

THE PEOPLE UNITED

A GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

February 8 - April 15, 2023



ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION

The People United is an exhibition featuring the art of the **Beehive Collective**, **Colectivo LASTESIS**, **Carlos Colín**, **Cristian Ordóñez** and **Syrus Marcus Ware**.

Using **video**, **photography**, **drawing**, and **printmaking**, these artists explore the ways people come together to make a difference, and create change in their communities, and in the world.

By reading this guide, you can learn the ways each artist has addressed the power people have when they come together to work towards a common goal.



What are the ways you have worked with others to make positive change?

- I participated in a neighbourhood clean up
- I gave first aid when someone was sick or injured
- I attended a march, protest or picket line in my community
- I listened to a friend when they were feeling sad, or stressed out
- I helped friends or family complete a difficult task
- I have donated clothes or food to those who needed them



BEEHIVE COLLECTIVE

THE BEEHIVE COLLECTIVE

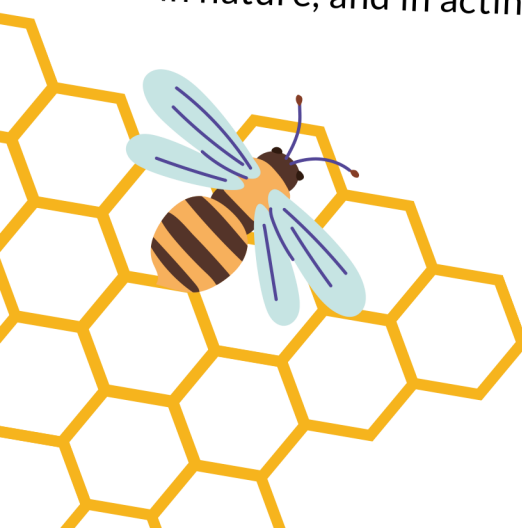
is an all-volunteer, activist arts collective dedicated to making collaboratively-created images for use as tools that help people learn about important causes.

They tell complex stories from around the world through their art, shared with them by communities affected by injustice.

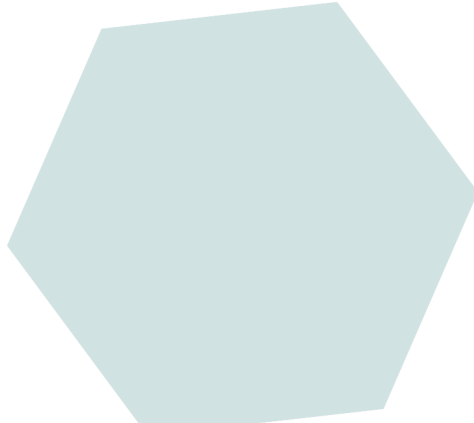
MESOAMÉRICA RESISTE!

is a project by the Beehive Collective that illustrates the history of globalization in North America, Central America and South America.

The detailed images shown on two large banners in the gallery illustrate past and present struggles against **globalization** and **colonialism**, and their negative effects on people and animals in Mesoamerica. The images depict difficult histories, but also celebrate the way we can find strength in nature, and in acting collectively.



Draw an animal
in this hexagon
that inspires you
to be powerful!



COLECTIVO LASTESIS

Colectivo **LASTESIS** are an artist's collective founded by four artists whose performances spread **feminist** ideas and demands in public spaces.

In 2019, they created a protest performance addressing violence against women. The performance speaking out against the mistreatment of women by individuals, the police, and governments was adopted by protesters around the world.

WORD SEARCH

C	F	E	M	I	N	I	S	M	N	Q	P
Y	S	Q	V	W	U	E	Z	E	V	I	E
P	P	P	L	I	J	G	M	O	F	F	R
Q	E	R	L	A	T	O	I	C	K	G	F
P	V	O	S	C	W	C	G	D	N	U	O
T	X	T	M	T	E	L	E	I	F	Y	R
Z	P	E	T	I	Q	U	G	L	V	W	M
V	H	S	E	V	O	N	U	M	L	R	A
P	C	T	I	I	I	L	H	W	D	O	N
V	R	X	N	S	Q	R	S	I	M	P	C
M	A	R	G	T	R	V	H	R	V	E	E
C	M	R	E	D	N	E	G	Q	K	H	L



FEMINISM
COLLECTIVE
MARCH
WOMEN
VOICE

ACTIVIST
SINGING
GENDER
PROTEST
PERFORMANCE

CARLOS CÓLIN

Carlos Colín is an artist who art takes many forms. He takes **photographs**, makes **signs**, and creates **objects** and **art multiples** that reflect identities and experiences of people being erased, oppressed, and separated by those who hold power.

