Playhouse Gallery

DEMOCRACY

Playhouse Gallery
DEMOCRACY

President Abraham Lincoln described democracy in his Gettysburg Address as a form of "...government of the people, by the people, for the people..." An ideal democratic system would listen to and serve all its people equally. Today, democracies around the world are being challenged, but what exactly does it mean to be in a democratic system? And who are "the people"?

This exhibit provides an opportunity for artists to explore some of these questions along with their interpretations of the current state of democracy.

CURATED BY BETH RACETTE AND EMILY PARKMAN

ARTISTS

Ann Baer • Brandon Bauer • Jamie Bradbury • Eugenia Sherman Brown • Clare Charnley |Marisa Contreras Marulanda • Danielle & John Crim • Rolando Cruz • Robert Ladislas Derr • Nurettin Erkan•Thomas Ferrella • Kathy Fitchuk• Sarah French • Madison Golden • Tyler Grimes•Karin Hanson•Glen Jenkins • Lewis Koch • Carol Kramer • Diane Kravetz • Pat Kroth • Dara Larson • Cynthia W. Lewis•Memory Cloth Circle • Holly Meyers • Mona Mohagheghi • Richie Morales • Jo-Ann Morgan • Amuri Morris • DarRen Morris • Beth Racette • Tony Riel • Rotate Theatre Company • Ryan Serrano • Lael Sheber • Levi Sherman • Solar Punk Surf Club • Christian Strait • Steve Swagerle • Edie Swift |Laurie Talbot Hall • Sophia Voelker • Mike Watson • Karen Watson-Newlin • Mark Weller • Jing Zhou • Building Unity & 350 Wisconsin Art Collective

Rolando Cruz

My Silence is Your Comfort Zone

Photography

2018

The artwork interrogates the themes of “undocumented” immigration and the struggles of identity in the 21st century as a reflection of our own internal insecurities and the ill-perceived notion of belonging or feeling safe.

1	F	20/300
2	A K E	20/100
3	N E W S	20/70
4	G R E E D	20/50
5	F R A U D	20/40
6	S O P H I S T R Y	20/30
7	T R U T H	20/20
8	J U S T I C E	20/15
9	R E A S O N	20/13
10	B E N E F I C E N C E	20/10
11	V I R T U E	20/5

Jing Zhou

20/20 Vision, 20/20 Thinking

Inkjet Print

2020

CITIZENS UNITED
SCOTUS
WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION
ELECTION INTEGRITY
VOTER DATA MINING FOR?
ROLLS
FED ELECTION
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESEARCHING HACKING
VOTER FRAUD
PURGE
TWISTER
TROLLING
VOTER ROLL SELECTION
ELVES
DISINFORMATION
ROBO CALL VOTE BY FAX
DISCARD VOTER FORMS
VOTER CASTING
MICROTARGET
ENGLISH ONLY
GERRYMANDER
THE HILL
ONE PERSON-ONE VOTE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT 1965
POLLS
CIVIL RIGHTS
ELECTORAL COLLEGE vs POPULAR VOTE
CITIZENSHIP
LAND OWNERSHIP
LITERACY TESTS
15 AMENDMENT 1870 - RIGHT TO VOTE - 17TH AMENDMENT - STATES ARE THE PEOPLE
POLL TAX
RESIDENCY
GRANDFATHER CLAUSE
19TH AMENDMENT SUFFRAGE 1920
JIM CROW LAWS - FREE MEN WITH PROPERTY vs RELIGION TESTS

Dara Larson

The Hill – Paper Ballots

Scratchboard with ink

2016

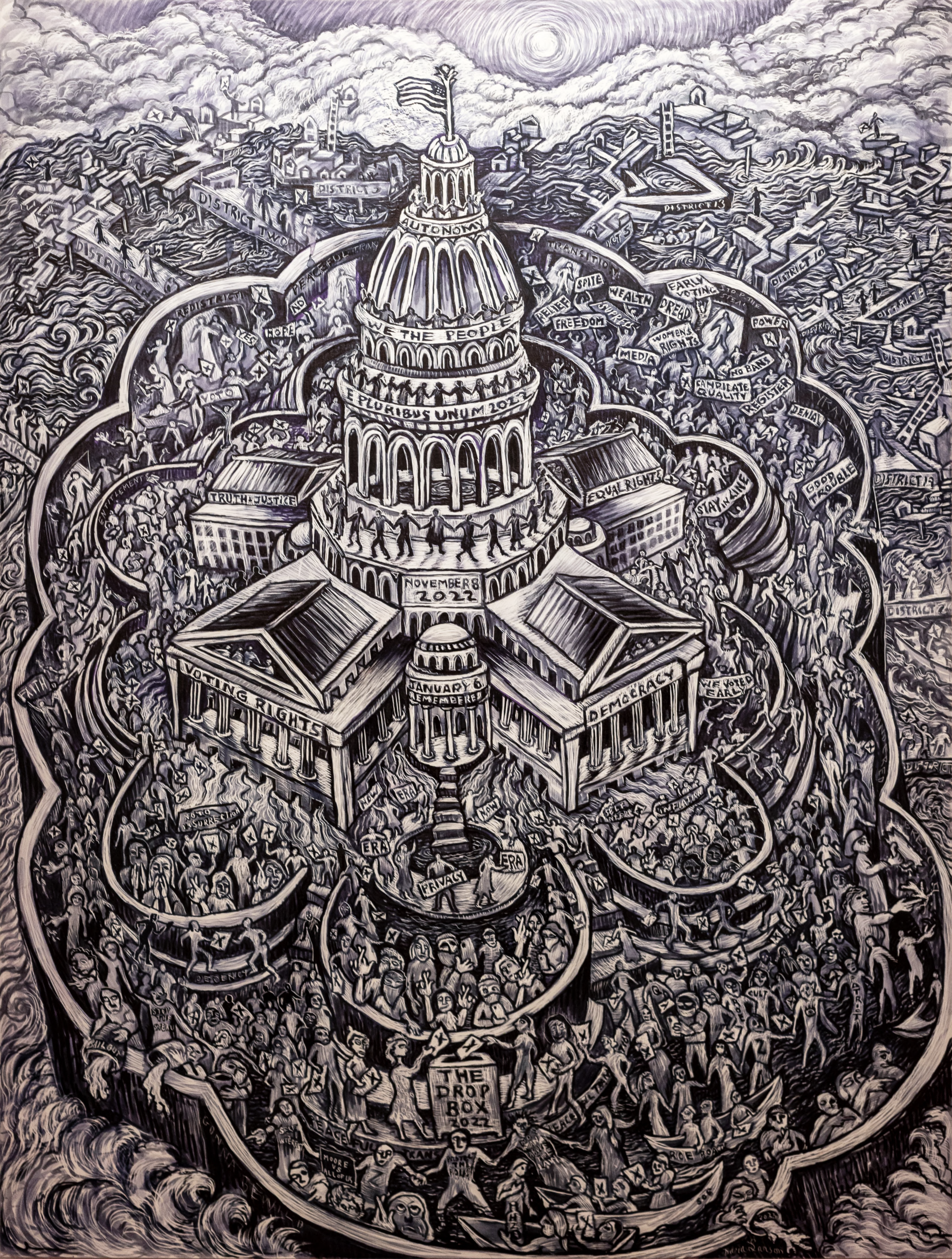
WE THE PEOPLE
GERRYMANDER
FOIA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS
OBSTRUCT

