

THE URGENCY OF NOW: ¡NO PASARÁN!

A Multi-Disciplinary Exhibition
& Civic Mobilization Catalyst

Gloria Delson Contemporary Art
Los Angeles

Curated and Produced by Karen Fiorito, Dale Youngman, and Isa Gordon

Oct. 3-31, 2026

Events featuring speakers, film, performance, & voter drives all month

<https://urgencyofnow.art>

Right: Karen Fiorito's "And Bombs For All"



THE CALL TO CONSCIENCE

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce **urgency of now**. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there 'is' such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency."

— *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1967*



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

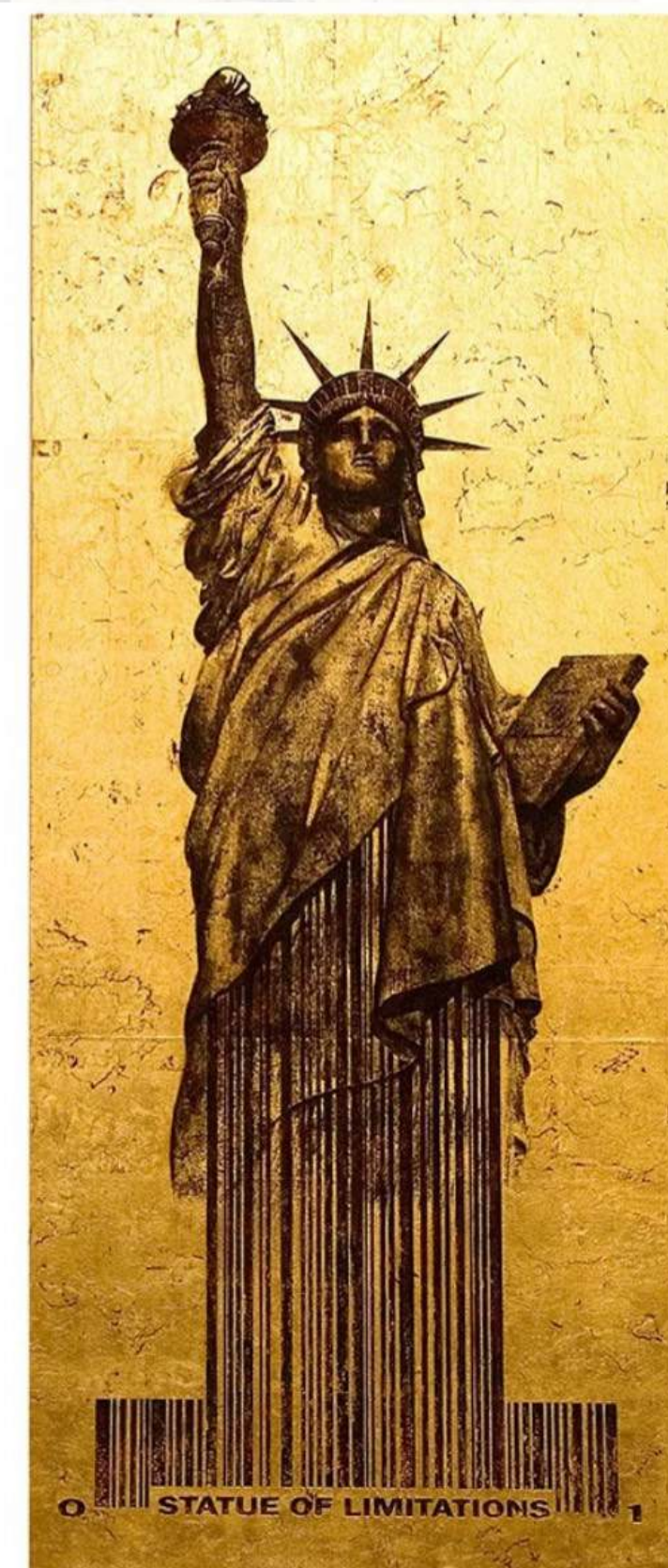
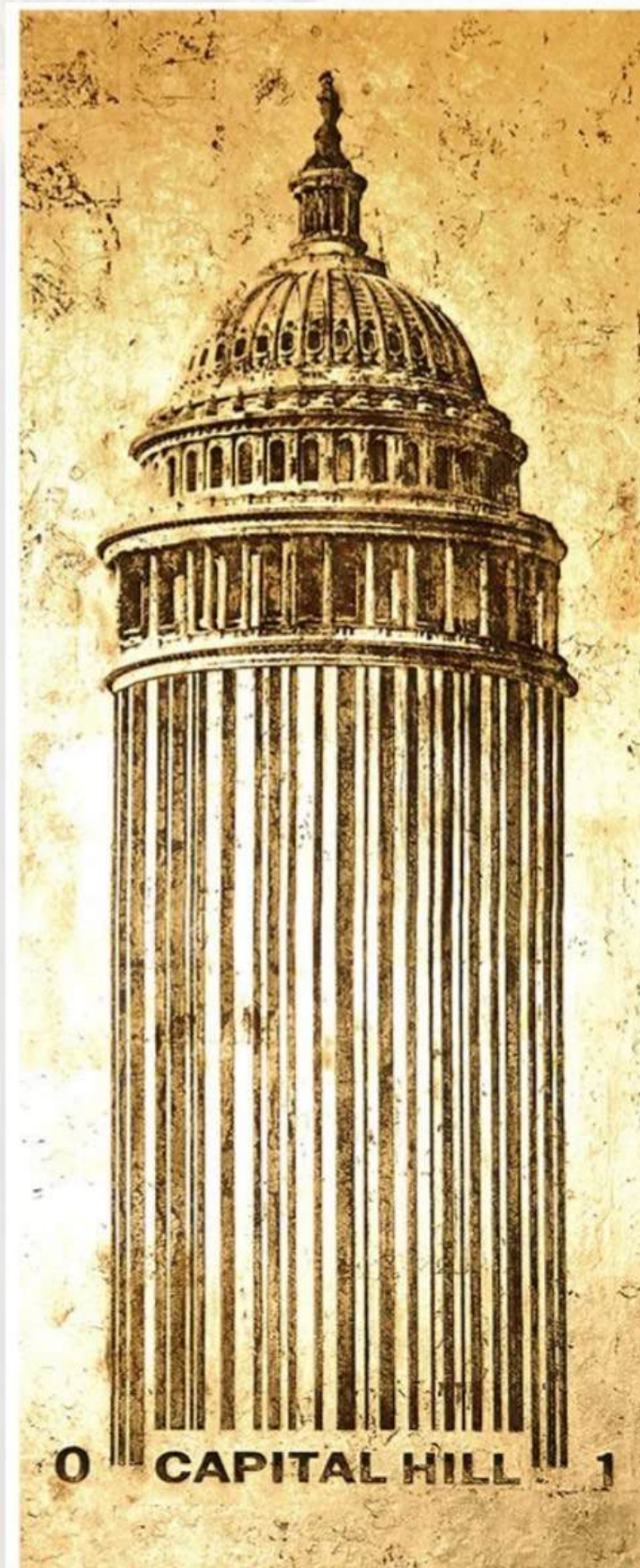
We bring together a diverse collective of contemporary artists who refuse to remain silent, using creative practices as vital weapons of resistance and tools for civic awakening. The works gathered here represent an unusually broad range of fine art media including VR, documentary film, video art and interactive performance. Throughout the event, visitors will engage hands-on in political processes and playful immersion. We are gathering artworks that do not merely document symptoms of fascism; they dissect its mechanics and disrupt its power. Art has long been a prime target of dictators due to its unique ability to expose corruption, preserve historical truth, and foster independent thought. By transforming the gallery into a sanctuary for free minds, we reclaim the public square.

