

Foundations for Solidarity: An Exploration of Art, Race, and Theory

By Nora Fujita-Yuhas

Context and Overview

Guiding research question and processes

I sought to better understand the role art plays in cultivating and expressing relationships of solidarity in Los Angeles.

Film/video

Interviews

Theoretical readings

Digital graphics

What binds us? What constitutes the ground we stand on together? How does art play into this?

Race: The Floating Signifier, Stuart Hall

“Once you enter the politics of the end of the biological definition of race, you are plunged headlong into the only world we have, the maelstrom of a continuously contingent, unguaranteed political argument, debate and practice. A critical politics against racism, which is always a politics of criticism”



Theories of Otherness, Difference, and Connection

Trinh T. Minh-ha:

Holding the contradictory notion
of affirming I am like you and I am
different

Rey Chow and Teresa de Lauretis:

Ethnic spectatorship and double
identification

This connection
is **relational**

Chandra Mohanty:

“Home, community, and identity all
fall somewhere between the histories
and experiences we inherit and the
political choices we make through
alliances, solidarities, and
friendships”

bell hooks:

Oppositional gaze and the process of
identification

Critiques of Feminism: Conflict and Anger

Ella Shohat - Talking Visions

“How do we then chart alliances without repressing conflictual histories and material realities while also moving in egalitarian directions?”

Difference
is
generative

Audre Lorde - Uses of Anger

“But the strength of women lies in recognizing differences between us as creative, and in standing to those distortions which we inherited without blame, but which are now ours to alter”

Encounters with Others

Sarah Ahmed - this other and other others

“The ‘we’ of collective politics must be worked for, rather than being the foundation of our collective work. In the very ‘painstaking labour’ of getting closer, of speaking to each other, and of working for each other, we also get close to ‘other others’. In such acts of alignment (rather than merger), we can re-shape the very bodily form of the community, as a community that is yet to come, as a community that is without ground, and yet not ungrounded. The other and other others collect together in the making of such a ‘we’. It is a ‘we’ born out of love, as well as work”

‘We’ is created
through **work**

Moving from Theory to Practice: A Historical Perspective

Mountains that Take Wing - Angela Davis and Yuri Kochiyama documentary

- Sat down in 1996 for their first in-depth conversation, continued this practice again in 2008



Coalition Building Among People of Color, discussion at UC Santa Cruz with Angela Davis and Elizabeth Martínez

- “Again, I want to emphasize the importance of historical memory in our contemporary efforts to work together across differences. I raise the importance of historical memory not for the purpose of presenting immutable paradigms for coalition-building, but rather in order to understand historical trajectories and precisely to move beyond older conceptions of cross-racial organizing.” - Angela Davis