Dara Larson

Freedom of Information

Scratchboard with ink

2020


DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT TWO
DISTRICT 13
DISTRICT 10
AUTONOMY
WE THE PEOPLE
E PLURIBUS UNUM 2022
NOVEMBER 8 2022
JANUARY 6 REMEMBERED
VOTING RIGHTS
DEMOCRACY
TRUTH & JUSTICE
EQUAL RIGHTS
PEACEFUL TRANSITION
REDISTRICT
VOTE
HOPE
YES
NO
SPITE
WEALTH
EARLY VOTING
RELIEF
FREEDOM
SUPPRESS
DREAD
WOMENS RIGHTS
MEDIA
POWER
NO BANS
CANDIDATE QUALITY
REGISTER
DENIAL
GOOD TROUBLE
STAY IN LINE
ENTITLEMENT
FAITH
NO TO INSURRECTION
DECENCY
BAIL OUT
NOW
ERA
PRIVACY
THE DROP BOX 2022
MOORE VS ALL OF US
PEACEFUL TRANSITION
VOTE
WE VOTED EARLY
SELF INTEREST
RIOT

Dara Larson

Midterms

Scratchboard with ink

2023

Richie Morales

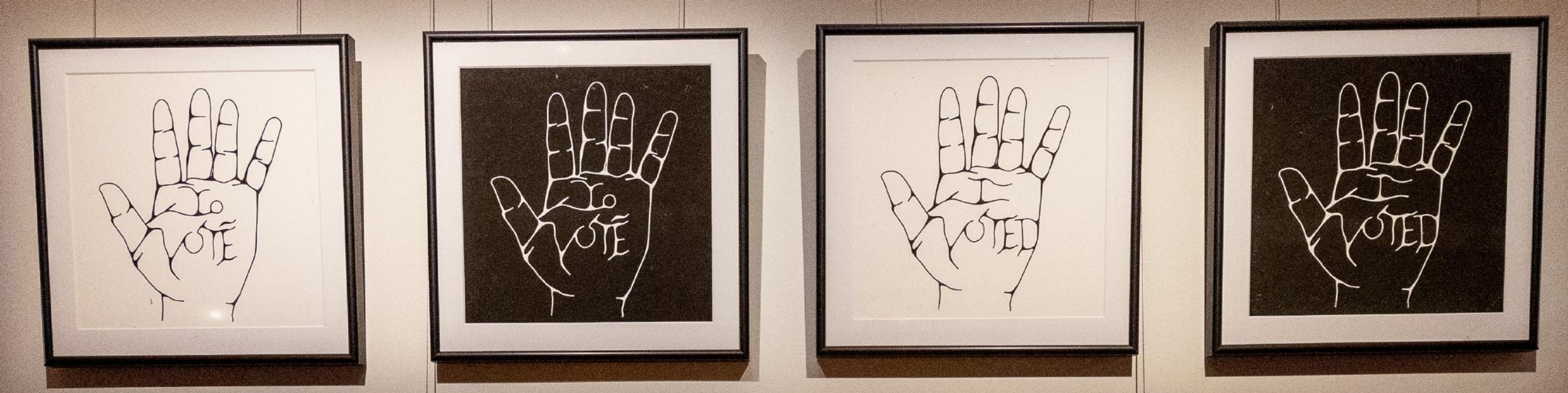
The Spectacle of Democratic Power / El Teatro del Poder Democrático

Photography

2018

In these times, political powers seem more like a pitched fight to death than a coherent dialogue necessary to reconcile and advance as society.

En estos tiempos, los poderes políticos parecen más una pelea campal a muerte que un diálogo coherente y necesario para conciliar y avanzar como sociedad.


VOTE
VOTE
VOTED
VOTED

Madison Golden

I Voted y Yo Voté (Series)

Digital print

2021

AMERICA
THE BEAUTIFUL

AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER.

We the People

"When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty."

Racism is a weapon of mass destruction

AMERICA for Americans

Kennedy Murd
Johnson Swor
Congressmen

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FREEDOM NOT OPPRESSION

STANDARD
JOHN LENNON SHOT DEAD

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man

RATED R FOR VIOLENCE

Let's drop our guns and open our hearts

Tax
loophole

Corporate Imperialists

Justice

OH SAY
CAN ~~YOU~~ WE SEE

We are a nation of immigrants

THE MORE FOREIGNERS I HAVE TO KILL!

I want YOU to fear

THEM

Who are your THEM?

TRUTH ?

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND.

THE EARTH: LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

Love NOT HATE Makes AMERICA Great!

This is what Democracy looks like

GREED

CRUDE

Liberty

It's "We the People" not "I the President"

Follow the money

Freedom of Speech
The right to put in your two cents

ONE CENT

This flag represents ALL U.S. citizens

Kathy Fitchuk

Oh, Say Can We See

Mixed media assemblage

2022

AN INJURY TO ONE
IS AN INJURY TO ALL
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS NOW
STOP IT

Pat Kroth

Red Hot and Cool

Fiber: machine stitched and shaped fibers and fabrics

2021

DECEMBER 23 2016 DECEMBER
STOP IT

M. Glen Jenkins

Stop It

Wood

2017

It seems that Americans are standing in line waiting for their turn to be shot. Each day we hear or read about the people that arrived at the head of the line and are now dead. The dates on the base represent individuals and mass murders as a result of guns violence. Stop IT!

L34210275T
12
12

Tony Riel

I'm Broke. This is All I Got.

Oil paint

2023

TRUCK
C5 FD
OMPANY
BCoFD
SPECIAL OPS
APPALACHE
HARLEY-DAVIDSON
MOTOR CYCLES
J&P
CYCLES
9-11
HARLEY-DAVIDSON/BUELL STORE
of BALTIMORE

Jamie Bradbury

Ground Zero
(Liberty leading the people)

Watercolor on Arches cold pressed paper
2015

WE SHOULD NOT
SETTLE FOR LESS
VUKA
VUKA
VUKA
VUKA
$15!
INEQUALITY
Black Lives Matter
NEW YORK CITY
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
FIGHT FOR $15

Jamie Bradbury

#BLM

Watercolor on Arches cold pressed paper

2015

Black Lives Matter
FLOYD
We rise by lifting others
Free admission
Tours Daily
LADIES
CHAI
Names
Who have dealt with police
Matter

Christian Strait

Floyd

Inkjet print on wood

2023

As worldwide demonstrations against police brutality and racism erupted after George Floyd was murdered in May 2020, State Street store fronts in Madison became boarded-up canvases of paint, spray paint, pen, pencil, marker, and chalk, bearing witness to collective grief. Photos were taken of each State Street mural and blended together to make the final piece.

NOBODY
SHOULD
HOMELESS
FOR
COMFORT

STREETS
BELONG
TO THE
PEOPLE

WE'RE ALL
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE
FUTURE

COLLECTIVE
PROBLEMS
REQUIRE
COLLECTIVE
SOLUTIONS

WHAT
DO YOU
TRY
TO
CONTROL?

