

Mural Painting



A mural is any piece of artwork painted or applied directly on a wall, ceiling, or other large permanent surface.

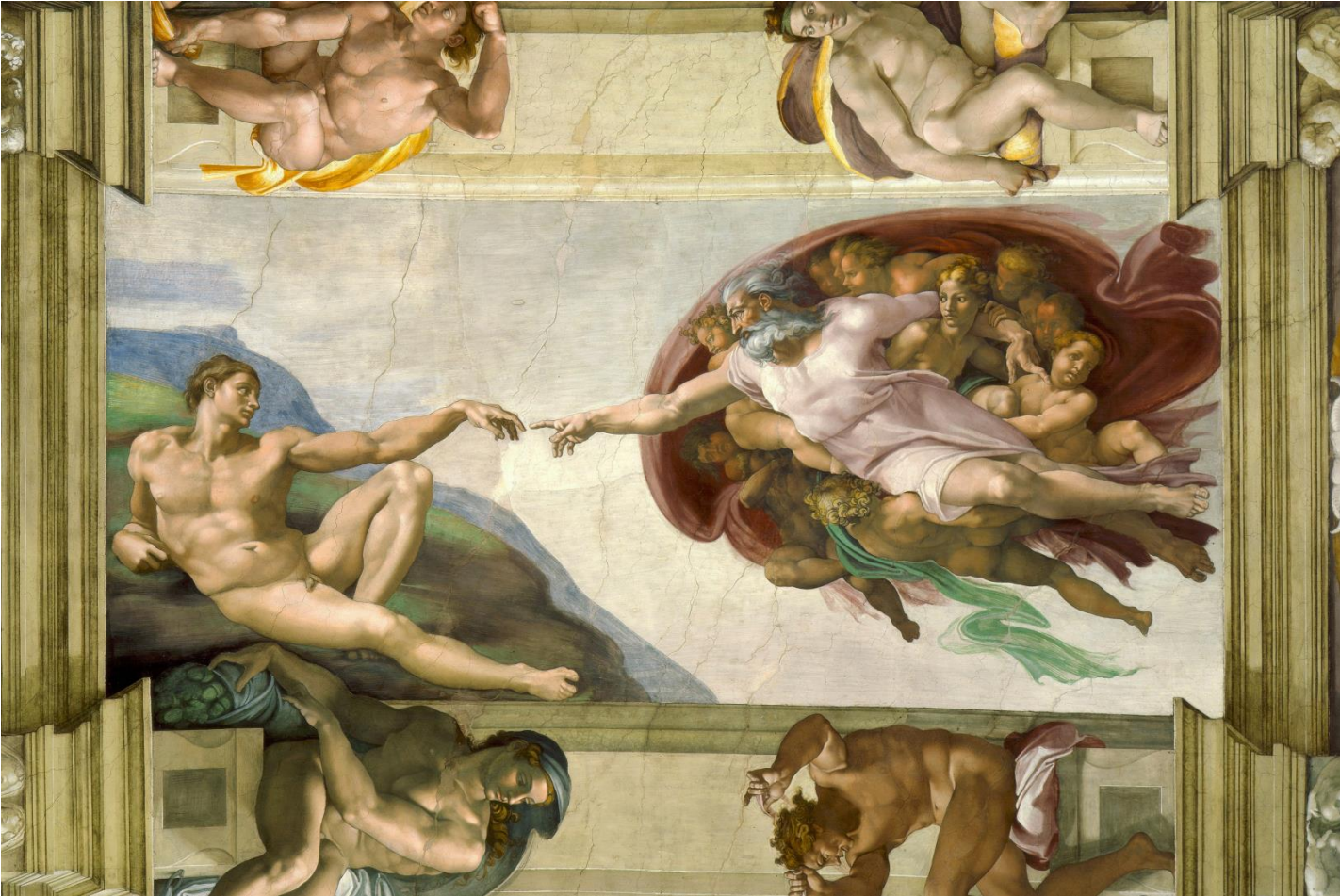
- **Architectural elements are harmoniously incorporated into the picture.**



- Murals date as far back as 30,000 B.C.
- Survived in Egyptian tombs (c. 3150 B.C.)