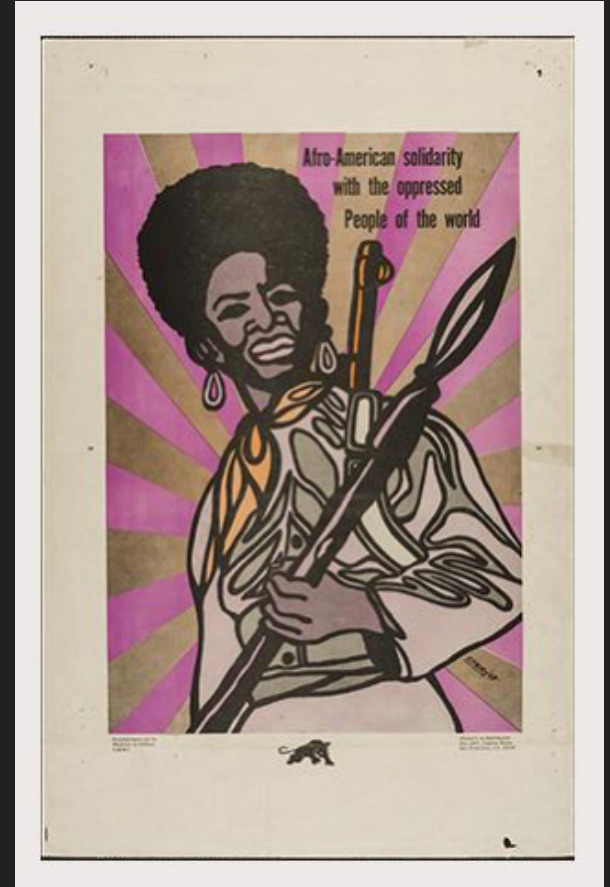
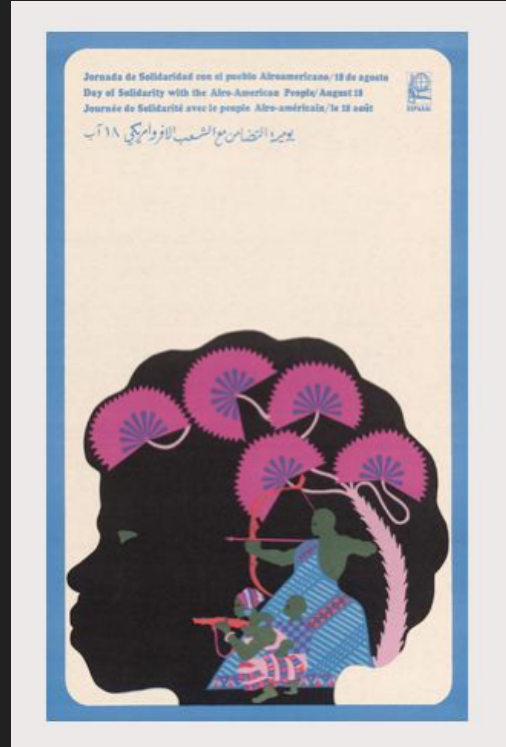
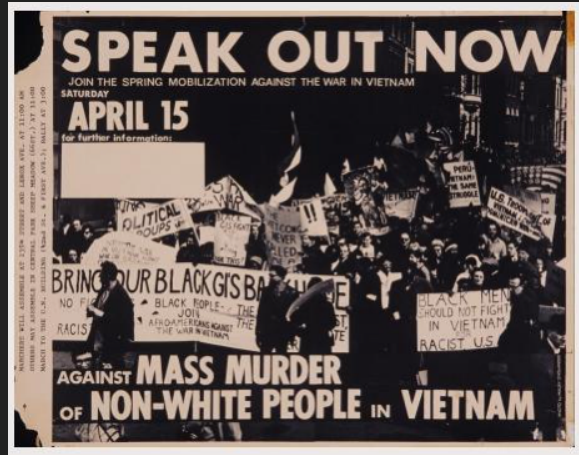
Political Graphics from CSPG

Through an analysis of these graphics I hoped to be able to better understand how visual art connects us, and exemplifies generative difference.

Three key themes will explore in the following slides: transnational nature, dissemination of information/meta-awareness of art as a tool, and references between different ethnic movements/groups.




Transnational nature



Art and activism together



A CALL TO THE PEOPLE!



DUE TO THE MASSIVE ARMED ATTACK
THAT HAS JUST OCCURRED IN L.A.
AGAINST THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
EMERGENCY FUNDS
ARE NEEDED AT ONCE
FOR BAIL, LEGAL, & MEDICAL NEEDS AND
TO REPLACE DAMAGED & DESTROYED
EQUIPMENT. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AS LONG AS
THE PEOPLE SUPPORT IT.


WE MUST ALL HELP NOW!

FIGHT FASCISM

Black Panther Party
P. O. Box 72397
Los Angeles 90002

References between different ethnic movements/groups

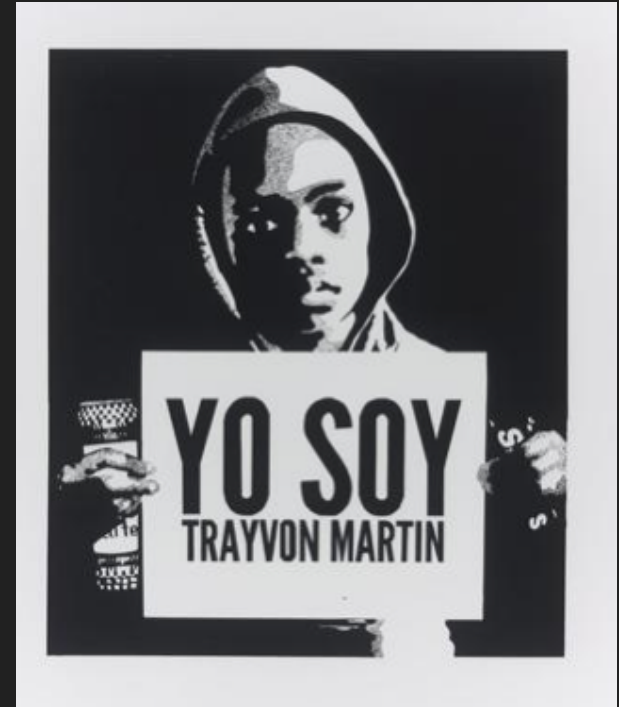
UNITED STATES CONCENTRATION CAMPS ARE READY!
FOR ALL BLACK PEOPLE



Tule Lake and El Reno Concentration Camps
Tule Lake, just a short drive from San Francisco
Can Hold 20,000 Black People!!