POWER

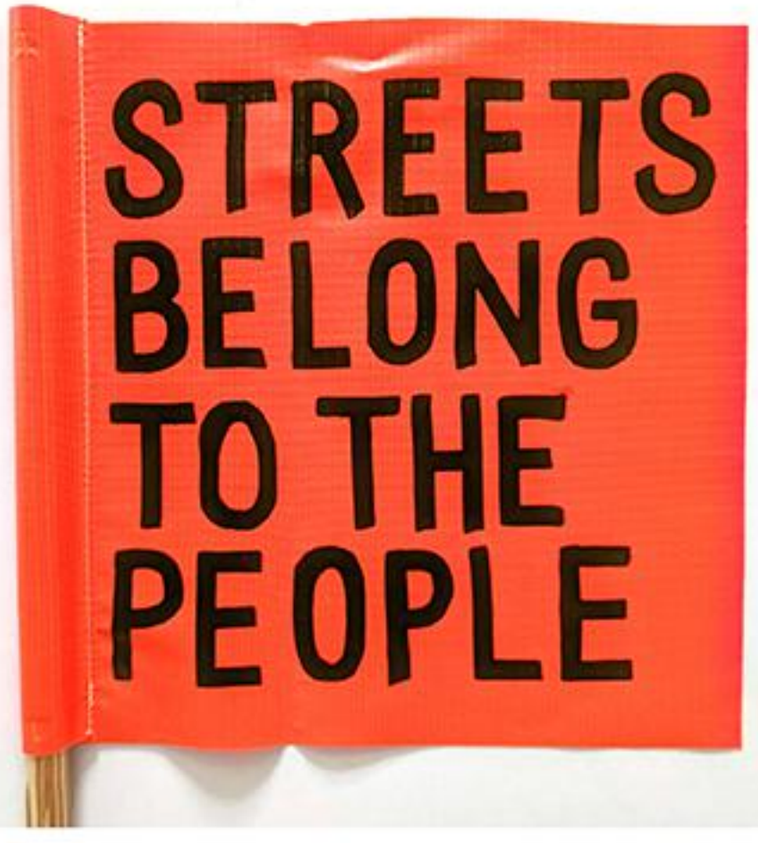
Levi Sherman

Proposals for Safer Communities

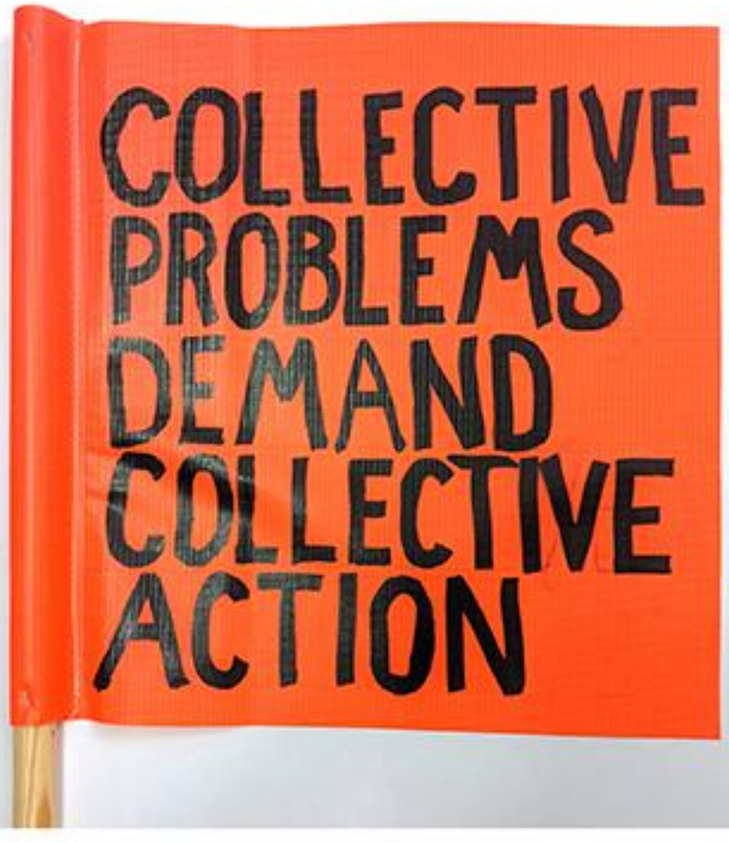
Vinyl on wooden dowel

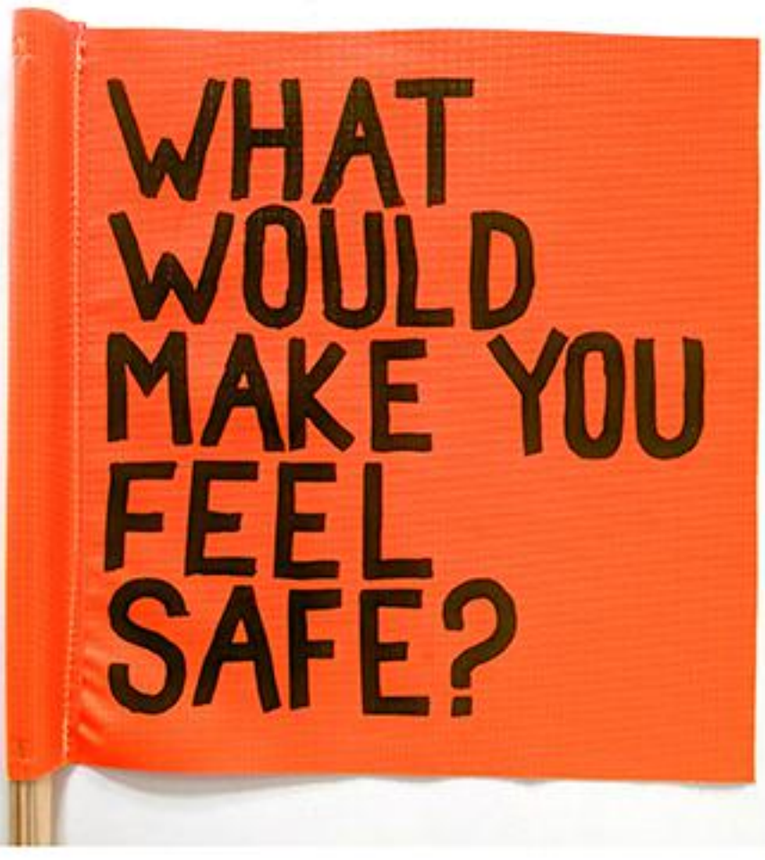
2022

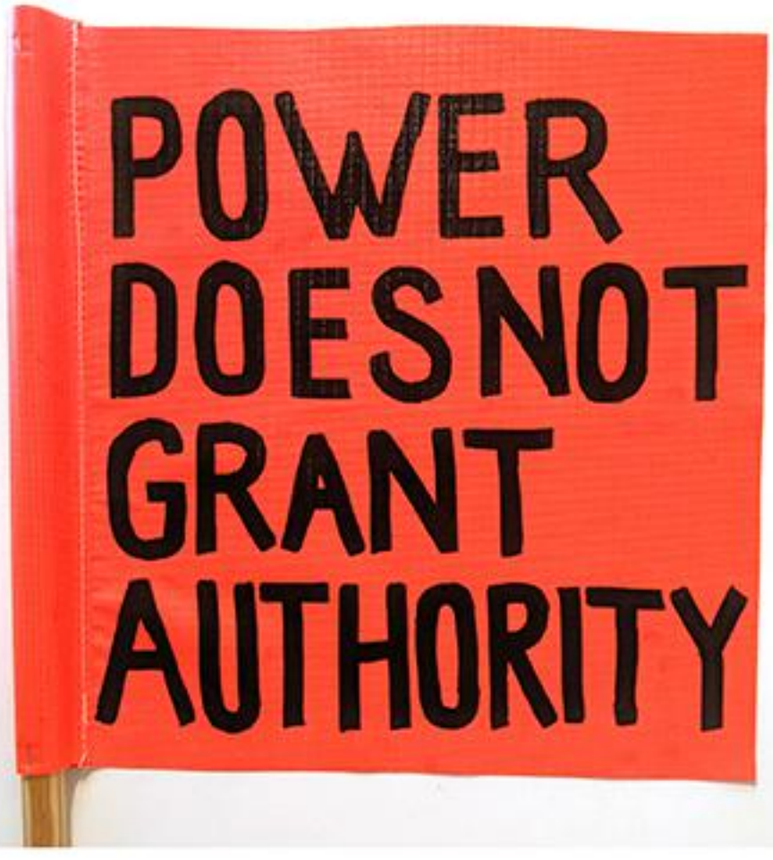
NOBODY
SHOULD
DIE FOR
YOUR
COMFORT


STREETS
BELONG
TO THE
PEOPLE

WE'REALL
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE
FUTURE


COLLECTIVE
PROBLEMS
DEMAND
COLLECTIVE
ACTION


WHAT
WOULD
MAKE YOU
FEEL
SAFE?