Read full curatorial statement here: urgencyofnow.art

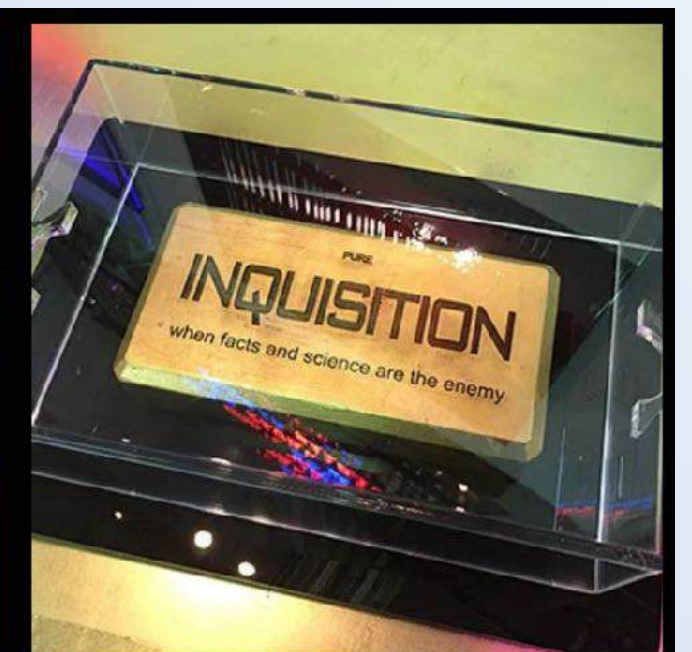
Featured invited artist

Guillermo Bert

<https://www.warriors-project.art/projects>



