

# ART OF

★ AWARD  
WINNING  
★ BOOK ★

# PROTEST

DE NICHOLS

FEATURING ARTWORK BY DIEGO BECAS, DIANA DAGADITA,  
MOLLY MENDOZA, OLIVIA TWIST AND SADDO

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# DEFINING PROTEST ART

To protest means to object to something. Protest art is a visual means of expressing that objection. It is often created and used collectively to inform others about a social issue, declare public objection to the issue and persuade others to join in action to address it.

Protest art is one of many types of art forms used for activism. Activism involves efforts that 'promote, impede, direct or intervene in social, political, economic or environmental reform with the desire to make changes in society'. Artistic activism – or as I like to call it, activism – combines activism with the creative power of visual, performative and experiential art in order to seek positive change. In addition to protest art, activism can include:

## Craftivism

'Craftivism' encompasses a variety of do-it-yourself activities such as quilting, origami and yarn bombing, which can be used to bring awareness to issues in public spaces. In protests in Hong Kong, youth organisers have created thousands of origami cranes as a non-violent symbol of their defiance and expression of their desire for democracy. Making cranes became an accessible way for people around the world to show solidarity with the protesters.

## Street Art

Created for the purpose of public visibility, street art is a key outlet for protest artists and encompasses murals, graffiti, stickering, guerrilla art, flash mobs and other performances. Street art offers an array of canvases and venues for expression, including public buildings and open land.

Tatyana Fazlalizadeh is an artist who created the Stop Telling Women to Smile project in protest of the street harassment that women are commonly subjected to in public. By protesting these behaviours in the places where they frequently occur – along pavements, near construction sites, outside of bars and restaurants – Fazlalizadeh illustrates the faces and stories of women who have experienced harassment in order to depict how widespread the problem is and to give a collective voice to the issue.

Michelle Angela Ortiz, a Latinx muralist, has created works like *Orgullo Otomi* and *Familias Separadas* that have been exhibited in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Venezuela, Honduras and Cuba. Her work often portrays the stories of women, children and families and the challenges and victories they face throughout their respective countries as well as those encountered in migration.





1960s–1970s

**Emory Douglas, USA  
BLACK PANTHER GRAPHICS**

American artist Emory Douglas created many of the famous graphic works associated with the *Black Panther* newspaper, including the 'All Power to the People' poster.

1960s–1970s

**Anti-War Protests, USA  
SLOGANS AND SONGS**

The escalating US involvement in the Vietnam War led to increasing protests. Original folk songs became important expressions of anti-war sentiment, as did slogans such as 'Make Love, Not War'.

1975

**Shigeo Fukuda, Poland  
'VICTORY 1945'**

Shigeo Fukuda was a multi-talented artist. Among his works are several important protest images, including 'Victory 1945', which depicts, in stark graphic style, an artillery shell apparently returning into a cannon barrel, a simple and affecting plea for an end to wars.

1987

**June Struggle, South Korea  
WORKERS' MARCHES**

Throughout the month of June democratic protests broke out, leading to reforms that are still used in place in the South Korean government today. Originally started by students, and later joined by white collar workers, the movement included throwing toilet paper rolls in the streets.

1990s

**Piss on Pity, UK  
THE DISABILITY ARTS MOVEMENT**

The disability arts movement became active in the UK during the 1990s. The provocative slogan 'Piss on Pity', coined by songwriter and activist Alan Holdsworth, was a rallying cry. The movement's activism led to the passing of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.



2010–2012

**The Arab Spring  
SOCIAL MEDIA**

This series of anti-government demonstrations from Egypt to Tunisia, Syria and beyond led to some changes in regime. Helped by social media, the pro-democratic movement spread quickly.

2015–2016

**Anti-Government Protests, Brazil  
PIXULECOS**

After allegations of government corruption and in an unstable economy, millions of Brazilians took part in anti-government protests across the country, resulting in the successful impeachment of its president. Men, women and children wore the vibrant yellow T-shirts of the national football team, and passed inflatable dolls that caricatured corrupt politicians called 'Pixulecos' through the crowds.