POWER
DOESNOT
GRANT
AUTHORITY

DarRen Morris

Dear Jon

Acrylic on canvas panel, 2017

"Mass criminalization and incarceration, often targeted at African-American and Latino communities, disenfranchises and disempowers millions of Americans and undermines the legitimacy of our democracy." – from Mass Incarceration Undermines Our Democracy, www.democracybehindbars.org

Sophia '16

Sophia Voelker

Interconnected

Acrylic on canvas

2016

This painting is a reflection of the African-American scientific, cultural, and educational influences forever intertwined with the past and current American national structure. Recognition of African-Americans' contributions is often overly simplified or has undergone attempts to be buried. In response, as citizens of this nation, we have and will continue to uplift, empower ourselves and others and protect all democratic practices.

Ann Baer

VOTE

Acrylic on canvas

2021

EAST GALLERY

Edie Swift

The People's House

Digital photography

2022

Steve Swagerle

Let's Work Together

Acrylic paint on birch panel

2018

Martin Luther King and Lyndon Johnson worked together on the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR WORKER'S RIGHTS!

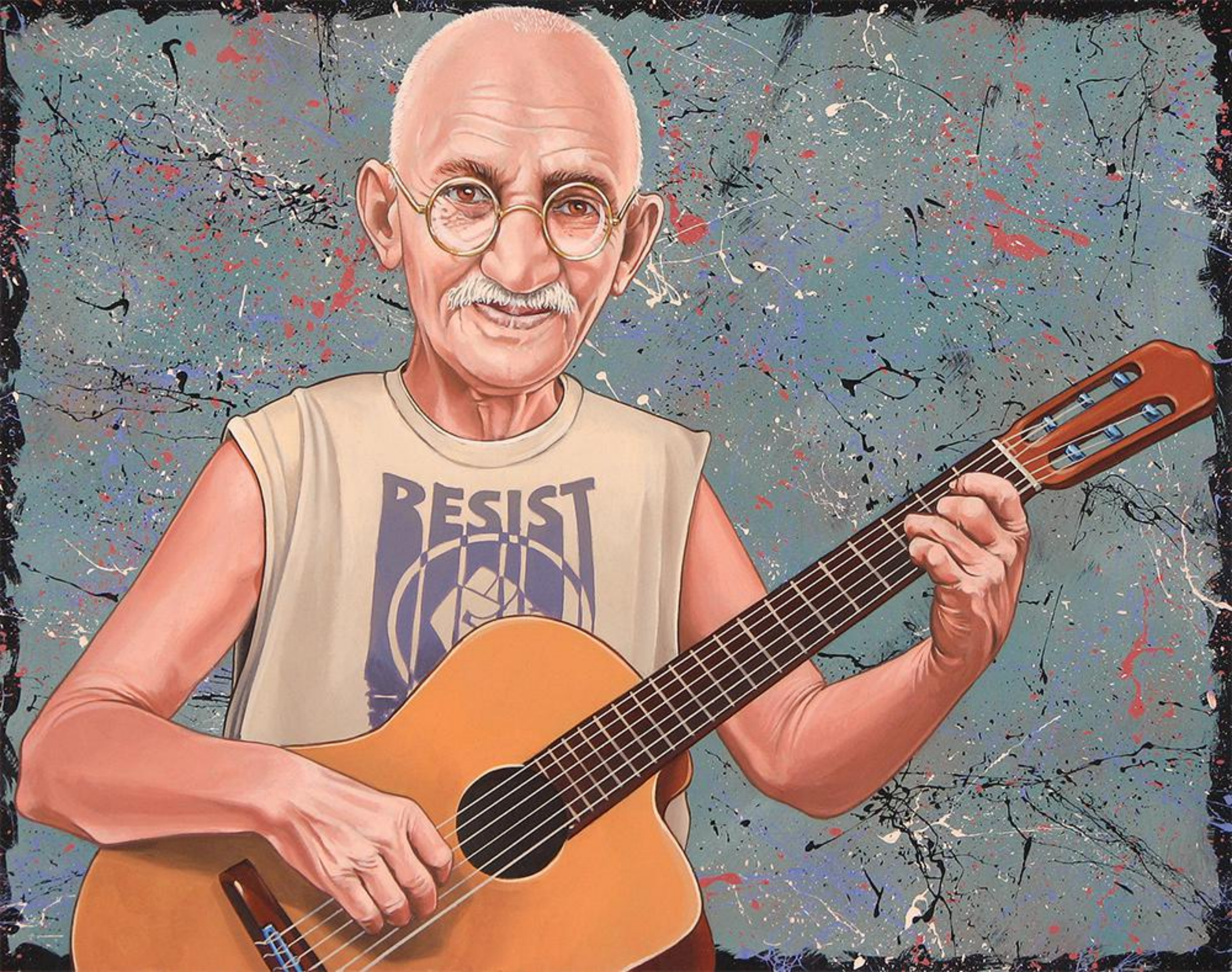
Steve Swagerle

Worker's Rights

Acrylic paint on birch panel

2022

Woody Guthrie's songs helped unionize labor.


RESIST

Steve Swagerle

Nonviolent Resistance

Acrylic paint on birch panel

2019

Gandhi campaigned for basic human rights through nonviolent civil disobedience.

No Eyes to See
No Ears to Hear
No Lips to Speak
Guided by Greed
Wise Men?