Cover Up, 2017, laser engraving on wood and 24 ct. gold leaf



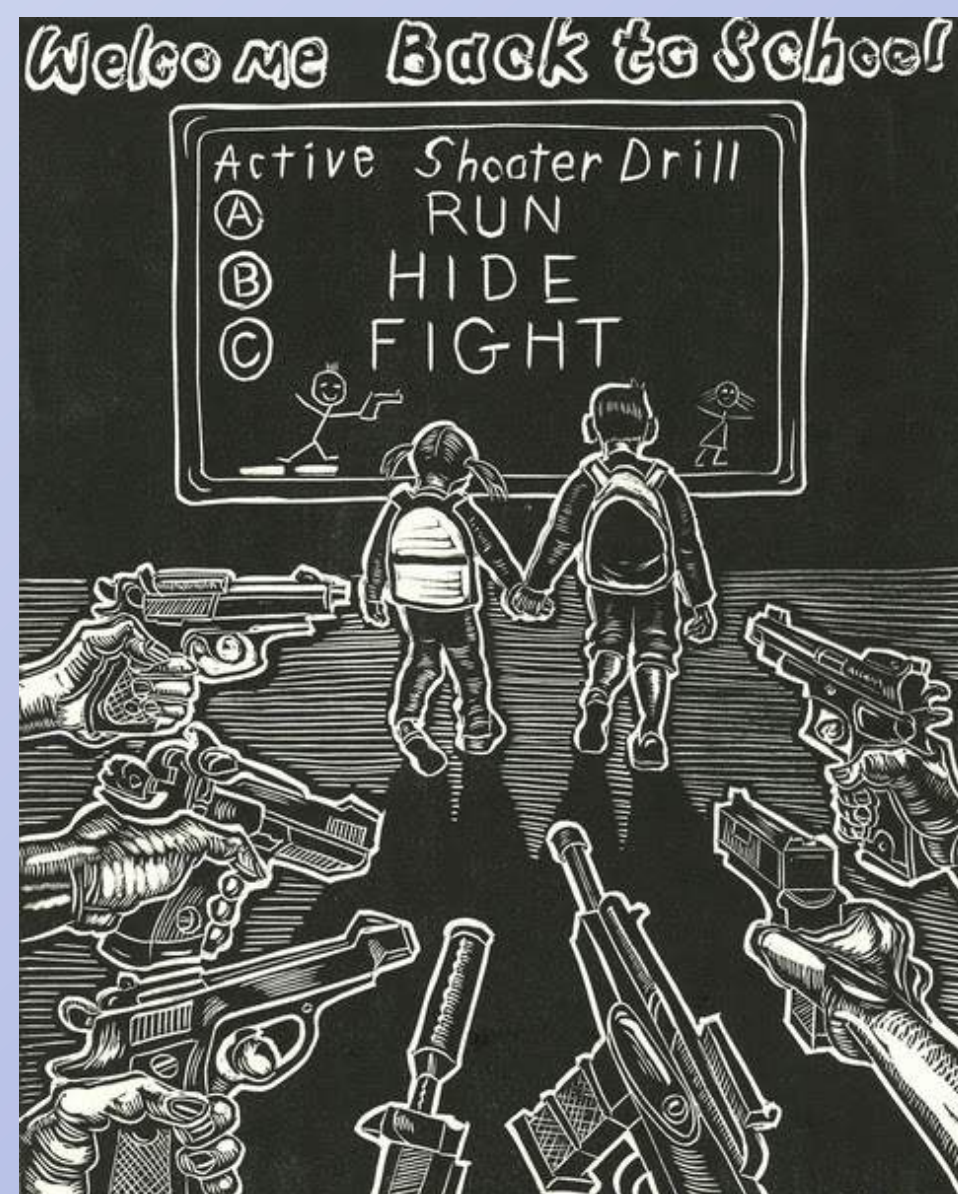
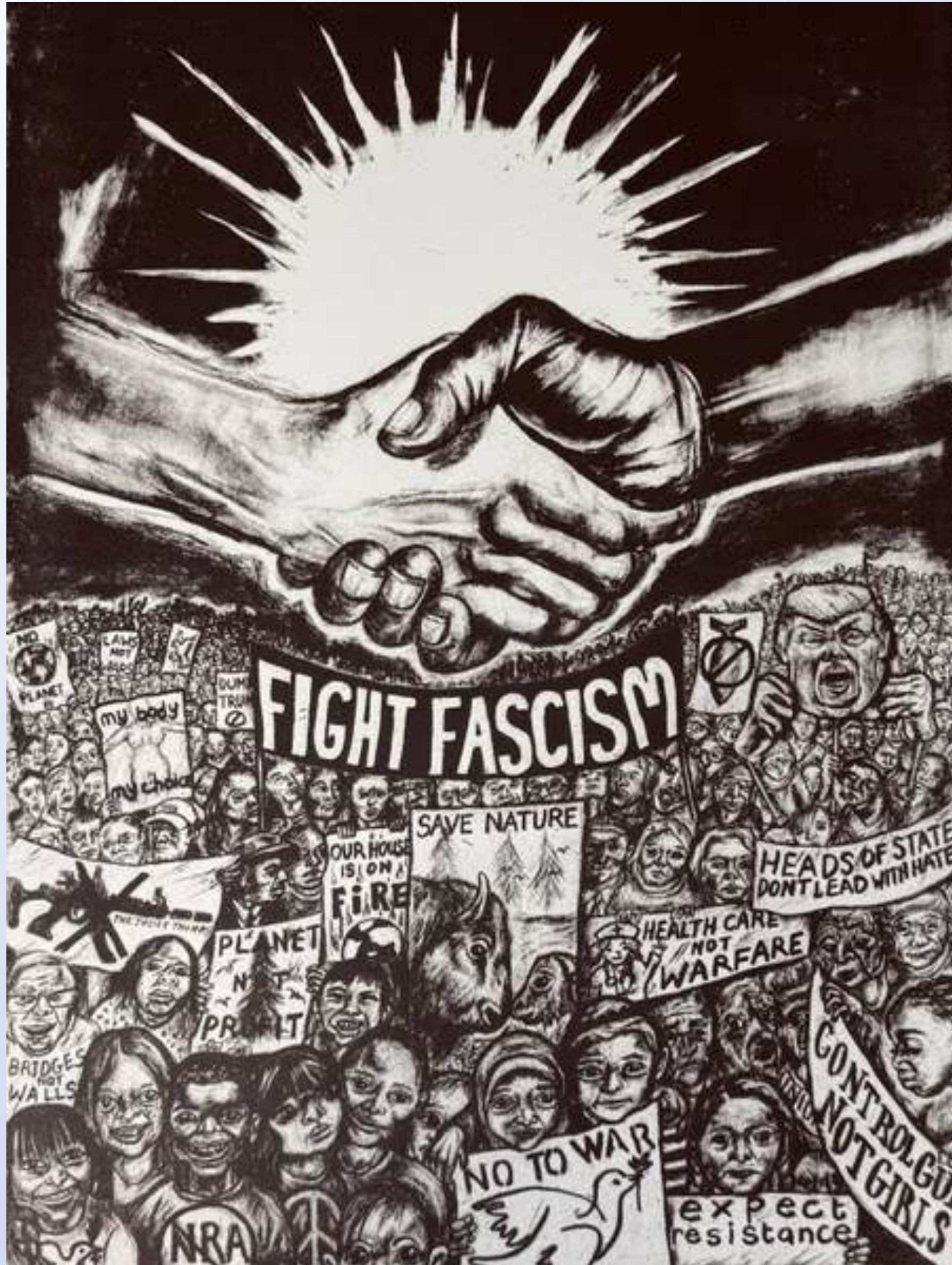
Inquisition, 2017, laser engraving on wood and 24 ct. gold leaf



