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A collection of art-making ideas by artists

Sergio De La Torre and Chris Treggiari of Sanctuary Print Shop:

Making a Collaborative Protest Poster

Our Objective:

How do you publicly express your passion for a social issue you care about? Protest posters are a great way of creatively using text and images to demonstrate your stance on a problem, controversy, or debate. Historically, these types of posters have engaged the social and political themes of their time and place. A collective effort, this is your chance to find an ally, decide on an issue, and create your protest poster.

Resource: Sanctuary City Timeline

How to make a protest poster:

Part 1: Find a cause

What are you passionate about?

Find an article on that issue.

Within that article, find a sentence or a set of words that resonate with you.

In six words or less, what would you tell someone about this issue?

Part 2: Ask your community

Talk to people about this issue, and ask them the following questions:

- Why is this important to you?
- How much do you know about this?
- What else do you think people need to know?

Media:

Painting, drawing, mixed media

Materials:

Poster board (any size), scissors, paint, and brushes

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Part 3: Write down eight words

Based on your interactions with others, decide what you want to say about this issue, and write it down in eight words or less.

Hint: Your words should be immediate and easy to understand.

Part 4: Make your poster

How can you best illustrate the words you have just written? Use paint or markers, and write your words on your poster board. Choose a color that's vibrant! Make sure that all the letters fill in the page. (The letters do not have to be the same size.) And *voilà*, you've made your protest poster.

Part 5: Distribute your poster

Find a place where you think people need to read this message and place the poster(s).

Extra credit—make your poster a silk screen:

1. Create your image in Photoshop.
2. Send the file to a silkscreen shop like Ape Do Good in San Francisco (apedogood.com) or Forthrite printing in Oakland (forthriteprinting.com).
3. Follow these instructions to print your poster.

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Artist Biographies:

Sergio De La Torre

Born 1967 in National City, California
Currently lives in San Francisco, California

As an artist and educator, Sergio De La Torre has worked with and documented the multiple ways in which citizens reinvent themselves in the city they inhabit as well as site-specific strategies they deploy to move in and out of modernity.

De La Torre's work often involves collaborations with his subjects and invites both intimate and critical reflections on topics related to housing, immigration, and labor, among others. De La Torre purposefully works with individuals from marginalized sectors, including factory workers (Tijuana), shoeshine boys (Mexico City), undocumented immigrants (Los Angeles and San Francisco), and evicted families (Oakland). In his practice, De La Torre has strived to represent the lives of these individuals, not as victim-subjects, but rather as an attempt to reexamine the meaning of their actions in the context of shifting global conditions.



Photo: courtesy the artists

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Chris Treggiari

Born 1978 in Concord, Massachusetts

Currently lives in San Francisco, California

Treggiari's artistic practice seeks to investigate how art can enter the public realm in a way that connects a wide range of people and neighborhoods across a variety of communities. He highlights diverse community identities, shared histories, and personal stories through participatory, mobile platforms that encourage exploration from the viewer. Often these platforms entail creative methods that aim to turn the passive viewer into an active art-maker who can participate in sharing a personal voice in a community dialogue. Treggiari's work has been on view at such venues as the American Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2012), the Torrance Art Museum, the Getty Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the San Jose Museum of Art, the Oakland Museum, and the ZERO1 Biennial. He has received grants from the Puffin Foundation, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Creative Work Fund, the Arts Commission of San Jose, The Seattle Center Foundation, and the Zellerbach Foundation. He is currently a teaching-artist resident at the Center for Art and Public Life at the California College of the Arts.