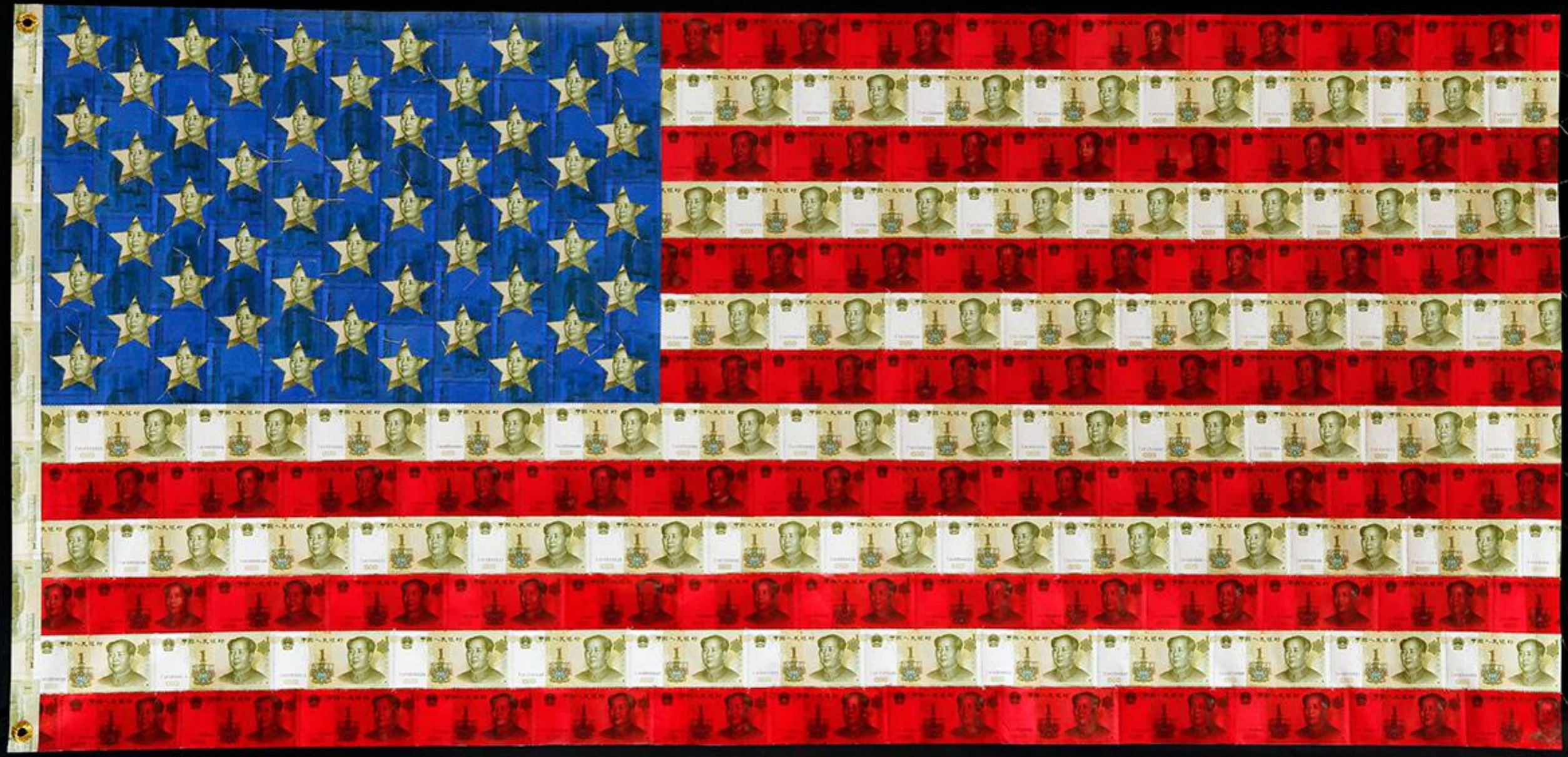
M. Glen Jenkins

Greed

Wood

2014

Kleptocracy is a word the best describes the current situation in the United States today. We no longer need to care about our neighbors because the accumulation of individual wealth is all that matters. The path America is on is not one of wisdom.



Thomas Ferrella

Flag #4 – Mao

Dyed chinese yuan, thread

2020

...where war follows money and money follows war...

Beth Racette

Gaia Grows the Heart of Democracy

Acrylic ink on paper

2018

The heart has the capacity to heal the current political divides. In any successful democracy, animals and all Earthly kin's need to have a "voice" and representation – hence the animals are watching.

Jo-Ann Morgan

Justice for All
Memorial for Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Stitiched cotton fabric
2020

We the People

of the United States, in order to for

ure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and

d our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I.

VOTE

Women will not go back to 1849

VOTE

Article III.

Section. 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

democracy

Article IV.

Article V.

Article

FOR THE PEOPLE

Honesty, Reality, Truth

done in Convention by the unanimous Consent of the States present the seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independance of the United States of America the Twelfth In Witness wherof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

The Word "the" being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, The Word "Thirty" being written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page. The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Karen Watson-Newlin

Democracy
Hanging by a Thread

Acrylic mixed media with resin
2023

WATSON

Mike Watson

Zelenskyy

Oil on canvas

2022

Marisa Contreras Marulanda

Colombia – Peace and Reconciliation

Acrylic on canvas

2022

The history of Colombia has been marked by the increase of social crisis; the political conflict between the guerrilla, the paramilitary, and the State, as well as criminal groups dedicated to drug trafficking, kidnappings, murders, disappearances, rapes, and forced displacement. Gustavo Petro won the recent 2022 elections promising the achievement of total peace in Colombia with Vice President Francia Márquez. My work represents the beginning of a new history for Colombia.

Carol Kramer

Slipping Away

Carpet mural

2022

democracy history hope resolve peace optimism boldness resilience
faith reason dignity respect progress duty responsibility purpose