Featured invited artist

Sue Coe

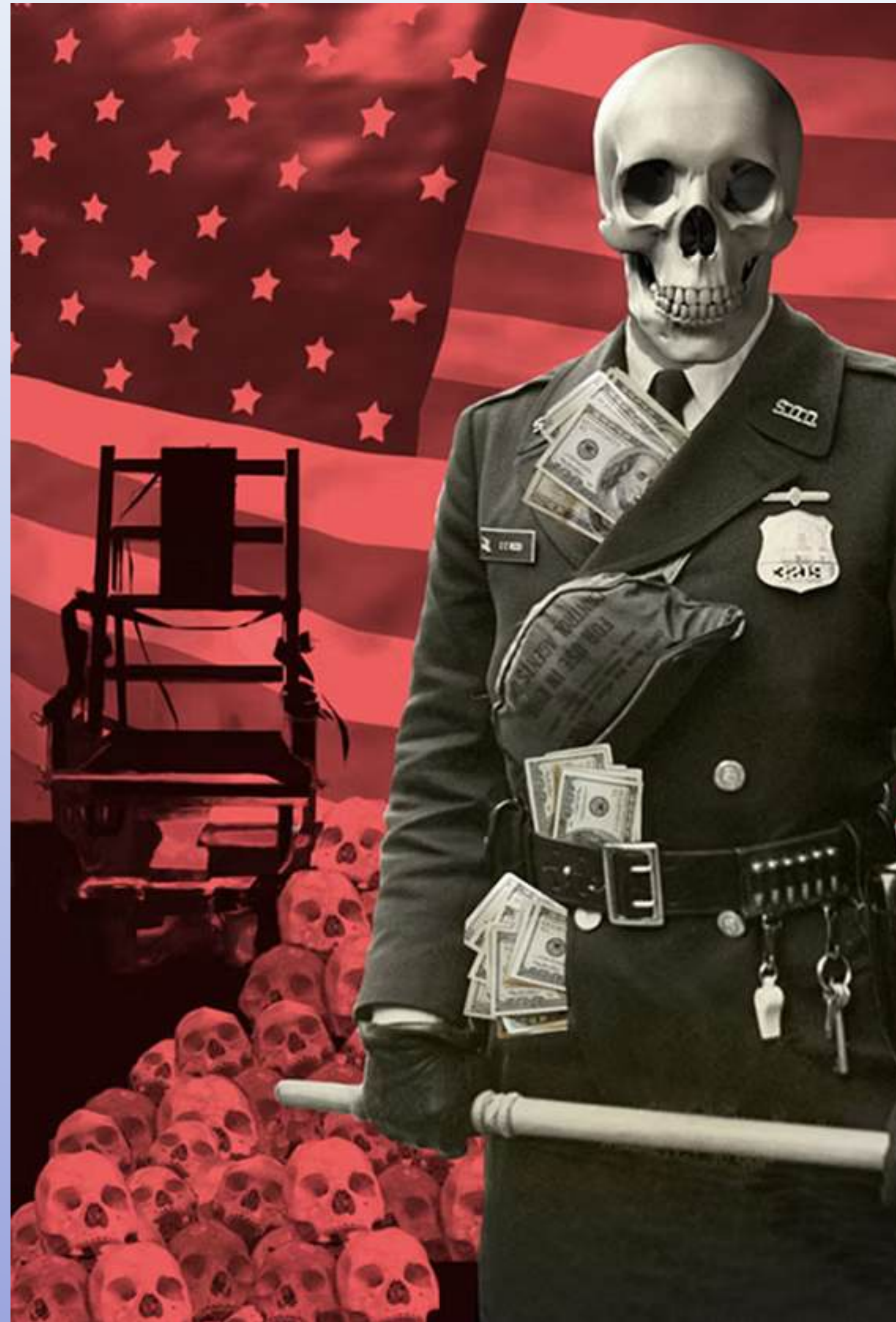
<https://www.suecoe.com>



Featured invited artist & curator

Karen Fiorito

<https://www.karenfiorito.me>



Featured invited artists

Rick Robinson

<https://www.primitivepop.net/pink-fist>



The Selma to Montgomery March
Dr. and Mrs. King led participants on the 1965 march from Selma, Alabama to the State Capitol in Montgomery. They marched twelve hours a day for five days, resting in fields along the way. They made the 54-mile journey to call attention to voting rights, and the violent attacks on Civil Rights marchers that had occurred earlier in the month. When the two thousand marchers reached the state capital, they were joined by 50,000 supporters. The Voting Rights Act, signed later that year, prohibits discrimination in voting. (AP Photo)



