

**New York Folklore Society
2001-02 Documentary Heritage Project
Documenting Hip Hop**

Collection creator:

DOZE Green.

Title:

Polaroid photographs.

Date:

Summer 1981.

Extent:

8 instant photographs.

Biographical/historical note:

Doze Green was born and raised on the upper west side of Manhattan, New York City, and is a pioneer of Hip Hop culture. In 1974, he started writing graffiti in his neighborhood; in 1976 he began to paint subway trains. In 1977, Doze joined Rock Steady Crew, pioneers of a new style of dance called break dancing or B-Boying. Rock Steady Crew was very successful, and appeared in several films, including *Flashdance*, *Style Wars* and *Wildstyle*. Prior to Rock Steady Crew and TC5, most graffiti writers from the mid to late 1970s did not associate themselves with the brewing Hip Hop movement originating in the South Bronx. TC5 is largely credited as being the first crew to incorporate all four Hip Hop elements: graffiti, B-Boying, MCing, and DJing into their formation. Doze Green continues to work as an artist, displaying his work in exhibitions at art galleries on both coasts.

Scope and content:

This collection consists of 8 Polaroid photographs that were taken in the Summer of 1981 in and around the 42nd Street/Times Square area in New York City. Photographs show crew members of the early Hip Hop groups TC5 and Rock Steady posing, displaying their graffiti denim jackets, graffiti pants, and fat shoe laces. Members photographed are DOZE, Kuriaki (who died in 1988), Buck 4 (died in 1989), SEEN, and DOC. Kuriaki and Buck 4 had notable dance sequences in the film *Beat Street*.

Finding aid note:

While there is no formal finding aid for this material, Vee Bravo has interviewed DOZE Green about this collection. The digital video recording of this interview/oral history is in Mr. Bravo's possession, and may be accessed by contacting Urban Think Tank; P.O. Box 1476, New York, NY 10185; phone 718-670-3739; fax: 718-596-1228; Email: urbanthinktank@usa.net.

Additional physical forms:

None

Location:

This collection is held by DOZE Green.

Restrictions on Access:

Researchers wishing access to this collection must contact Urban Think Tank;
P.O. Box 1476, New York, NY 10185; telephone 718-670-3739; Email:
urbanthinktank@usa.net.

Indexing terms:

Personal names:

Buck 4
DOC
Kuriaki
SEEN

Corporate/organizational names:

Rock Steady Crew
TC5

Geographical coverage:

New York, N.Y. – Social life and customs
Times Square, New York, N.Y.

Subject terms:

African American youth – New York, N.Y.
B-Boys
Break dancing
Clothing and dress – Social aspects – New York, N.Y.
Fashion – New York, N.Y.
Graffiti
Hip-hop
Rap (music)

Form and genre/Form of material:

Instant camera photographs

Date of interview and survey: April 23, 2002

Interview and survey by: Vee Bravo for Urban Think Tank, Inc.

This summary written by: Nancy Johnson