repair renew restore heal build secure overcome

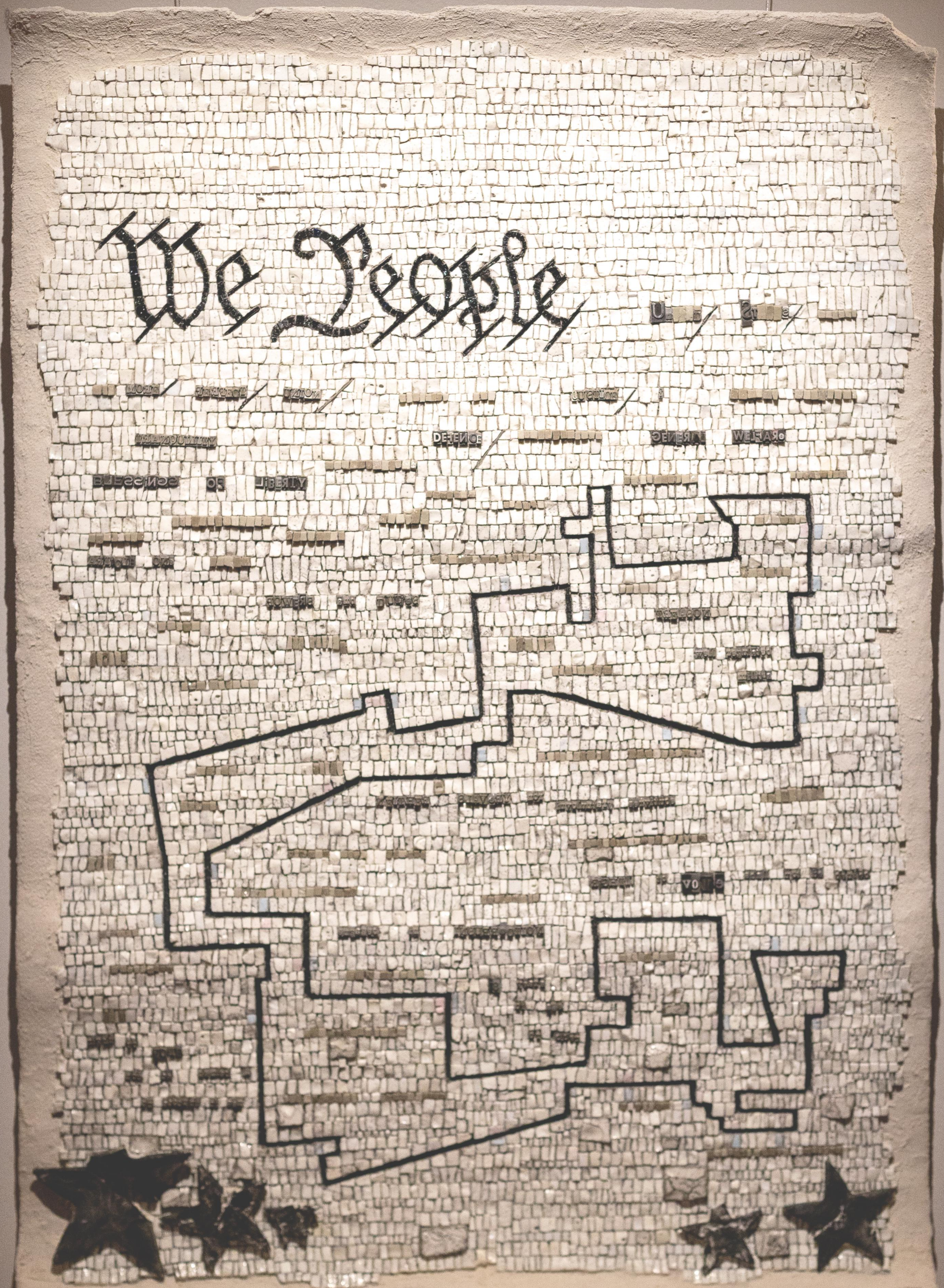
listen change reward work dream

Karin Hanson

The Day the Ground Settled

Textile

2022


We People

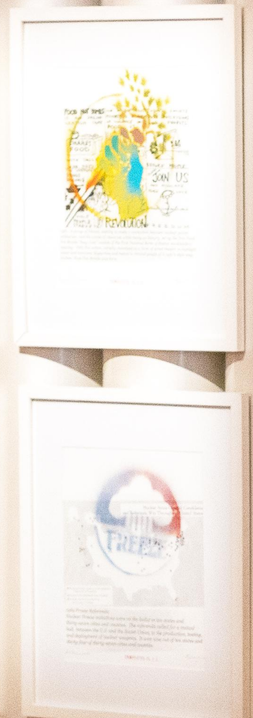
Eugenia Sherman Brown

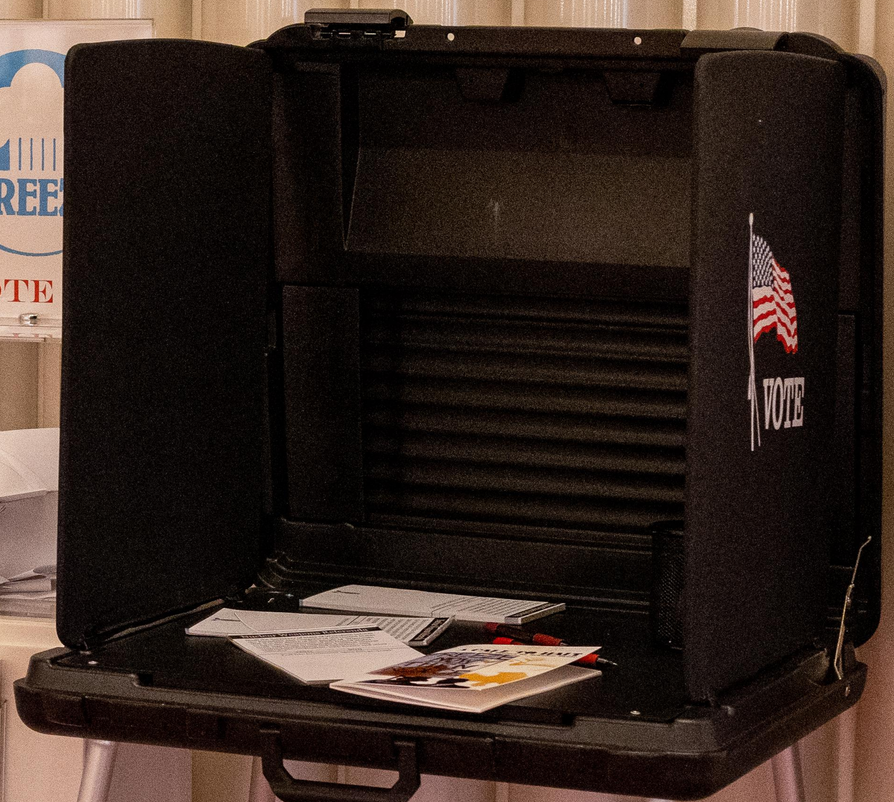
We People: Need Fair Maps

Mosaic

2023

Democracy is fragile, aspirational and imperfect. Democracy is dependent upon shared values including integrity, fair play, and decency. Democracy can be manipulated and abused to enhance the power of a few over the many. We People must protect this delicate treasure.





Brandon Bauer
A Call to Halt: Wisconsin Nuclear Weapons Referenda
Mixed Media/Interactive Installation
2015
$ 8,500

A Call to Halt is an interactive installation that serves as a reenactment of the 1962 Nuclear Freeze Referenda, in which Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to put international nuclear disarmament policy to a popular vote. Four prints from the Existentialist Crisis series accompany the installation.

Brandon Baeur

A Call to Halt: Wisconsin Nuclear Weapons Referenda

Mixed media/Interactive installation

2013

A Call to Halt is an interactive installation that serves as a reenactment of the 1982 Nuclear Freeze Referenda, in which Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to put international nuclear disarmament policy to a popular vote. Four prints from the Euromissiles Crisis series accompany the installation.

FREEZE

VOTE YES

FREEZE

VOTE NO

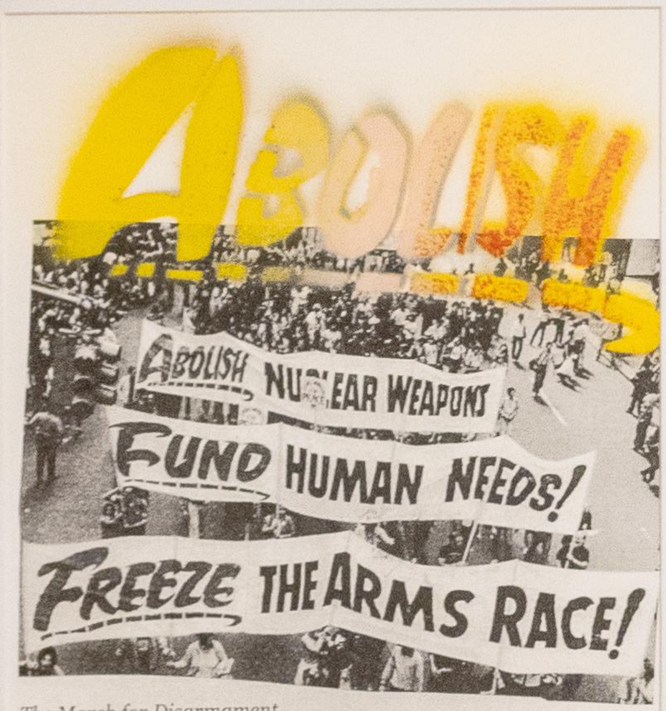
VOTE

Brandon Bauer
A Call to Halt: Wisconsin Nuclear Weapons Referenda
Mixed Media/Interactive Installation
2015
$ 8,500

A Call to Halt is an interactive installation that serves as a

A CALL TO H

A Project By Brandon Bauer



The March for Disarmament
On June 12, 1982, one million people demonstrated in New York City against nuclear weapons and for an end to the arms race. It is the largest single issue political demonstration in American history.

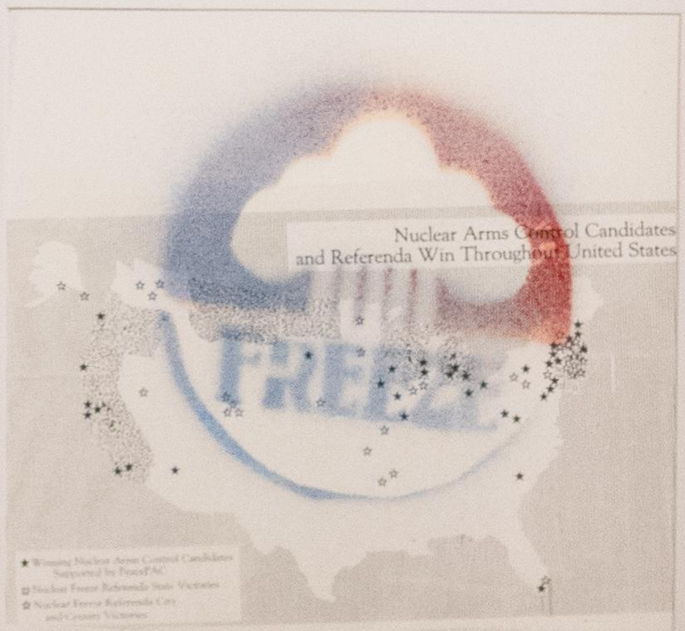
COMPLETED JUL 13

1981 - A group of friends, seeking to make a connection between nuclear power, militarism, and the waste of resources while many go hungry, set up the first Food Not Bombs "Soup Line" outside of the First National Bank of Boston stockholders' meeting. With this action, initially conceived as a form of street theater to highlight social and economic disparities and meant to remind people of a 1930's style soup kitchen, Food Not Bombs was born.

COMPLETED JUL 13

On September 9, 1980, Daniel and Philip Berrigan, both Jesuit priests, and six other people trespassed into the General Electric Nuclear Missile facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The eight damaged nuclear warhead nose cones and poured blood onto documents and files. The group took inspiration from a line in the Biblical book of Isaiah: "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." With this action the international Plowshares Movement was born.