Kim Abeles

<https://kimabeles.com/walk-a-mile-in-my-shoes>

Featured invited artists



Cris Palomino

<https://substack.com/@crispalomino>



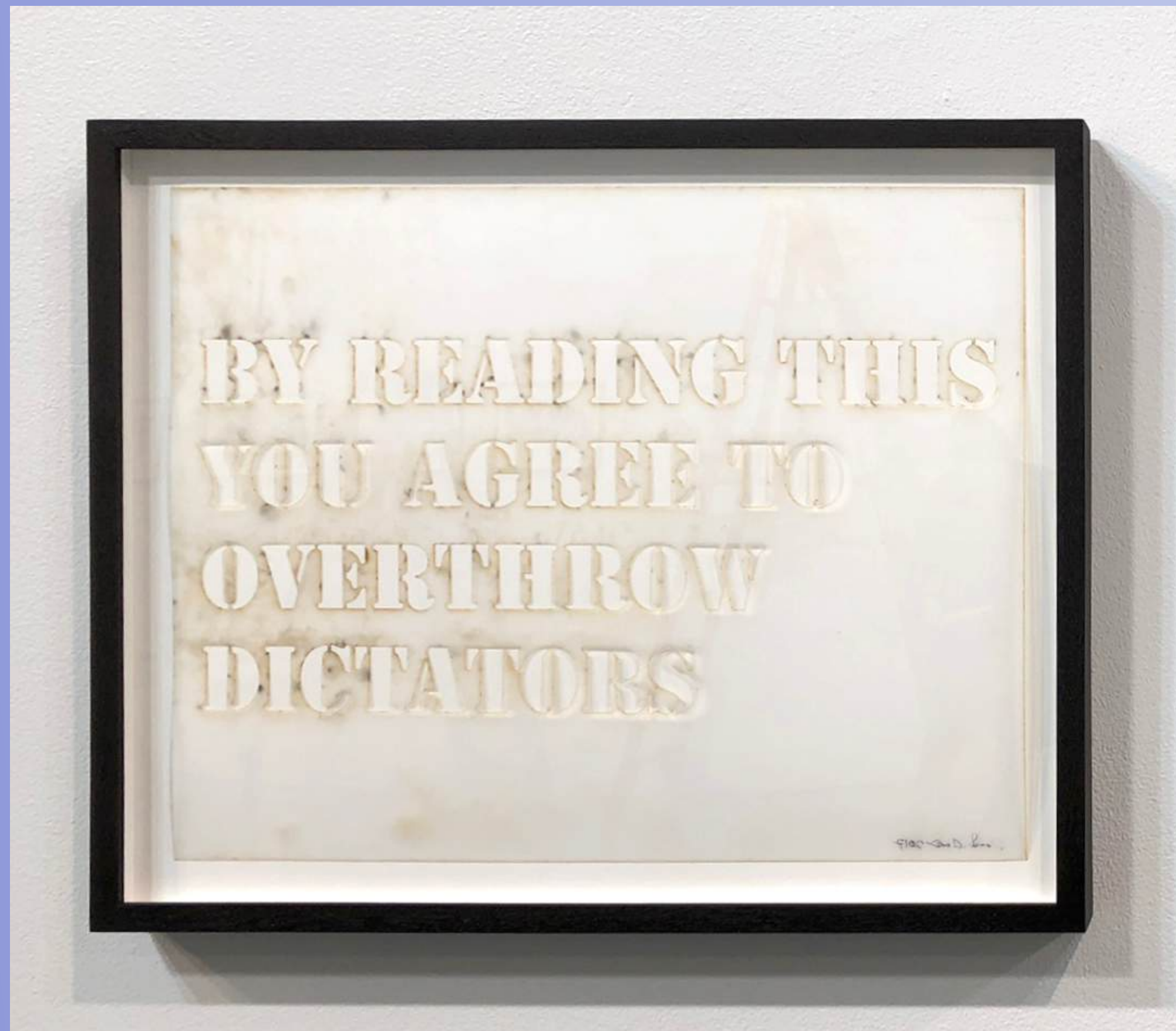
Crystal Baranyk

<https://www.redactedartist.com>

Featured invited artist

Dread Scott

<https://www.dreadscott.net/artwork>



Dread Scott's artworks are often participatory, and focus on contemporary African American experience. His 1988 [installation](#) “**What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag?**” ignited national debate and resulted in a landmark Supreme Court ruling on protected speech. In 1989, President George H. W. Bush declared it ‘disgraceful’ because of its transgressive use of the flag.



FALL OF FREEDOM

<https://www.falloffreedom.com>

We're partnering with **Fall of Freedom**, a nationwide creative resistance movement to unite artists in defiance of authoritarianism, founded by **Dread Scott** and playwright **Lynn Nottage**. Among the **participants** are musician **John Legend**, filmmaker **Ava DuVernay**, and writer **Jennifer Egan**. The “decentralized, open-source initiative” is envisioned as a collective movement of actions, planned independently but **unified by a shared resistance to rising American fascism**.

Film, Animation, and VR Festival



Our gallery show is inclusive of all media except that which is AI generated.

There will be two video programs:

1. Video without audio will be projected on the gallery wall.
2. Video with audio will be shown on a large monitor with headphones for listening.

Some media may be included in both programs, eg if there's sound that's not necessary for understanding. Accepted works may include documentaries, narrative stories, conceptual art, music videos, political ads, or anything that touches on fitting topics. In addition we'll have at least one VR headset for individual viewing of VR works. All time-based media will be under 3 minutes in length, and may be trailers for or excerpts from longer works.

Left: Frame from Dread Scott's "Welcome to America"

Performance Art

We've put out a call for gallery-ready performance art for the opening reception. In addition, our resident performance artist Isa Gordon has written **"The Grift & Fall of the Clown King"** and is assembling a troupe to perform it for the DTLA ArtNight reception, and in flashmobs around LA to promote the gallery show. This interactive dumbshow features 6+ players who mingle in the audience and engage directly. *Act I:* Democracy Warriors play whack-a-grift with Mad Clown King. *Act II:* Citizen Superheroes join the fight: they help shackle the grifter-in-chief & lead audience-participation games: "spank him with the constitution" & "spank him with your vote". *Act III:* using a trail of gold bars marked "US Taxpayer \$\$", and audience assist: into the gilded cage goes the Clown. Forever 8647.

Right: Isa Gordon performs as Psymbiote at the SIGGRAPH CyberFashion Show



OUR CURATORS

Karen Fiorito

