

AKILL

A-Kill · graffiti writer and muralist · Chennai

ORIGINS AND T3K

Akill, who also signs as A-Kill, is a graffiti writer and muralist from Chennai. He came up through the city's graffiti scene under the tag akill and co-founded T3K, a crew the Deccan Chronicle described in 2015 as probably Chennai's first. The four members met over a shared wall at Valluvar Kottam, and by 2015 they were painting with permission from the Chennai Corporation and the police, much of it commissioned work for cafés and shops. T3K took part in Conquer the Concrete, an 18-day street-art programme launched by the Goethe-Institut in Chennai, and a Made in Madras film documented the crew at work. In 2014 he was an invited artist at Dubai's Street Night festival.

PRACTICE

His work is figurative and close to the street. He photographs people where they live and work, studies them, and scales them up as realist portraits, often in black and white. At Kannagi Nagar he set a greyscale portrait against flat yellow for contrast. Spray paint is where he started, and he teaches it: at St+art's Pop India exhibition in Chennai in 2020 he led a graffiti workshop in stencilling and spray painting, and the group's piece went on show outside Palladium Mall. Today his walls reach the scale of buildings, with more than ten years of practice behind them.

WALLS AND FESTIVALS

With the St+art India Foundation and Asian Paints he painted a mural for the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa in 2019, about the state's mix of tourists and locals. In early 2020 he painted The Sisters, one of the centrepieces of St+art's Kannagi Art District, which the Chennai Corporation invited St+art to create. The wall shows two smiling sisters, adapted from a photograph he took at Nochikuppam near Marina Beach and painted large enough to greet residents and visitors.

He and the Delhi-based artist Khatra then designed We Are at Indira Nagar station for St+art, the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Tidel Park and Southern Railway, with support from Asian Paints. Begun in December 2020 and finished in about 40 days, it covers some 63,000 sq ft and sets portraits of people living with HIV beside portraits of people without it, to challenge stigma. Media4Growth called it India's largest mural.

In July 2024 he went to Denver for the 40th anniversary of the Denver–Chennai sister-city link and painted a mural with the Denver group Koco Collab in RiNo Art District: Pookkari, a Chennai flower seller, among plumeria and coastal motifs under Colorado trees and a moon. Back home, an Instagram feature by Billeverse points followers to his walls across Chennai, from Nochikkupam and Chennai Central to Indira Nagar.

COMMISSIONS WITH 108 COLLECTIVE

He is a key member of 108 Collective, the Chennai studio founded by Karthik SS, through which many of his commissions are produced. In 2023 he hand-painted the Dhoni mural on an outside wall of Chepauk Stadium, designed by New Folder Design. His client walls also include train murals for

the film Vikram (2022), a building-scale mural for Gadar 2 in Andheri, Mumbai (2023), the Gandhi mural at Chennai Central, and venue walls for Off the Record, Kappa Culttr, Scor'd Brew'd and Loka House in Puducherry. In January 2026 ChargeZone's SHWA programme credited him with A Blueprint to the Future, a solarpunk mural on the Godavari in Rajahmundry. The same year 108 Collective conceptualised and executed the Campa Energy × Ajith Kumar Racing mural at Indira Nagar station on OMR, reported at about 65,000 sq ft and painted by a 21-member team over 45 days; the Billeverse feature credits Akill with what it calls India's largest brand mural.

STUDIO

Away from the walls he paints on canvas and digitally, and makes stickers. The archive gathered for this site holds more than 130 works across street, studio and commissions.

IN THE PRESS

Deccan Chronicle covered T3K twice in 2015. Citizen Matters and Silverscreen India wrote about The Sisters in 2020, and The Decor Journal India followed in 2021, the year Media4Growth reported on We Are. DT Next named him as the painter of the Chepauk mural in 2023, and RiNo Art District announced the Denver mural in 2024. The Hindu has reported on the transformation of the Indira Nagar MRTS mural. In a Times of India feature on the return of hand-painted advertising, Joeanna Fernandes introduced him as a graffiti artist from Chennai whose artwork for a motorbike brand was part of a large event with bike stunts and live music; he spoke about extending murals with UV light, augmented reality and projection mapping. The article sums up the shift in one line: "It becomes part of brand activation."

SELECTED PRESS

- Deccan Chronicle · Myriad hues of Madras · 2015
- Deccan Chronicle · Close encounters with T3K · 2015
- Citizen Matters · Kannagi Nagar all set to become Chennai's walk-in art gallery, open to all! · 2020
- Silverscreen India · Anatomy of an Indian Art District: Photos from Chennai's Kannagi Nagar · 2020
- Media4Growth · Mega mural at Chennai station spread AIDS awareness · 2021
- The Decor Journal India · Chennai's Kannagi Nagar transforms into an art district · 2021
- DT Next · Murals of Dhoni, TN cricketers adorn the walls of Chepauk Stadium · 2023
- RiNo Art District · Artists from Denver's sister city in Chennai, India join local muralists for July installation in RiNo Art District · 2024
- ChargeZone SHWA · A Blueprint to the Future · 2026
- The Hindu · Behind the transformation of Chennai's Indira Nagar MRTS mural · year to confirm
- Times of India (print), Joeanna Fernandes · Flex to fresco, hand-painted ads are making a comeback · year to confirm

Contact: managed by 108 Collective · <https://www.onenoteight.com>