

# A Nationwide Coalition of Art Exhibitions on the State of the American Political Scene, Fall 2008. [www.artofdemocracy.org](http://www.artofdemocracy.org)

## Art of Democracy Newsletter December, 2007

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The Art of Democracy (AOD) is a national coalition of political art exhibitions all taking place in the Fall of 2008 on the State of the American Political Scene. We chose this time when the nation is particularly politically aware to bring into focus overlooked and underrepresented voices and views on the state of politics, and the state of democracy today.

The web site [www.artofdemocracy.org](http://www.artofdemocracy.org) contains an outline of the coalition and will expand to cover all of the associated exhibitions. Each exhibition will be promoted through the website as well as through other local and national media. A national coalition will have more chance of penetrating the barriers against alternate voices. A coalition of exhibitions will increase the visibility of all.

The coalition is growing: we now have more than ten exhibitions scheduled, and are seeking new partners and venues, whether at museums or art centers or galleries or cafés. Several other groups are currently searching for venues. These are all shows organized under the coalition of the Art of Democracy. There are no requirements to be a part of it, and no fees, The purpose is simple: organize a national (or even international) voice for political art and artists and amplify that voice by the multiple venues and artists all participating at the same time.

### *Monks in Burma. Lawyers in Pakistan. Artists in America.*

**Exhibition Updates:** [New York](#), [New England](#), [Midwest](#), [California](#)

This coalition is a web of organizers. The goal is to get the art world activated. Join us by contacting us at: [info@artofdemocracy.org](mailto:info@artofdemocracy.org)

#### **New York**

##### **Buffalo, NY**

Plans for a regional print media /poster /broadside exhibition are being explored by Adele Henderson. The geographic area for this exhibition will include artists living in upstate or western New York, the province of Ontario, Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Adele Henderson teaches in the Print Media program, at the Department of Visual Studies, University at Buffalo (SUNY). Adele Henderson [adeleh@buffalo.edu](mailto:adeleh@buffalo.edu)

##### **The National Arts Club, New York**

In New York City at The National Arts Club, the New York Society of Etchers will be hosting a print exhibition with works by New York based artist-printmakers who including participants in the original *Art of Persuasion* show, and new exhibitors, in a format that will resemble a traditional print 'salon'. Contact: [info@artofdemocracy.org](mailto:info@artofdemocracy.org)

#### **Midwest**

##### **The Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago**

The Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) exhibition of Art of Democracy will be a joint Chicago based printmaker and New York Society of Etchers presentation featuring approximately 60 works of art. Chicago print artists should contact [info@nysetchers.org](mailto:info@nysetchers.org) for more information about the organization of the LUMA show.

##### **Atrium Gallery, Ball State University, Muncie**

Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana will be jurying an exhibition drawn from artists from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. It will be open to all media. The exhibit will take place in October of 2008 at the Atrium Gallery in the art department of Ball State University. The show will include some work brought in from other shows in the coalition. Scott Anderson, is organizing the exhibit; he's a professor of painting at Ball State University. Contact: Scott Anderson [sanderso@bsu.edu](mailto:sanderso@bsu.edu)

##### **St. Louis, Missouri**

Artist Bunny Burson is organizing a show in St. Louis, MO. No venue has been determined yet. She is also talking to people in Arkansas, Tennessee, Washington, DC and Florida. If you'd like to help out in any of these areas contact her at [bcburson@charter.net](mailto:bcburson@charter.net)

#### **California**

##### **Meridian Gallery, San Francisco**

The Meridian Gallery, a non-profit gallery with a long history of exhibiting political art, and a central location



Frances Jetter © 2007

#### **On the Web**

Take a look at the [www.artofdemocracy.org](http://www.artofdemocracy.org) website for current AOD information. It is continually updated as new information arrives and new venues sign on.

#### **Political Art Image Forum**

An affiliated AOD website aspires to be a political art image base which will continue after the elections as a political art showcase:

[www.flickr.com/photos/art-of-democracy/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/art-of-democracy/)

All political art will be posted. The work on this site doesn't have to be scheduled to be in a particular show. Please send any web link you would like and whatever information should be included with the image. The contact for this is Art Hazelwood [arthur@arthazelwood.com](mailto:arthur@arthazelwood.com)  
Send as many images as you like.

#### **Sympathetic Exhibitions**

We know many artists and groups are organizing political art shows independent of the Art of Democracy. We also want to promote these exhibits. These shows are linked on the AOD website. Send us that information. Contact us at: [info@artofdemocracy.org](mailto:info@artofdemocracy.org)

#### **AOD Posters**

Posters are a big part of the Art of Democracy. Posters have the advantage of being street level, and in the public realm. They will also be the most enduring, part of the coalition.

The first posters for the coalition are being distributed. These posters promote the shows, encouraging political activism and putting out a

downtown, will be organizing an exhibition filling all three galleries in their space. Director Anne Brodzky will be working with Art Hazelwood and DeWitt Cheng to curate a show of powerful artwork in all media on the theme of War and Empire. The dates are Sept 4 – November 4, 2008, with an election night event on November 4. [www.meridiangallery.org](http://www.meridiangallery.org)

#### Delta Venus Café, Davis

A café show in the University town of Davis, California will be held at the Delta Venus Café. Francisco Dominguez is the principle organizer. If you are in the Davis area contact him. Francisco Dominguez is working to organize exhibitions with artists and communities along the US Mexico border. Francisco is a photographer and screenprint artist whose work often focuses on the border. Contact: Francisco Dominguez [fotowaddle@gmail.com](mailto:fotowaddle@gmail.com)

#### San Francisco Center for the Book ([www.sfcbook.org](http://www.sfcbook.org)) & African American Museum & Library at Oakland ([www.oaklandlibrary.org/AAMLO](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/AAMLO))