<https://www.karenfiorito.me>



Karen is an activist, artist and curator residing in Southern California. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally and featured in major publications. She is most noted for her political billboards which have gained international media attention. She has curated many activist art exhibitions in Los Angeles, including *Evolution/Revolution: The Interconnectedness of All Beings* (2011), *Indivisible* ('20 & '24) and *The Absent Referent* (2022). Her work is in the permanent collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the US Forest Service, the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, and Self Help Graphics. She holds an MFA from Arizona State University and a BFA from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She is the National Chair of the Los Angeles Printmaking Society (LAPS), a member of the California Society of Printmakers (CSP) and a Board member at The Artists Gallery (TAG) in Los Angeles.

Dale Youngman

<https://www.daleyongman.com>



Currently Dale is the Gallery Director and Curator for Blue & The Muse, a new 2500 sq. ft. gallery in LA's Arts District. An entrepreneur involved in many aspects of the art world for the past 20 years, Dale has curated 80+ professional exhibitions at multiple galleries, independent projects, and charity events including several climate-change and environmentally themed exhibitions. As an independent art marketing and communications consultant, she handles contract negotiations, business development, marketing, PR, website and social media content for artists, galleries, and non-profits. She has been a judge or juror for the Beverly Hills Art Show multiple times, and has juried shows for the Palos Verdes Art Center, LA Printmaking Society, San Fernando Valley Arts Cultural Center, and Women Painters West. She has twice been the recipient of a "Certificate of Recognition" ('08 & '15) from the City of LA for Arts Advocacy and Outstanding Achievements.

Isa Gordon

<https://isagordon.net>



Isa is a media and performance artist, curator, and filmmaker. She has an MFA in interdisciplinary media, and deep networks at the intersection of art and technology for 3+ decades. She's best known for Psymbiote, an alter-ego with functional cyborg costume. She was invited by the SIGGRAPH Conference to curate *The CyberFashion Show*, which Isa produced and Psymbiote hosted for 4 years. Hundreds of creators and companies participated in standing-room-only shows that inspired a chapter in a fashion and culture textbook, and a short film Isa produced and that was featured in International Festivals, a book/DVD set, and at the Whitney Museum. Isa also curated an Interactive Art & Animation Festival, sponsored by Women In Games International and attended by thousands. She's exhibited, performed, and lectured around the world, and been featured in the NY Times, Wired, on NPR, and in Stephen Wilson's book *Art & Science Now*.