COMPLETED JUL 13



1982 Freeze Referenda
Nuclear Freeze initiatives were on the ballot in ten states and thirty-seven cities and counties. The referenda called for a mutual halt, between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to the production, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons. It won nine out of ten states and thirty-four of thirty-seven cities and counties

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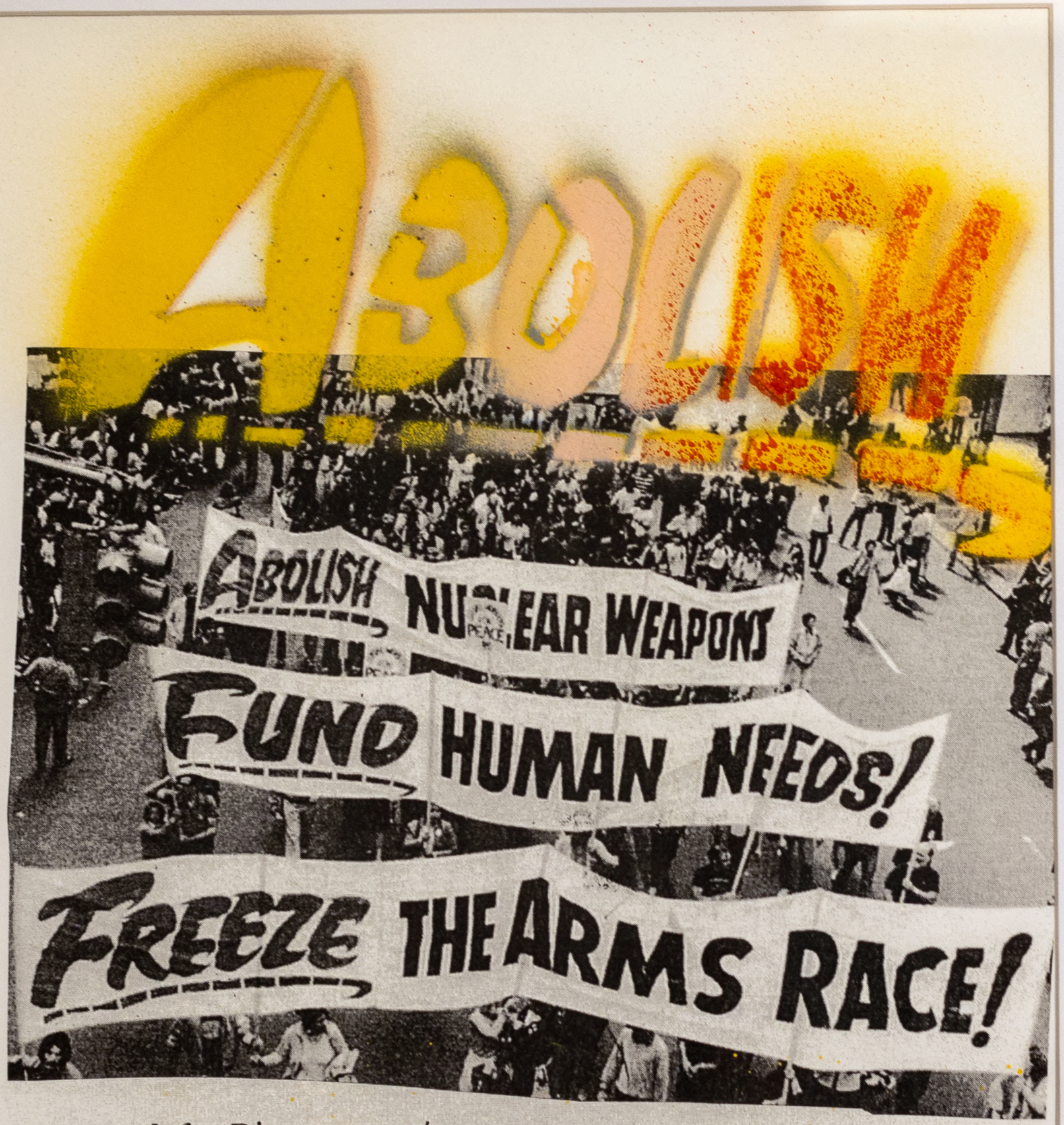
PLOWSHARES 8

COMPLETED JUL 1 3



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ABolish

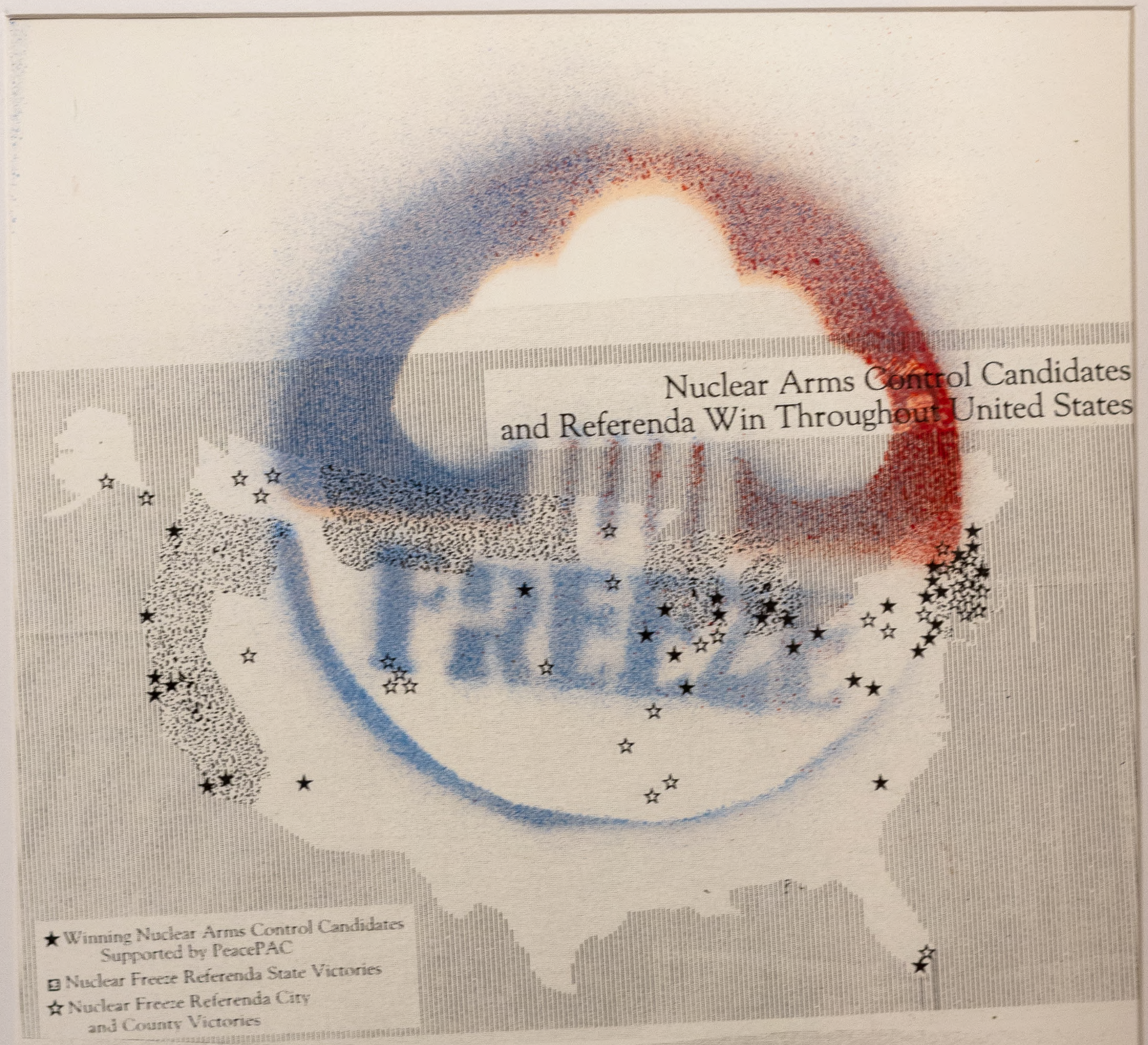
COMPLETED JUL 1 3

BRAD

1981 - A group of friends, seeking to make a connection between nuclear power, militarism, and the waste of resources while many go hungry, set up the first Food Not Bombs "Soup Line" outside of the First National Bank of Boston stockholders' meeting. With this action, initially conceived as a form of street theater to highlight social and economic disparities and meant to remind people of a 1930's style soup kitchen, Food Not Bombs was born.

