

PEOPLE

WATCHING...

Herestraat x Zuiderdiep





MAKE LOVE,

WAR

A big thing that I, and probably many others, have noticed around the current construction site is the numerous graffiti that adorns the makeshift walls protecting the location. Many of these are what you would expect: small tags, initials, professions of love. However, there are some that I want to focus on. First off, the biggest and most noticeable one, spanning over the long separation wall that faces the Zuiderdiep, are the words "MAKE LOVE → NOT WAR!" Another one clearly reads "Refugees Welcome" alongside an anarchist symbol, as well as numerous "safe" written all over. These are just some of many politically charged messages and slogans that speak on the concerns and priorities of the young artists who use graffiti as a means of spreading their words. But what about graffiti makes it such an effective tool? Is it the way they interrupt the purposefully designed visuals and signage? Is it the way they scream at you to read them? To pay attention? Is it their innate nonconformity to the societal rules?