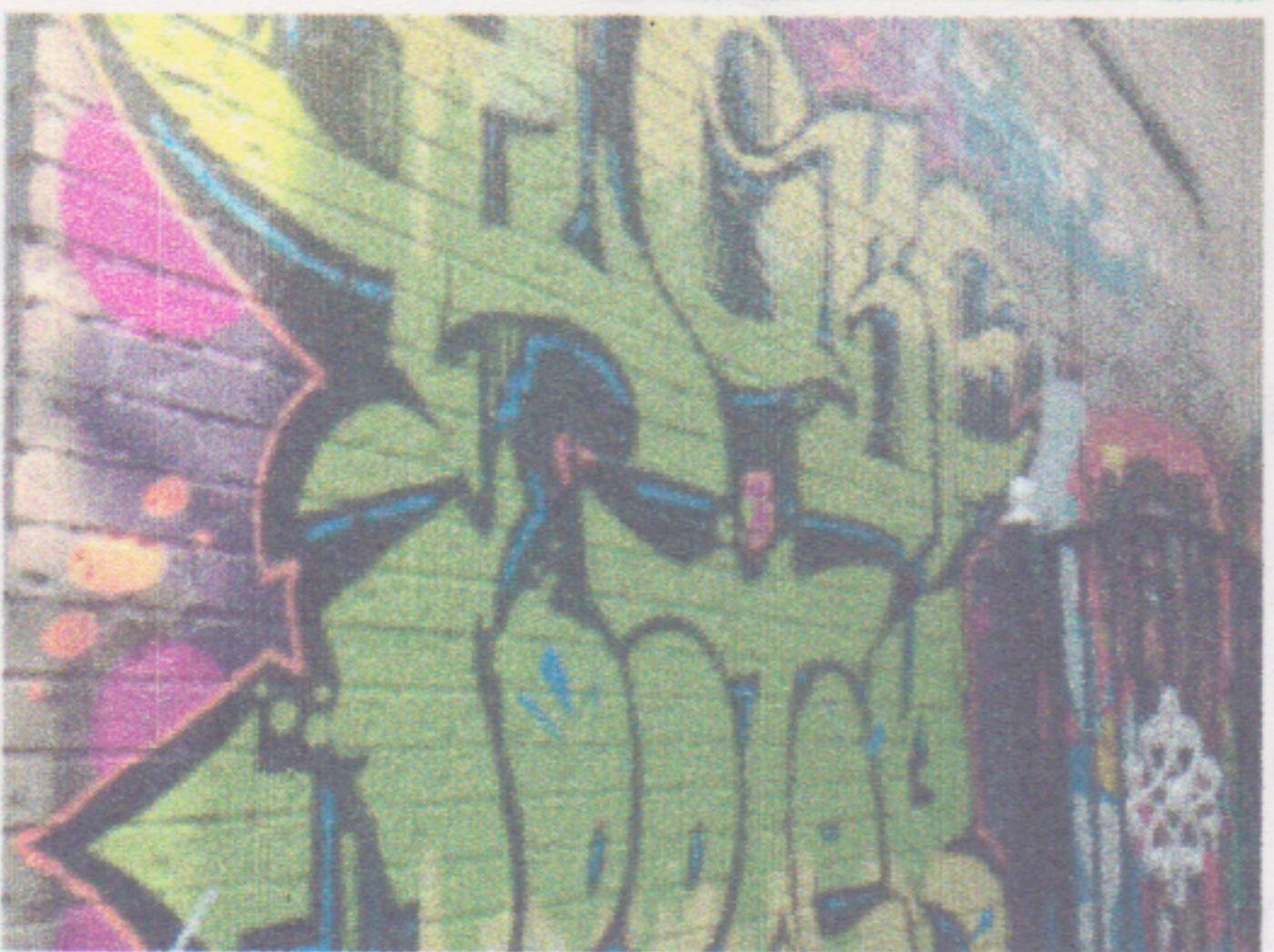


Canvas: Kensington



The cover is a recreation of this graffiti. It is unknown who the artist is, but there is a possibility that it was made by someone going by the initials "P.S".

GRAFFITI







While graffiti nearly appears at every single corner of Kensington, it is not necessarily the only medium that artists turn to. To the viewer, it goes down to how art is defined, of what criteria we follow in order to consider something art. In the case of the fairly white van parked in front of a store known as *Dancing Days*, the vehicle is the canvas and the stickers are the artist's tools. It is greatly decorated with different stickers inspired by a mix of movements and pop culture. The stickers had come from the hippie and punk movements. There was a combination of stickers promoting punk rock bands, environmentally-friendly ideas (with sayings like "go solar" and "stop the tar sands"), and Disney characters that seemed a bit out of place.

The van was not the only other platform used by brilliant artists. Some stores feature sculptures that are easy to distinguish – ones that truly catch a person's attention.





Some of the artwork displayed featured personal and more intimate histories. The picture above is of a couple who got engaged on May 31, 2013. While it does express a beautiful take on the two lovers, it only depicts a fragment of their lives. Without any more context (or another commissioned art piece that continues their story); we are left with the mystery and ambiguity. Perhaps the couple did eventually get married and live in the neighbourhood to this day. Or it could be that they didn't, and left to live separate lives. It's a puzzle to dwell upon.

THE PEOPLE

Finally, one of the cleverest artworks I have seen on the streets was the collage combining certain qualities of seven individuals. Each person had different styles, skin tones, and haircuts. The collage easily demonstrates the diversity of the neighbourhood. It brings up the cliché saying that no two people are alike, highly encouraging a person to be who they are. Hopefully someday, Kensington Market, as well as many other places in the world, will fully embrace diversity.

