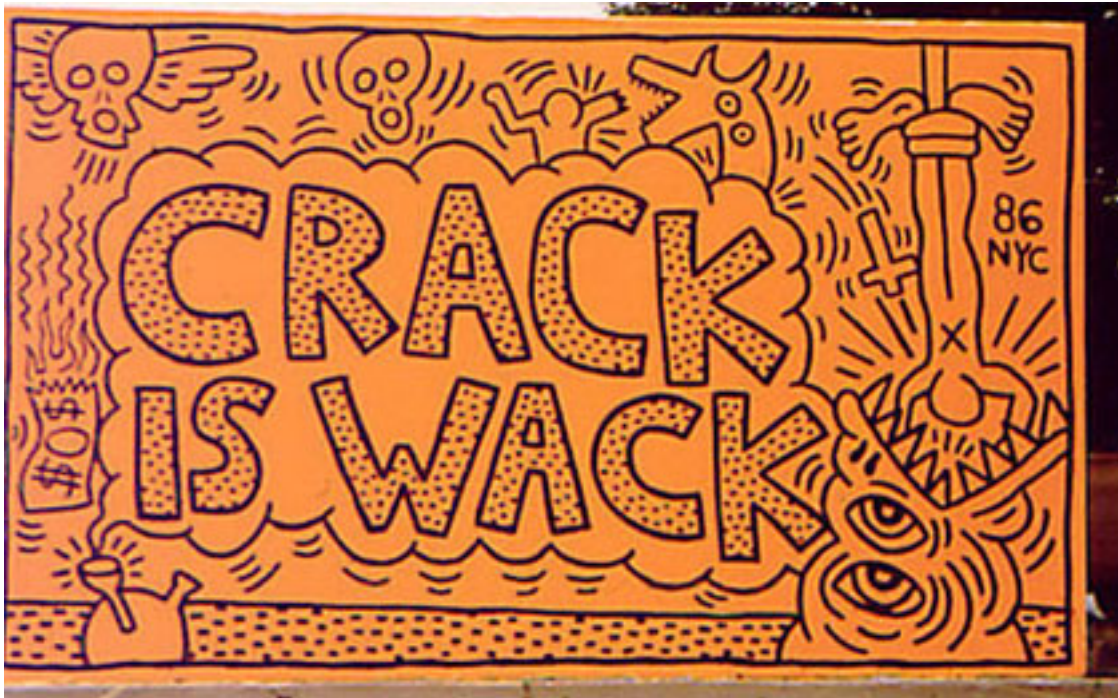


In October of 1986, Keith Haring painted the "Crack is Wack" mural on a handball wall on city property in east Harlem. He made this work without city permission, and in short order the city demanded that he completely paint it out. Later that month, Keith requested and received city permission to paint on the same site. He retained the message, "Crack is Wack", but the composition was notably different from the first. Keith's first version has often been reproduced in books and catalogs and this has led to the utterly incorrect assumption that the Haring Foundation intentionally destroyed his first version and replaced it with something completely different. Not true.

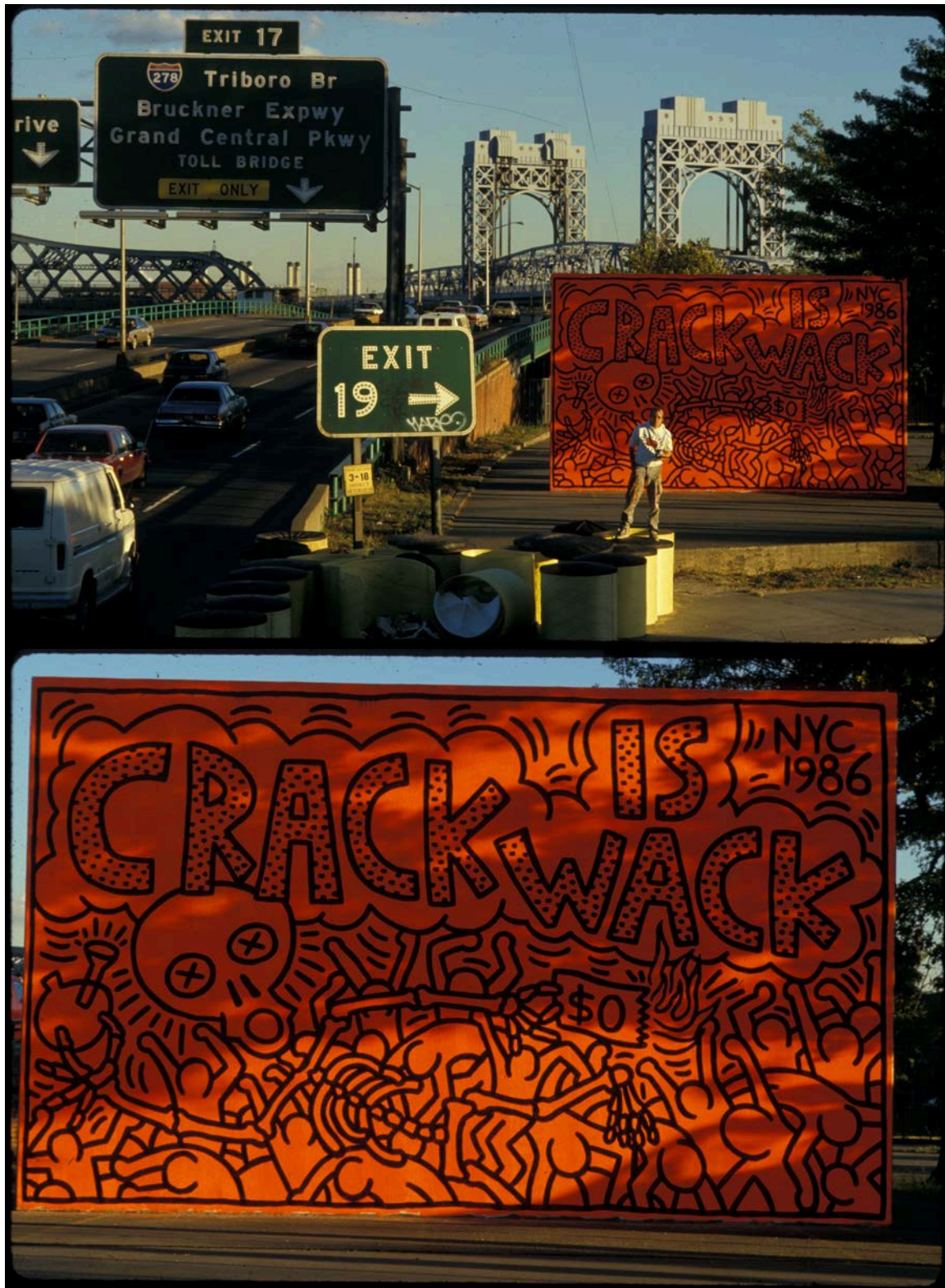
The Haring Foundation authorized some restoration work on the mural in 1997. Unfortunately, over the course of the following decade, unauthorized work on the black lines was carried out by persons unknown, resulting in the compromised quality you see in the photo taken in 2006.

In 2007, working from the existing mural and archival photographs taken at the time of its creation, a scenic design company, authorized by the Haring Foundation, repainted the mural.

Here is the first mural: Created, documented and then painted over by Keith in 1986



Here is the second mural Keith created in 1986:



Here is the mural in 2006:



Here is the mural in 2007:



Here is the mural in 2011 (last week):



All photos: Keith Haring artwork © Keith Haring Foundation.

Photos taken in 1986: Photos by Tseng Kwong Chi, 1986 © Muna Tseng Dance Projects Inc.