THE GALLERY

<https://www.gdcagallery.com>

Gloria Delson Contemporary Arts (GDCA) is a full-service contemporary art gallery located on Spring Street in Downtown Los Angeles, in the heart of Gallery Row. After serving as a private art dealer for more than 30 years catering to collectors and corporate clientele, GDCA debuted its gallery space in 2010. GDCA's expertise includes emerging and established artists, with emphasis on undervalued and underrepresented artists as well as a special concentration on female artists.

This prime location sees hundreds of pedestrians daily, and on first Thursdays the DTLA ArtNight draws thousands of visitors. We'll have a soft-open preview that ArtNight (10/1), with a teaser reel from our Silent Film Fest projected in the window. We'll also set up a sidewalk table featuring easy voter registration, primary sponsor sign-ups, and swag give-aways to promote our events and artists.

CRITICAL SHOW DATES

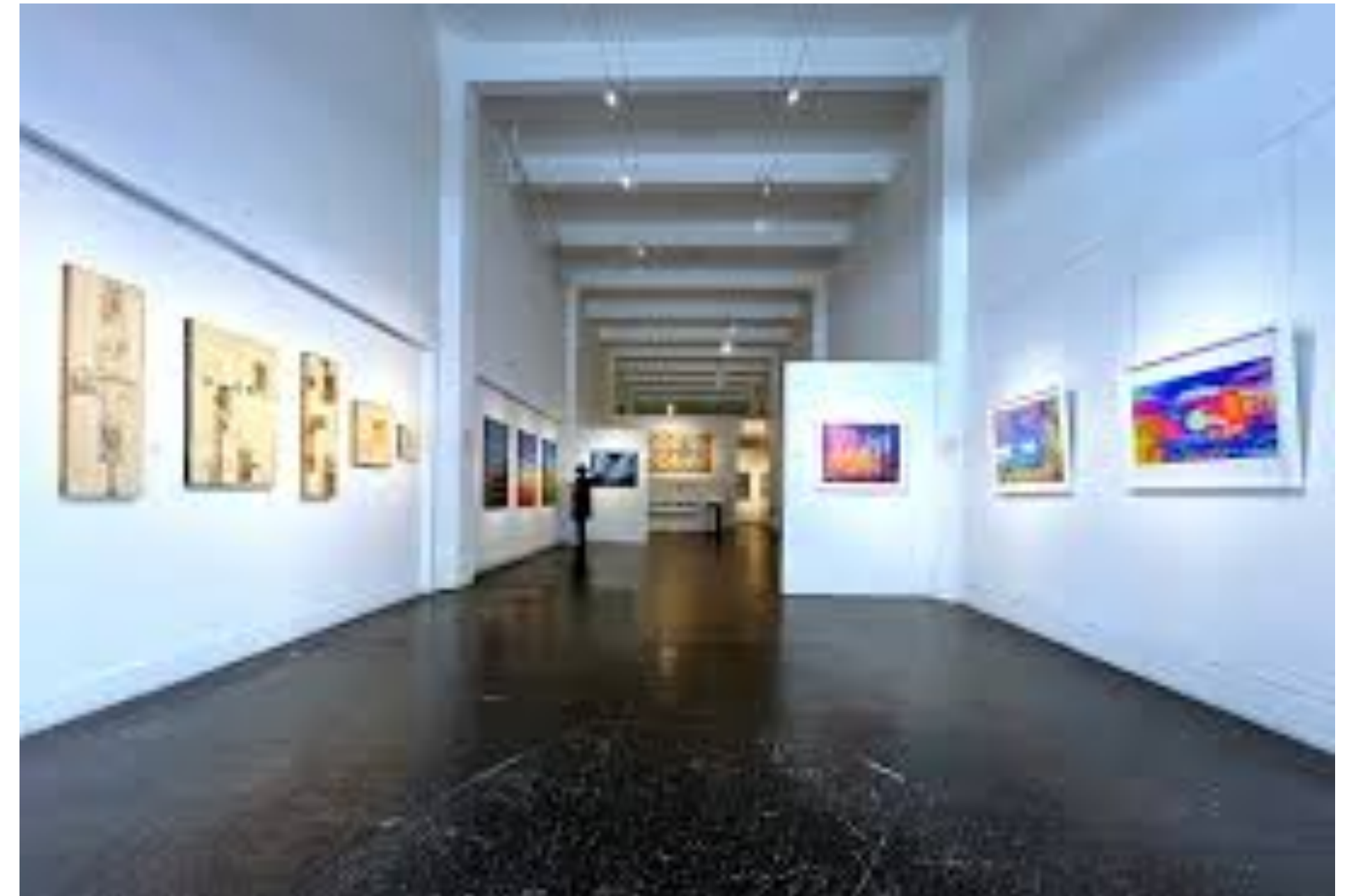
Runs: 10/3/26 - 10/31/26

DTLA ArtNight Preview Event: Thurs 10/1

Opening Reception: Sat 10/3

Speakers & Performances: Fri 10/9 & Sat 10/24

Closing Reception: Fri 10/30



SPONSOR TIERS & BENEFITS	STEEL \$600 available: 9	TITANIUM \$2000 available: 3	SILVER \$5000 available: 2	PLATINUM \$12,000 available: 1
- Wordmark & logo on gallery wall projection - Link on our website - Name in catalog & physical copy of catalog - Invite to private post-show wrap party - Swag bag with all show media (posters, cards, stickers)				
- Logo & name on back of promo flyers - Wordmark or logo on posters - Name on gallery wall vinyl - Distribute 1 piece of your print media in the swag bags - Choice of award winning artworks (8x10 reproduction)				
- Website on flyers - Distribute your print media at gallery - Option to have a sign-up station at gallery events - Set of all award winning artworks (11x17 reproduction, limited edition archival pigment print)				
- Be PRIMARY sponsor, mentioned in all show PR - Option to appear in media interviews about the show - Your name/org/wordmark incorporated in show name - Custom QR code on all posters, flyers, and stickers - Option to give speech at show opening and/or closing				

Please visit our easy form <https://tinyurl.com/uonsd> to indicate your interest, or contact us with questions curators@urgencyofnow.com

Anonymous or pseudonymous sponsors welcome. In-kind donations may be substituted for cash value, please include brief proposal on form.

BUDGET, IN-KIND NEEDS, & TARGETED SPONSOR TIERS

Sponsor these upgraded features of the show, which define needed **in-kind services** and **help target areas of interest**. Our show is non-profit and self-produced. We need a **baseline budget of \$15K**** for necessities + minimal commitments to the goals below. These multi-tier targets benefit **profile of show, renown of artists, and quality of professional documentation**. All vary in value; the greater the donation the better the final product and it's reach. [See form for more info.](#)

