

Round 1

# Tony Adame WINNER!

@oaksramento\_35

I am Tony Adame. I was born and raised in Sacramento in 1989. I grew up in midtown. My great-grandmother lived on 17th and U street and that's where my experience with graffiti began. As a kid in the 90's most of my encounters with graffiti was gang related. I would see everything from northern cholo style hit-ups with numbers, roman numerals and Old English lettering. The tags would represent gang affiliation of blocks, streets, sets, hoods, and varios. At the age of seven driving in the backseat of my mom's or great-grandmother's cars, I distinctly remember seeing the form of graffiti art up on buildings, poles, fences, dumpsters, mail boxes and alleyways. The impact that it had on me was so strong.

Right after high-school in 2006 I found myself in a dark place doing drugs, partying, drinking, and fighting every night being a bad influence to the little ones in my life. At this time I wasn't creating any art. I was wasting time. I felt trapped like crabs in a bucket. I was watching my friends get locked up, go to prison and some were starting their families. I was all alone. I was going through my old drawing from my childhood and I realized that I had a talent. I think it's very important if we have talent that we use the talent that God gives us. So in 2009 I decided to take my graffiti talent more seriously. I remember thinking to myself that I was going to start drawing again and I was never going to stop. I dreamed of making a career out of it. I want to do something positive and be a good role model to all my family and friends. I hit the streets, I got up, I made a name for myself. I made my mark everywhere, and anywhere I could!

I found myself walking through these dark tunnels, alleyways, train yards and streets. I witnessed so many bright colors in the dark. Graffiti writers putting their freedom on the line for the graffiti culture showed me that there is light in dark places and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Everything I paint is for all the people that might be stuck in the dark for the people that feel hopeless. I paint to show everybody that we can overcome anything and any obstacle and anybody has the power to change and be better for themselves or for their community.

In conclusion I want to pay homage to my Lord Jesus for bringing graffiti into my life. I also want to thank my beautiful wife Yvonne for always standing by me through thick and thin, from dark to light and for always being my number one fan. I feel truly blessed to have her in my life and our kids t, Victorya and baby Vylet. I also want to pay homage to all the graffiti writers, bombers and taggers before me. Without them we wouldn't have these permission walls that we have today, without their hard work and ambition I don't know where graffiti would be. And lastly I want to give a big thank you to Sacramento News and Review for freeing up the wall on their building for artists and graffiti writers to come and express themselves freely without having the fear of being criminalized. And a huge thank you to Graffiti For Good, Neverboard, Vision Quality Coatings, Reabundance, Toy Room Gallery and Wide Open Walls for supporting local Graffiti writers & artists, thank you!



**GRAFFITI For GOOD WALL ART COMPETITION THANK YOU!**

Acacia Acosta  
Aizik Brown @aikbrown  
Berk Visual @berkvisual  
Gabriel Lopez @gsultimatic  
Leon AC Willis @shgraffix  
Norman Ayles @normastart808  
Madelyn Joan Templeton @madelynejt

Joha Harrison @surrenderwasapose  
Kim Mims @kmove  
Matthew Gilliam @sactowndirector  
Mr. "EQ" @eqwiththeview

@hossculture



Graffiti For Good Board Members  
• Rod Malloy • TEN Blair • John Blair



APPLY TO PAINT  
[www.graffitiforgood.org](http://www.graffitiforgood.org)