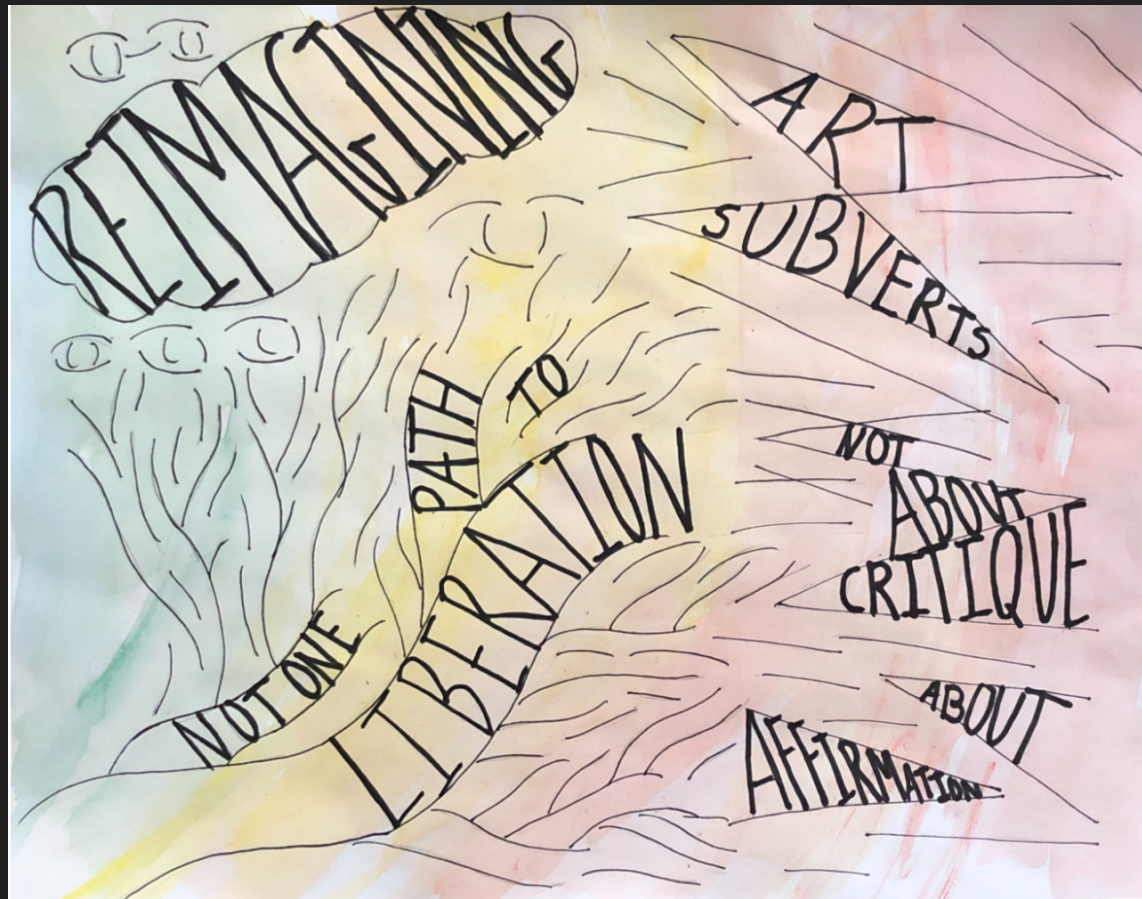
When the hunkey starts playing German, we are not going to play Jew. Brothers and Sisters, get it together (now!) before it is too late! Join the

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Interviews with Vigilant Love





Takeaways

Relational work

Generative difference

Building collectives

Solidarity

Art and activism as one

Collective liberation

Healing

Acknowledgements



If you have any questions or comments on this presentation please reach out to me at efujitayuh@oxy.edu. Feedback and thoughts are all welcome.

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