YEARBOOK OF PROTEST

REACT
REACH. EXPRESS. ACTION. COMMUNITY. TEAM.

2020
R.E.A.C.T. is a call to join a creative forum open to all art mediums to respond to the injustices of police brutality. Arts Corps will showcase these artworks on our website and through a social media campaign to help raise voices of activism through art.

— Greg Thornton
Arts Corps teaching artist
CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH STACI DOCKINS, 16, SPEAK AT A BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY IN JUNE 2020, FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD.

Video filmed by Geneva Taylor, Community Passageways
[I feel] deeply troubled about the way Black people have been treated in America. Hopeful that these protests are a national conversation that will lead to real change.

— Rachel McElhanan, 43

Photos by Greg Thornton
The time is long past where anyone can act it does not impact us all, in different ways we are hit with different drops of rain, the drops of change. No matter where we stand, what drops they be, we must no longer passively stand but actively stand along side.

This has been a march covering thousands of miles, hundreds of years, good people exhausted and as allies it’s time we take our fresh legs, grab on to the burden and carry it on this journey. Let those who have been oppressed rest, catch their breath, heal, and have time to just be whatever they need to be. And do. And say.

Provide room, we aren’t here to take up space but to bolster numbers and amplify the voices. To apologize that it took hundreds of years, thousands upon thousands of once Beautiful but now bodies, millions and billions of ignored cries for help for us to be so late.

Nothing will atone for this disregard for their humanity, but we must try. ATONEMENT is not an apology to expunge the white guilt of us allies, but to undo the wrongs our ancestors have done and the transgressions we have been apart of.

We are late, and for that I am sorry. But we are not much too late to make that change.

Every step in the journey is the step in the right direction. Even if it is late. But let it not be the only step.

Let the weight of their wait for us propel us to our next step to better.

For America to finally be what it pretends to be.

- Shelby Bryant
Click the image to watch Lucera Whitmore draw George Floyd, urging us to continue saying their names.
I have turned to art to help process and express my devastation and the anger I feel. Black people have been deprived of the basic human right to live. Our systems of protection have been derived from systems of control and exploitation of Black and Brown people, and thus, do anything but protect. Slavery, lynching and Jim Crow are all present today. They have been redesigned and packaged into our criminal justice systems to continue the enslavement, persecution and disregard for Black lives. Reform for our criminal justice system does not begin to address the racially corrupted roots that are deeply embedded in every aspect of this system.

– MASAMI O’MALLEY
Photos by Greg Thornton
RACISM IS A PANDEMIC, TOO.

I started making this piece as a sign in the midst of the pandemic and beginning of the protests, as a drawing on cardboard.

The original piece shows more detail and shading, and the lines make it look like George Floyd is imprisoned. I also attached a few photos of the t-shirts I am making using screenprinting. I felt powerful and a part of something bigger than me when I was making this piece.

- GRACE PRICHARD
I Pledge Allegiance
To the flag of the
United States of
America
And to all people
For which we stand.
United and equal, indivisible.
E pluribus unum.
With liberty and justice
For all
BLACK LIVES MATTER.
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