

[Rammellzee at Vroom & Varossieau Gallery](#)

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Rammellzee (American, 1960-2010)

Read Rammellzee's [Gothic Futurism manifesto](#) in full on his archived website.

In 1985, Greg Tate [interviewed](#) Rammellzee at his "Battle Station" studio, an experience that he described as "a whirlwind two hour exegetic tour of his mind's (and mouth's) capacity to conjure complex theorems that blurred the lines between subway art, race and culture wars, diseased language, the illuminated calligraphy of 14th-century monks, and sculptural high-tech sonic weaponry."

Read a [2001 interview](#) with the artist on @149st, a website documenting New York City graffiti. Video interviews also feature the artist: watch [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) on YouTube.

The New York Times published the artist's [obituary](#) upon his untimely death in 2010. Ben Purdue, wrote another [remembrance](#) about Rammellzee eight years after his death.

Cosmic Flush, Rammellzee's last album, was released posthumously in 2015. London's Magda Gallery installed [an exhibition](#) to celebrate the life and work of the artist to coincide with the album's release.



Rammellzee, c. 1980s
Photograph: Waring Abbott/Getty



Rammellzee in his "Battle Station" studio, 2005
Photograph: Charlie Ahearn

Watch a [2017 video](#) by Sotheby's, "Before Basquiat – There Was Rammellzee."

In 2018, Red Bull Arts New York opened [RAMMΣLLZΣΣ: Racing for Thunder](#), a rare exhibition of artwork, music, writing, archival documents, and ephemera related to the artist's widespread career. Red Bull Music Academy [published an interview](#) between Vivian Host and Jeff "Chairman" Mao about the artist upon the exhibition's opening. Jon Caramanica's New York Times [exhibition review](#), "Rammellzee, From Living Letters to Living Sculpture" includes images and videos related to the exhibition.

Racing for Thunder spurred renewed interest in Rammellzee's work. Read a [New Yorker article](#), "The Spectacular Personal Mythology of Rammellzee," and an [Artsy article](#), "How 1980s Cult Artist Rammellzee Mesmerized Everyone from Basquiat to the Beastie Boys."

Watch the 2018 documentary, [Rammellzee: It's Not Who But What](#), on Billboard's website.

Since 2019, Ayn Foundation has displayed a ten-part ["resin fresco"](#) installation by the artist.



Rammellzee (American, 1960-2010)

Atomic Note Carpet, 1986

Acrylic, spray paint on carpet mounted on panel

Private Collection; L2023:24.1

Rammellzee was born and raised in Far Rockaway, Queens. Rising to fame in late-twentieth century graffiti circles alongside artists including DONDI (1961-1998), A-One (1964-2001), and Toxic (b. 1965), Rammellzee's graffiti started sprouting on New York City's A-train subway cars and stations in the 1970s. Like other street artists at the time, Rammellzee also produced a wide range of two-dimensional, mixed media works. **Atomic Note Carpet** reflects the artist's philosophy of "Gothic Futurism," a name inspired by a medieval story about Gothic monks whose manuscript lettering became so ornate and unreadable that bishops banned the practice. To Rammellzee, the alphabet is weaponized and deeply connected to power structures worldwide. This work was recently on display at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery in Los Angeles with a major retrospective of the artist's eclectic oeuvre.

On view March 22 – June 25, 2023