- **Murals existed throughout classical antiquity (Renaissance and Baroque eras)**
- **Fresco was the traditional medium**
 - **Paint is applied to wet plaster**
 - **Chemical reaction fixes the pigment particles in the plaster**
 - **Can last up to centuries**



The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo (c. 1511-1512)

- In modern times, fresco became well known in conjunction with Mexican Muralism



The Flower Carrier by Diego Rivera (1935)

Today there are a variety of mural techniques

- Tromp L'oeil uses realistic imagery to create optical illusion



- Painting or photographic image is put on paper or canvas and then pasted on wall



Importance of murals

- **Bring art into the public sphere**
- **Work gets a wide audience**
- **Cities benefit by the beauty of the artwork**
- **Often commissioned by sponsors**
- **Important means of communication for people of socially, ethnically, and racially divided communities**

Murals and Politics

- Murals can be a tool for social change
- Can help achieve political goals



- **Murals have been used by totalitarian regimes for propoganda**



Kim Jong Un (dictator of N. Korea)



Mural of Saddam Hussein (former dictator of Iraq)

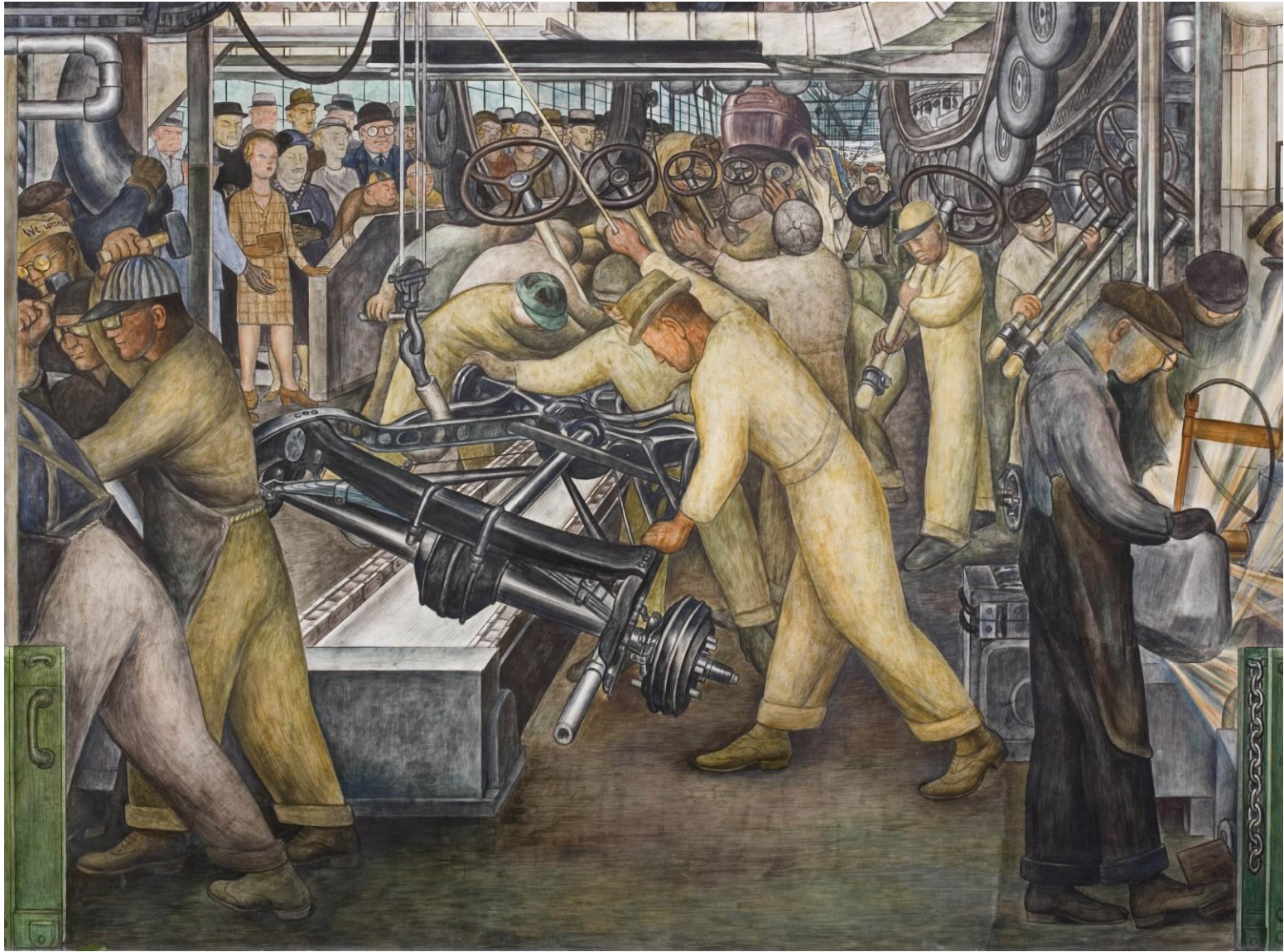
- **The Mexican mural movement of the 1930's used murals as a social and political tool**
- **Diego Rivera painted series of 27 fresco panels entitled *Detroit Industry* at The Detroit Institute of Art (DIA) – depict workers at Ford Motor Company**