****Core Budget** covers Gallery Fees, Marketing & PR, Personnel/Staffing, Insurance, Admin & Legal, as well as basic economy options for Billboards, Catalog, Documentation, Artist Prizes, and Wrap Party. In-kind services in ANY of these areas can be applied to ANY main or targeted tiers. **Detailed budget available upon request.**

CATALOG DESIGN & PUBLISHING

Range: **\$3000 - \$18,000**, Available: **2**

PURPOSE: upgrade baseline (softcover, home printed, limited color) in any or all manners for a more deluxe volume (eg: full color throughout, fine arts press, hardbound); increase size of print run, and provide free copies to University / Fine Art Libraries.

PERKS: depending size of donation: name or wordmark on cover, spine, and/or title page.

PROTEST ART POSTER GIVE-AWAY

ft. Cris Palomino's No Kings & Justice Matters artwork

Range: **\$300 - \$900**, Available: **3**

PURPOSE: provide paper & ink and/or printing services for run of 75+ posters of 1+ designs, to attract attendees to Gallery events & help spread inspiring pro-democracy art into the community.

PERKS: your wordmark, logo and/or custom QR code on posters; option to chose artwork from Cris's faves.

DOCUMENTARY CREW

Range: **\$6000 - \$30,000**, Available: **3**

PURPOSE: upgrade from 1 event videographer to full or mini pro crew (eg: Director, Producer, DP, Editor, Sound Recordist & Sound Editor, Colorist) for 10-20 min film.

PERKS: Your production company logo with custom motion graphics and YourName as Executive Producer in opening credits.

BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

Range: **\$5500 - \$25,000**, Available: **30**

PURPOSE: expand to additional bus shelter campaigns and/or to other variable size bulletins & billboards.

PERKS: add your website, wordmark, and custom QR to the billboards you sponsor.

PRIVATE WRAP PARTY

for Artists, Sponsors, Crew, and Collectors

Range: **\$1200 - \$7000**, Available: **3**

PURPOSE: expand or improve venue, entertainment, catering, and/or size of the event.

PERKS: YourName, wordmark, and/or logo on invites & event signage.

JURIED ARTIST PRIZES

Best of Show, 2nd Place, People's Choice, Film Fest Best

Range: **\$300 - \$3000**, Available: **4**

PURPOSE: provides bigger cash prizes to incentivize competitive, high-impact submissions.

PERKS: naming rights for 1+ prizes (eg: YourName Grand Prize); option to present award(s) at closing event; 1+ vote(s) on jury to select top winners from semifinalists; choice of top 3 award winning artist works (reproduction, limited edition archival pigment print).

ADOPT-A-CHARACTER

Performance & Costumes

Range: **\$300 - \$1200**, Available: **8**

PURPOSE: support Isa Gordon's "The Grift & Fall of the Clown King", the interactive performance planned for gallery events and promo flashmobs around LA.

PERKS: "sponsored by YourName" stenciled on costumes of Democracy Warriors or Citizen Superheroes, including pro-photography for your PR use. Please email isa@isagordon.net for production details.

First come, first served! Please visit our easy form <https://tinyurl.com/uonsd>, or contact us with questions curators@urgencyofnow.com

The only deadline is limited availability, and we'll continue to raise funds post-event for catalog, documentation and possible US tour.