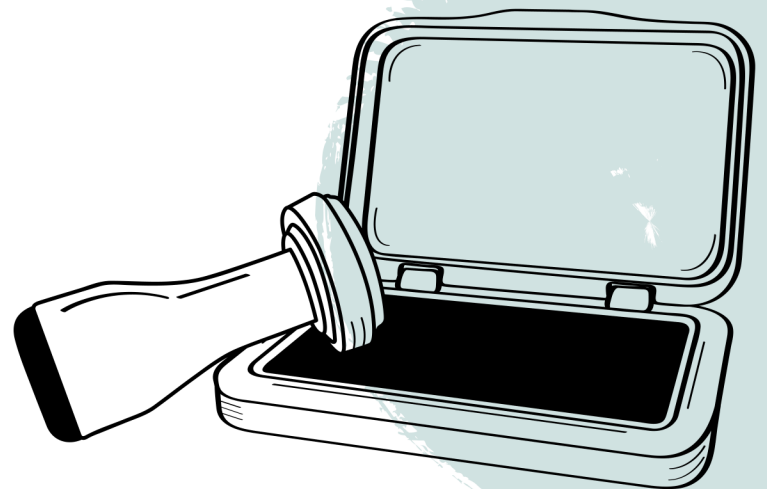
PODER AL PUEBLO

means "Power to the People" in Spanish. In *The People United* exhibition, Carlos displays signs that say *Poder Al Pueblo*, and has created a matching rubber stamp that can be used by visitors in the gallery.

What do you think will happen as more and more people use the stamp?

The stamped area of paper will grow and the colour will intensify! This is similar to the impact people have when many people speak up, and act together.

Poder Al
PUEBLO



PEOPLE POWERED ART!

In Latin American countries like **Mexico** and **Chile**, art has long been used to address social and political issues and build community. Here are some examples:

CALAVERAS

Calaveras are decorative skulls and skeletons found in Mexico's **Day of the Dead** celebrations on November 2nd.

La Catrina is a glamorous female calavera created by Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada to make fun of the upper classes during a period of political dictatorship.



ARPILLERAS

Arpilleras are bright, fabric patchwork pictures. They were made by women during the military dictatorship in **Chile** from 1973-1990.

These works of art were a way for women to make an income during this difficult period. Arpilleras sometimes contained messages about the dictatorship, and the disappearance of loved ones.

MURAL ART

There is a long tradition of street art and murals in Latin America. Murals are a completely accessible art form that can be used to communicate, educate, or honour important people.

Part of the beauty of murals is you don't have to enter (or pay to enter) an art gallery to see them!



PRINTMAKING

There are many kinds of printmaking such as **screen printing**, **lithography etching**, **woodcut printing**, and **linocut**.

What makes printmaking unique is you are able to produce **many copies** of an image from an inked plate, block, stone, or screen. Making many copies of an artwork means that it can be shared with more people cheaply.



SYRUS MARCUS WARE

WHO IS SYRUS?

Syrus Marcus Ware is visual artist, activist, curator, and educator. Using painting, installation, and performance, Syrus works with and explores **social justice** and Black **activist** culture.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The People United includes a video by Syrus called **Ancestors, Can You Read Us? (Dispatches from the Future)**.

Do you ever wonder what will happen in the distant future? In his video, Syrus imagines a better world in the future where Black folks no longer face the dangers of police violence and racism. The characters in his video are from the future, looking back at us in the present. They remind us that decisions we make and things we do will impact future generations.

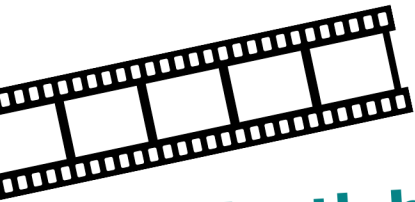


Write down some elders and ancestors who inspire you below!

If you could make one wish for the future, what would it be?

CRISTIAN ORDÓÑEZ

The photographs included in *The People United* by Cristian Ordóñez tell the story of young activists in Chile. In 2019, youth took to the streets to demand the constitution be changed to include increased rights for women, Black and Indigenous folks, LGBTQ+ people, and more.



Youth have the power!

Over the last few years young people have been change makers, making names for themselves while fighting for human rights, the environment, gender diversity and more.