Diego Rivera 1886 – 1957



Detroit Industry by Diego Rivera (1932 and 1933)



***Detroit Industry* by Diego Rivera (1932 and 1933)**



***Detroit Industry* by Diego Rivera (1932 and 1933)**

- Northern Ireland contains some of the most famous political murals in the world





WAR

PEACE

REMEMBER THE FALLEN FROM WAR

PEACE

PEACE CANNOT BE KEPT BY FORCE

IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY UNDERSTANDING

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

TEMPLEMORE AVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

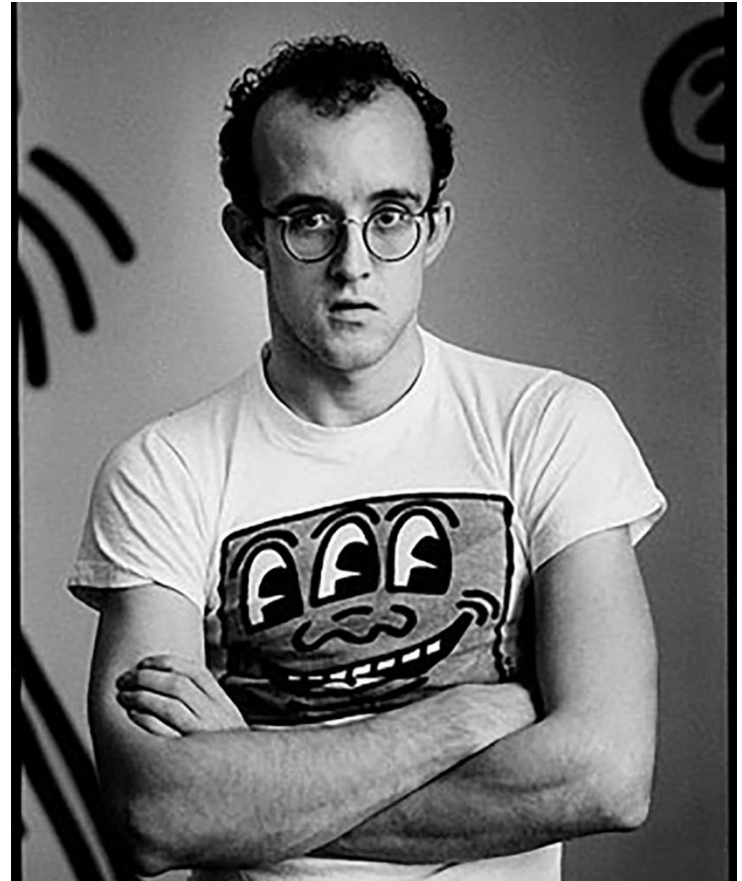
NEW TOWARDS RD.
METHODIST CHURCH

- **The Berlin Wall stood from 1961 – 1989**
- **Artists were not allowed to paint on the eastern side**
- **Artists painted on the western side**





Keith Haring, an American graffiti artis, painted on the Berlin Wall as a protes to human rights violations.



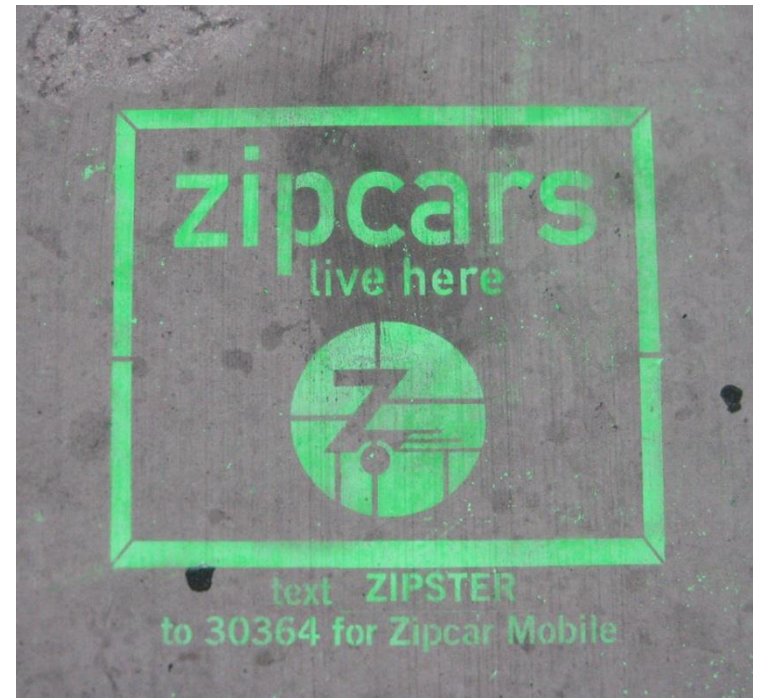
Keith Haring 1958 - 1990

Graffiti

- **Used as a memoir of innocent lives lost to inner city violence**
- **Also expresses underlying social and political messages**
- **Evolved along with hip hop culture**
- **Gangs used graffiti to mark their territory**
- **Popularity and legitimization of graffiti has lead to its commercialization**