These two venues are holding an exhibition titled *Banned & Recovered: Artists Respond to Censorship*. The show seeks to address attacks on freedom of expression and freedom of access to certain works of literature. Events such as panel discussions, and films will be coordinated with other Bay Area Art of Democracy venues. This show is by invitation of the curator, Hanna Regev, [rgv18@pacbell.net](mailto:rgv18@pacbell.net)

#### Front Gallery, Oakland

The Front Gallery's director Bob Jew will be exhibiting a show of Art Hazelwood's work along with posters from the Art of Democracy coalition. Art Hazelwood's political artwork has focused on the Iraq War and economic injustice. [www.frontgalleryoakland.com](http://www.frontgalleryoakland.com)

### New England

#### Library Gallery, University of Rhode Island, Kingston

The University of Rhode Island, Kingston is planning an Art of Democracy exhibition in the Library Gallery for October of 2008. The exhibition will draw on artists in the area. The exhibition is being organized by Sarina Wyant of Special Collections and Karen Ramsay of the Department of Technical Services. Contact: Sarina Wyant [srw@uri.edu](mailto:srw@uri.edu) or Karen Ramsay [karenr@uri.edu](mailto:karenr@uri.edu)

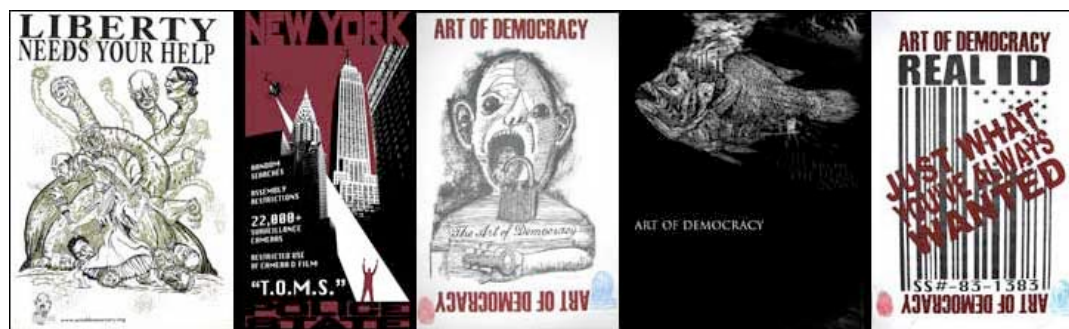
Sarina Wyant writes

Please respond if you are interested in working with me on the URI exhibit or if you wish to mount an exhibit at your gallery; feel free to pass this on to other colleagues, artists, and curators for participation at their respective venues.

#### New England (Northern Sector)

David Berona, author and curator, is looking to organize a northern New England response, with an exhibition of artwork from New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Contact: David Berona [daberona@plymouth.edu](mailto:daberona@plymouth.edu)

Several other locales have expressed an interest. We encourage artists — as well as curators, librarians, and gallery directors — to adopt a Do-It-Yourself stance in this time of political and social crisis. Monks stood up in Burma. Lawyers stood up in Pakistan. Will artists in America?



political message. They will be shared whenever feasible among all the participating groups and shows for exhibition and distribution purposes. If you want to start working on a poster for your exhibition there is a link on our website to a high resolution copy of the AOD; logo which we encourage you to use. Once you get started on organizing send us an email to request for Art of Democracy posters. We'll forward that request to everyone who is making posters.

Ideally, every venue will be creating posters to exchange with other venues, offering creative exchange between artists in different cities, and increased exposure for the artwork. In New York, Chicago and the San Francisco Bay Area venues will show all the posters made. Other venues may also want to include some or all of the posters.

#### Creating an AOD Poster

Every venue for an Art of Democracy exhibition is encouraged to create one or more posters both for their own use and for national distribution. The guidelines for the posters are available on the website at [www.artofdemocracy.org](http://www.artofdemocracy.org)

Current examples of posters already in distribution can be seen on the Art of Democracy website [www.artofdemocracy.org/posters.htm](http://www.artofdemocracy.org/posters.htm)

#### Poster Distribution

Any poster campaign is only as good as its distribution, so we are developing a distribution network. Those who know of cafes, or art galleries or public spaces in their local community are encouraged to sign up to become an Art of Democracy poster distributor. Email us at [info@artofdemocracy.org](mailto:info@artofdemocracy.org)

### How it works – Art of Democracy

#### What the Coalition will do for the Venues

The Art of Democracy web site will list all shows that are part of the coalition and promote them to national media. The New York organizers will be working on national promotion. Stephen Fredericks, the director of the New York Society of Etchers is focusing on the national media campaign. The web site will feature every show in the coalition with pages about the show. The site can also provide a vehicle for outreach for venues who may want to solicit work for a particular show.

#### What the Venues will do for the Coalition

Each show in the coalition should list the Art of Democracy web site and use the title and the show's logo in some way in

promoting the exhibition. Most of the venues will be featuring primarily art by local artists. However many of the venues will also include work by artists in other shows in the coalition. The exchange of artwork between shows is completely up to each venue. The web site can help facilitate this. An image database is up at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/art-of-democracy/> which can be used to find artwork for the shows if desired. The coalition will encourage artists to create posters for the exhibition that can be exchanged between all the venues.

Each exhibition is organized according to the needs of that venue. The overall coalition is not acting as a local organizer, but as a promoter. The coalition members though are available to help any local organizers. Some shows are juried, some are curated, some are open calls. Some venues are limited to certain media, some are open to all media. Some will feature the work of artists from other areas some will focus on local artists only. The decisions are up to the local venue.

[www.artofdemocracy.org](http://www.artofdemocracy.org)