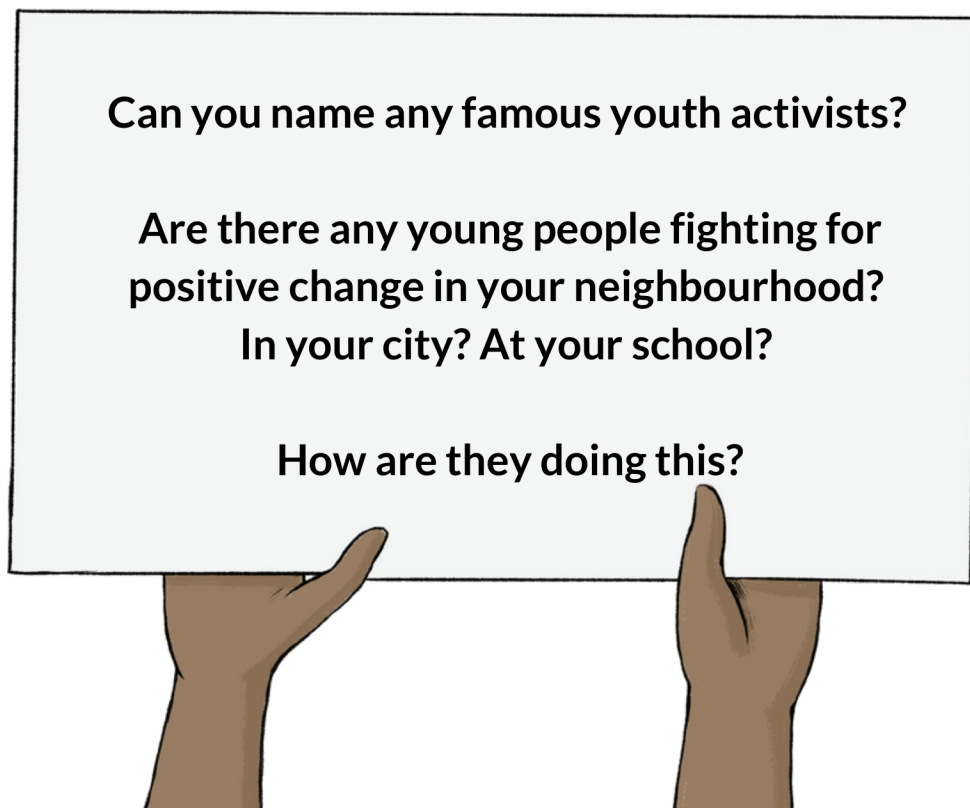


Can you name any famous youth activists?

Are there any young people fighting for positive change in your neighbourhood?

In your city? At your school?

How are they doing this?



WORDS TO EMPOWER!

Activist

Someone who believes in social change, and takes part in activities to make them happen such as protests, and distributing information to the public.

Globalization

The process of people and goods moving easily across borders. Globalization has disadvantages that often affect poorer countries. An example is when rich countries exploit another country's land for industrial growth, or exploit its workers with low wages and poor working conditions.

Mesoamerica

A geographical and cultural area which extends from central Mexico through Central America, including the territory now made up of the countries of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Feminism

A feminist is anyone who's committed to **equal rights** for all genders, and feels that women around the world should be **respected** at work, at home and in public.

Ancestors

A distant **family** member, usually from a generation before one's grandparents. People sometimes refer to elders who share the same **values** or **identity** as ancestors, even though they are not related to each other as family.

Constitution

A set of principles or rules a country, state or organization is governed by.

Democracy

A democracy is a system where people have power to shape how government is run. The opposite of democracy is **dictatorship**, where just one person has power.

SECOND SATURDAYS

Join us for Second Saturdays this season from **1-4pm** for **FREE** family drop-in fun at the Centre, led by special guest artists! Projects will draw inspiration from our Winter 2023 exhibition, **The People United**.

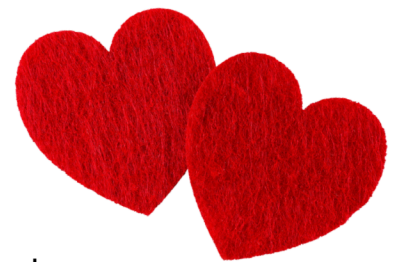


FEB 11 | PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN!

Join artist and educator **Setareh Masoumbeiki** to explore people power through the creation of artistic footprints, and work together to create an art installation in our gallery!

MAR 11 | FELT STORIES

Community artist **Soka Luft-Rodriguez** will guide families through the creation of felt pictures that explore the power within people, and take inspiration from the work in our gallery, and objects in our collection!



APR 8 | BEEHIVE COLLECTIVE

Join **Renee Nadeau** from the **Beehive Collective**, who will help families understand the stories found in the collective's project, **Mesoamerica Resiste!**, and reuse it to create their own art and stories.

WAHC is located on the original territories of the Huron, Wendat and Neutrals, and later, the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe.

The People United is curated by Tamara Toledo.

WA&HC

Workers Arts and Heritage Centre

51 Stuart Street, Hamilton, ON L8L 1B5
www.wahc-museum.ca

Public Hours:

Wednesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday 12 - 4 pm



WAHC



workersartsandheritage



WorkersArtsandHeritageCentre

