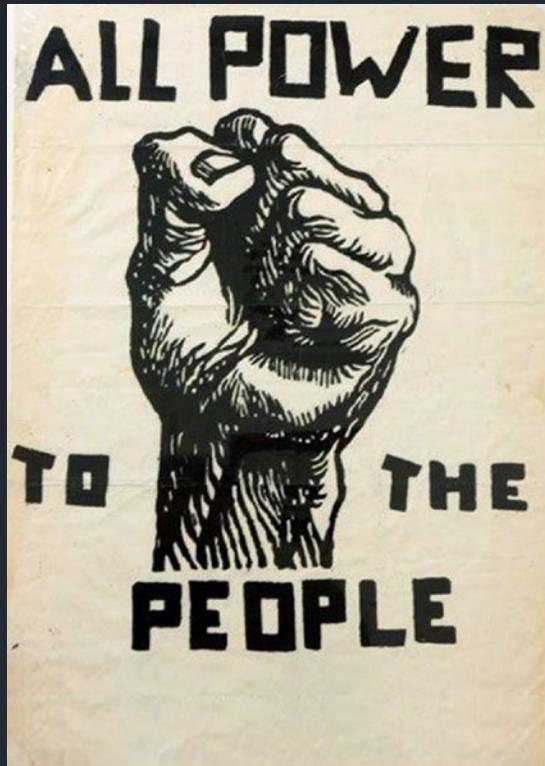


Art, Resistance and YOU!



“All protest is theater. The problem is that most of it is just bad theater.”

–David Solnit, artist, author, and
activist for social justice



Advantages of Social Justice Art

- Low cost, low risk, with long-term, large-scale impact.
- Easy and accessible for anyone to propagate on their own.
- Inherently nonviolence in every form.



Uses for Art in the Resistance



Raising money and resources for a given cause.



Ridiculing oppressors via satire and humor.



Preserving and transmitting forbidden information and ideas.



Rapidly influencing an entire population and negating propaganda.



And more! **Modern artists are still innovating new ideas in the present day!**

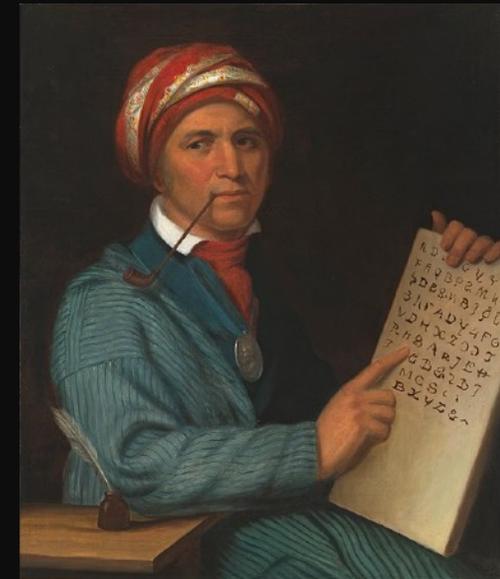
Social Justice Art versus Propaganda: Is there a Difference?

- **Social Justice Art: Inherently anti-establishment and accessible.**
 - Ex: Homemade picket signs, political graffiti, resistance songs
- **Propaganda: Inherently biased and misleading. Usually sponsored by an oppressive regime.**
 - Ex: Military recruitment posters, corporate advertising