Food Not Bombs

COMPLETED JUL 13



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COMPLETED JUL 1 3

Holly Meyers

Justice & Liberty Sitting Under a Tree. Resisting As Resistance Can Be.

Pen, ink, gouche and gold leaf

2022

we will not be silenced

Lies

Poverty

Sexism

forced Birth

corrupt

Racism

enslaved people

capitilism

"We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal."

~ colonization ~ christian extremists ~ authoritarian ~ racist government ~ radical right ~ fascist ~

"that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

Holly Meyers

We Will Not Be Silenced

Gouache, pen, watercolor

2022

Truth

The truth has no agenda.

The truth doesn't take sides

THEREFORE
ARE WE
MANY MEN
SIDES OF
THE
EVERY
STORY OF

AN OPEN MIND IS A GOOD PLACE TO START.

The Truth is Really Simple

The truth must be pursued.

investigate probe inquire scrutinize explore examine inspect

2017

THE TRUTH IS UNDER ATTACK

The TRUTH is worth defending!

THE TRUTH IS HARD TO ACCEPT

NEW YORK TIMES

the truth is hidden

THE TRUTH IS HARD TO HEAR

2017

The TRUTH isn't Red or Blue!

Lies are easy.

Truth is hard.

Memory Cloth Circle

TRUTH

Vintage textiles, embroidery

2017-2023

Lisa Binkley – “Simple” | Kris Dohm Hidden Maureen Griffin – “Take Sides” | Brenna Hopkins – “Hard” | Madge Klais – “Defending” | Bobbie Malone – “No Agenda” | Ellen Nordsieck – “Under Attack” | Jane Pearlmutter – “Hard to Hear” | Cynthia Quinn – “Red or Blue” | Peggy Thornton – “Pursued”

THE NEW
Perspective
Bonobo and elephant societies
are controlled by strong networks of cooperative females
while the self-centered and uncooperative males
are pushed to the sidelines.
(Harari, 2015)
LEARN
THESE FACTS
I know we are not as smart as elephants,
but can we try to be as smart
as chimpanzees?
THINKING
WOMEN
MENTOR
LEARN FROM
EDUCATE
HIRE
SUPPORT
RECOGNIZE
REPRESENT
FUND
HOLD RESPONSIBLE
ADVANCE
NURTURE
CELEBRATE
WOMEN
WOMEN'S CHANCES
AS BREAD WINNERS

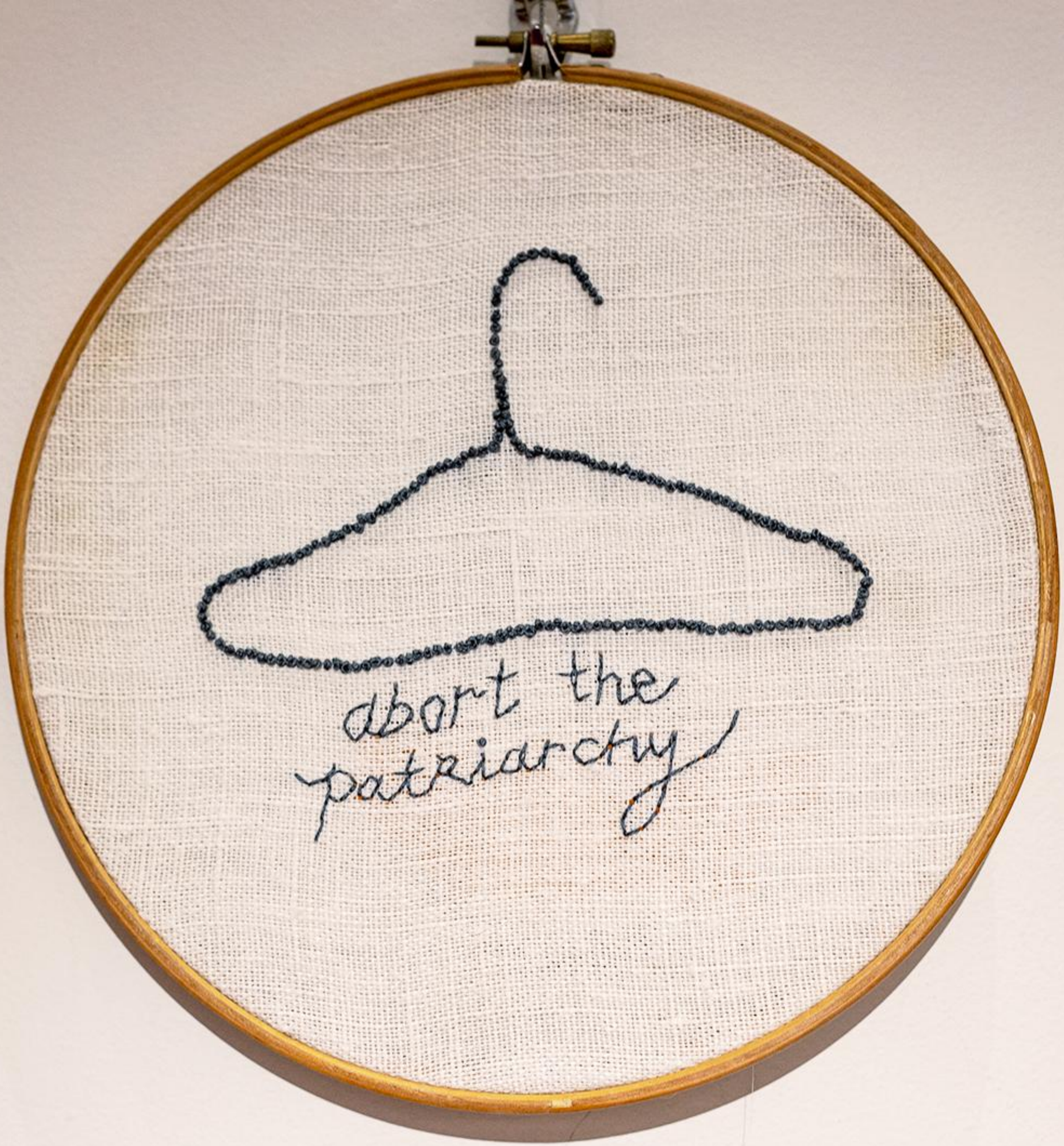
Laurie Talbot Hall

The New Perspective

Collage

2020

Women collaborating with women is the new perspective. Images from vintage textbooks, original photographs and contemporary print sources illustrate that rather than competing with one another for scarce resources, women can join forces to bring about desired changes in health and child care, workplace ethics, and wage and promotion practices.


abort the
patriarchy

Sarah French

Abort the Patriarchy

Embroidery on vintage linen

2022

WHAT IS
PATRIOTISM

Lael Sheber

Believe Us

Acrylic on canvas

2021

RESERVE
STOP
ALL WAY

Amuri Morris

Shelton Johnson Calls

Oil paint

2021

The overlapping adversities of being black and from a lower class often make areas of "play" inaccessible to black children - particularly green space. In this piece, Shelton Johnson calls the children from these government-regulated neighborhoods into the natural world.

NONPROFIT ORG
USA

Cynthia W. Lewis

Tattered Eagle

Mixed media collage

2022

ONE AMERICA
TWO PANDEMICS

Ryan Serrano

One America, Two Pandemics

Digital photograph on canvas

2020

Nurettin Erkan

Divine Comedy II: Anitkabir

Oil on canvas

2022

Diane Kravetz

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

Inkjet print

2022

Mark Weller

End of Democracy

Timestacking photography, 2020

Consider these columns, originally from the US Capitol, transplanted from an Eisenhower era remodeling project and relocated to the National Arboretum in Washington DC. They look out of place. Like democracy itself, these once cherished symbols of the republic and the epicenter of democracy seem lost, --- disconnected, discarded.

Lewis Koch

Democracy, Fractured

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." – Helen Keller

Digital photograph (archival pigment print)
2017

Playhouse Gallery

DEMOCRACY