2018

**Pascal Boyart, Paris  
GILETS JAUNES MURAL**

In 2018, the street artist Boyart painted a mural in Paris celebrating the 'yellow vest' anti-government protests. It was based on a painting by Eugène Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, which glorified the French revolution of 1830.

2020

**Black Lives Matter, Global  
STREET ACTIONS**

Founded in 2013 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, the Black Lives Matter movement received international attention in 2020 following the unlawful killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man at the hands of the police. Floyd's calls for help were repeated across the world, summarized by the phrase 'I Can't Breathe'.

# SYMBOLISM

Protest art often makes use of symbols, which can quickly convey powerful meaning.

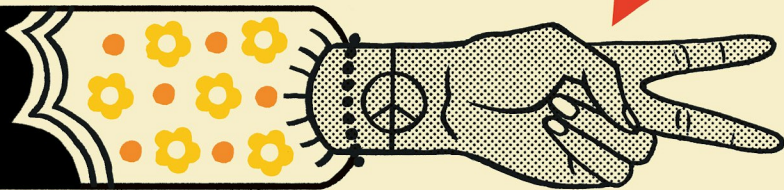
## Paper Cranes

In Japan, it is believed that someone who folds 1,000 origami cranes will be granted a wish. In 1945, two-year-old Sadako Sasaki was in the vicinity of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. She suffered long-term effects from that exposure, including developing leukaemia. Before she died at the age of 12, Sadako folded more than 1,000 cranes, and the paper crane went on to become a symbol of peace.



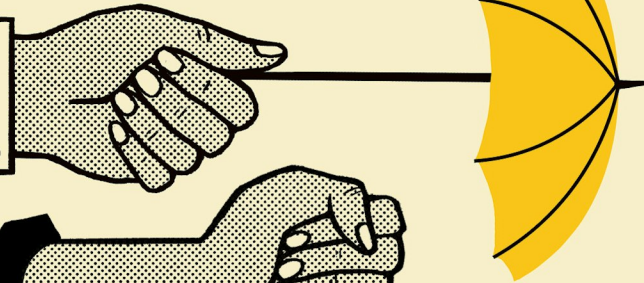
## The Peace Sign

The peace sign was created by the British artist Gerald Holtom in 1958 as the logo for a campaign for nuclear disarmament in the UK. It has since become an iconic symbol of calls for peace.



## Umbrellas

During protests for democracy in Hong Kong in 2014, activists used umbrellas as shields against tear gas and other aggressions by the police. The umbrellas came to symbolize the protests and gave the movement its name (read more on pages 52-53).



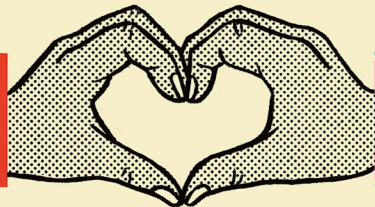
## The Clenched Fist

The image of an upraised clenched fist is a powerful symbol of protest and resistance. Some of its first uses were by labour unions in the early 1900s, before it grew in popularity and became a symbol of many causes, including Black Power, the anti-apartheid movement and the feminist movement.



## The Rainbow

The rainbow is the most iconic symbol of the LGBTQ+ movement. It represents diversity, acceptance and the spectrum of human sexualities and genders.



# THE STUDENTS OF PARKLAND

Throughout recent decades, mass shootings have become a tragic and deadly epidemic in the United States, often affecting young people who are victimized by shootings within their schools.

In 2018, a student gunman killed 17 people and injured 17 more at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the second deadliest school shooting in US history. Student survivors of

the shooting immediately became passionate and outspoken advocates for the reduction of gun violence. They sparked the Never Again campaign and led the national March for Our Lives, with more than 500,000 people gathering in Washington, DC, and more joining gatherings around the country. They also organised the Enough! National School Walkout Day, where students from 3,000 schools nationwide left their classes for 17 minutes to honour the lives of the 17 people killed in Parkland. The March for Our Lives team continues to organise young people in America to own and use their collective power to fight against gun violence.

ENOUGH

PROTECT KIDS NOT GUNS