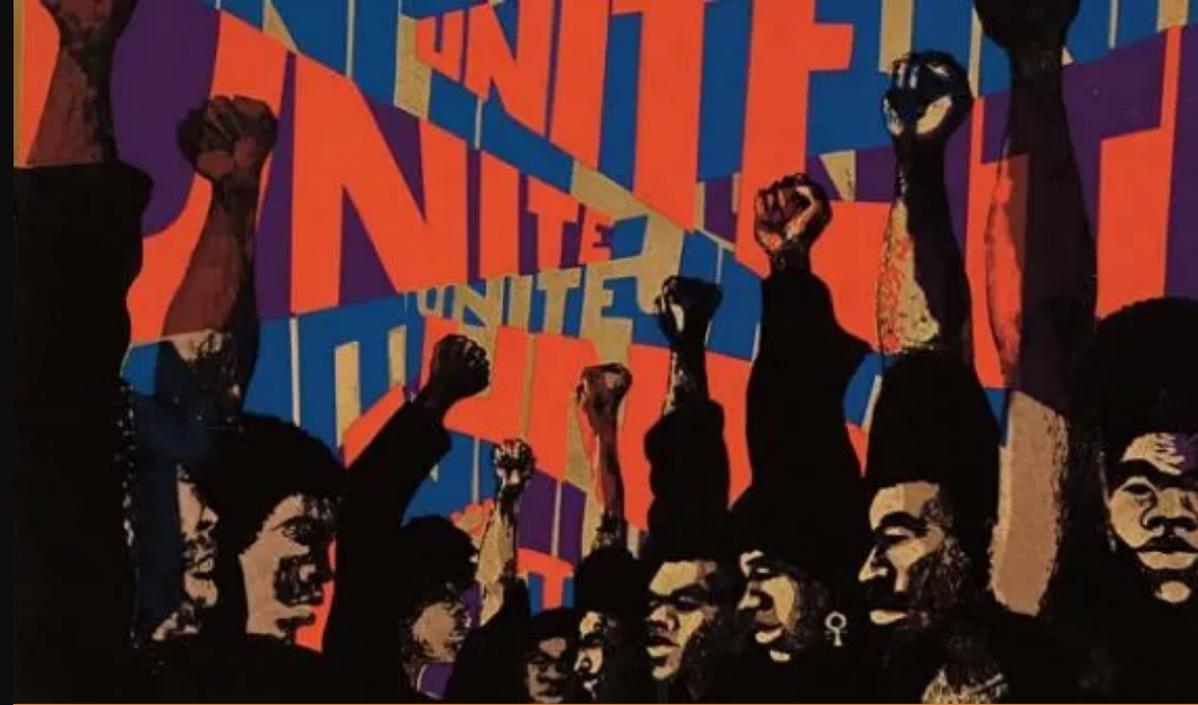
Indigenous Art Resisting Colonization

- Art has been the heart of resistance even before the founding of America.
- Ex: Navajo music has been used to preserve traditions, rituals, prayers, and history, even to the present day.
- Ex: Cherokee syllabary was created as a writing system for the Cherokee language, directly countering the prior European monopoly on writing in the area.
- U.S. government officials and Christian clergy often repressed Indigenous art by destroying masks, totems, regalia, etc, in an attempt to destroy these cultures.



Art in the American Civil Rights Movement

- Groups such as the Umbra Poets, Black Arts Movement (BAM), and Spiral Arts Alliance were major civil rights influences.
 - Art provided a way to decompress and spread political messages to a wide audience.
 - Such work played a key role in building community and helped civil rights leaders to express themselves.
-



Art as Tribute: The AIDS Memorial Quilt

- **History:** Developed during the AIDS pandemic, when social stigma was at its peak, to provide a memorial for patients who were refused funerals.
- **Goal:** To spread awareness of the AIDS pandemic, to support those who were impacted, and to raise funds for AIDS relief.
- ***This is the largest single piece of community folk art in the world.***



Comic Books Heroes Fighting Real-Life Problems!

- Daredevil Issue #283, Published in 1990
- Addresses immigrant rights, the war on drugs, and the military industrial complex, without talking down to the reader.
- Nearly all of these points remain equally relevant today.



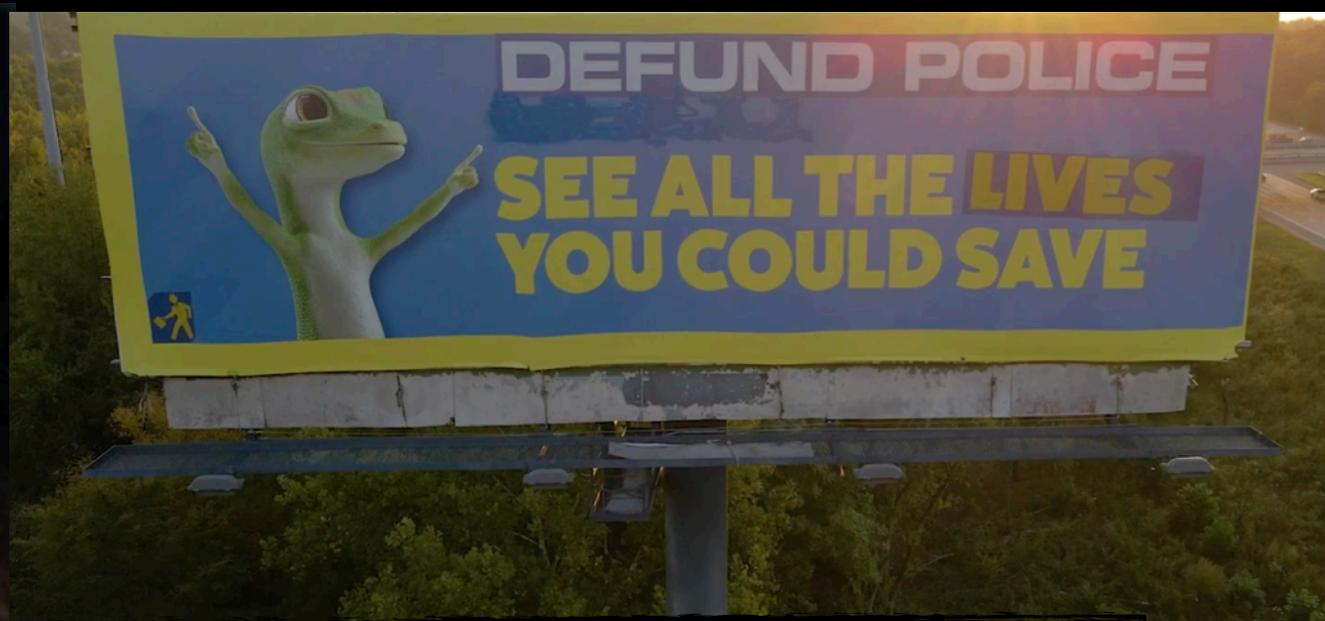
Anartists in the Present

- Everyone knows Banksy, but have you heard of Willie Bester or the Zapatistas?
- Major groups that are currently active include the Guerrilla Girls, ACT UP, and Arcosanti.
- **Art continues to serve a vital role in social justice movements around the world.**





But when I saw the 'Subway Therapy' plastered on the New York subway walls filled with proclamations of love and support for the minorities who were threatened with this new power I was overwhelmed with comfort that WE are the majority. WE being people who want equality and safety for all.



RESISTANCE ART IS A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



What can YOU do?

- Practice, practice, practice!!
- Know your audience and make sure your impact matches your intent.
- Assemble a team and **START MAKING ART!**

Respect
Existence **OR** EXPECT
RESISTANCE