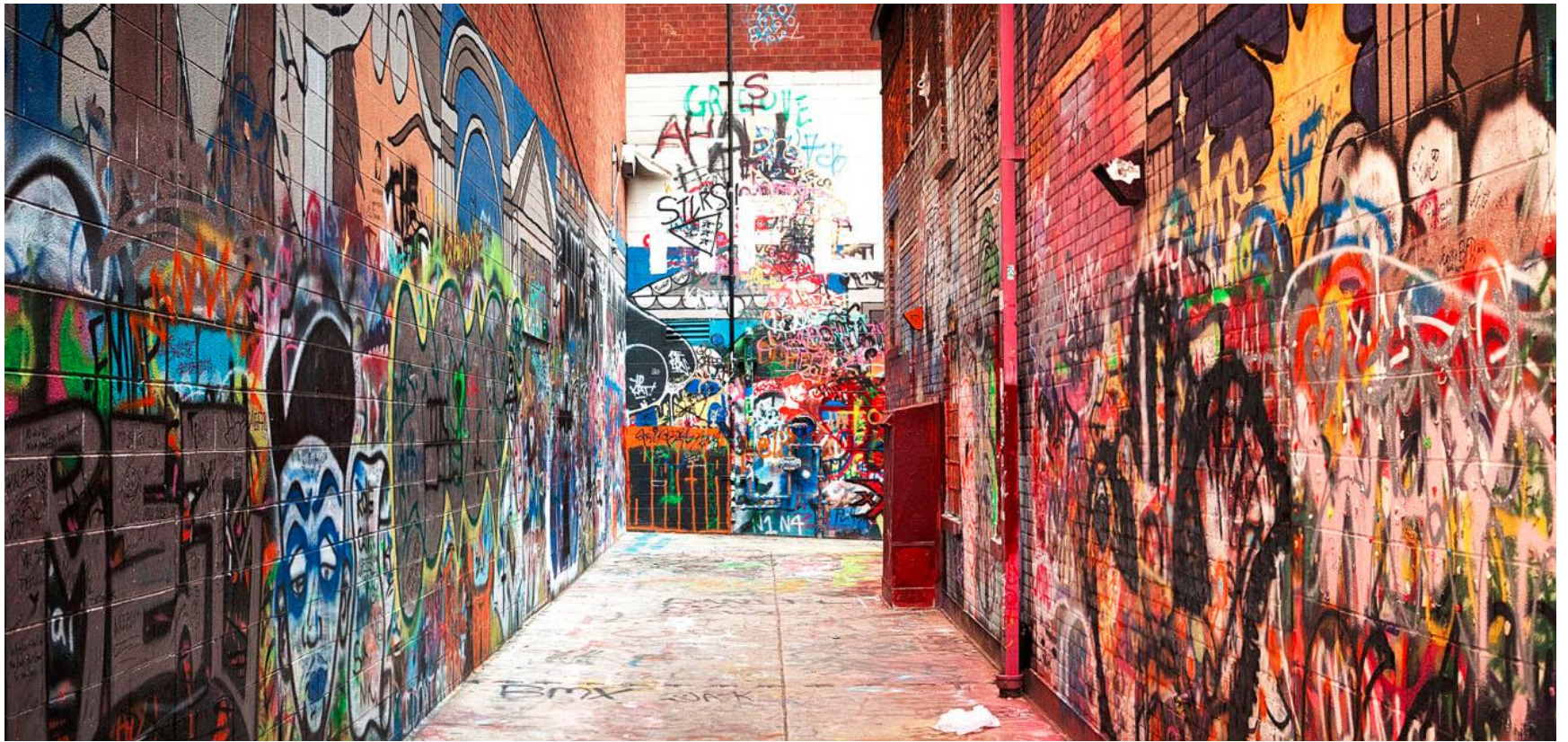
IBM's Peach Love Linux advertising campaign



Zipcar car sharing campaign



Graffiti



Graffiti Alley in Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Murals can add aesthetic improvement to people's daily lives
- Used to create tourist attractions to boost economic incomes







