

A Nationwide Coalition of Art Exhibitions on the State of the American Political Scene, Fall 2008. www.artofdemocracy.org

Art of Democracy Newsletter October, 2007

The Art of Democracy, a national coalition of political art exhibitions being planned for the Fall of 2008, is gathering momentum. We now have exhibitions in various stages of development for New York, all of New England, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and both Northern and Southern California. More information on each of the venues below. We are currently expanding the www.artofdemocracy.org web site to include information about all the venues and activities.

Exhibition Updates

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

In **San Francisco** the [Meridian Gallery](http://www.meridiangallery.org), a non-profit gallery with a long history of exhibiting political art, and a very central location in San Francisco, 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.
www.meridiangallery.org

In **New York City** the [National Arts Club](http://www.nationalartsclub.org) where the whole idea began, will be hosting a print exhibition with works by New York based artist-printmakers who (including participants in the original Art of Persuasion show, (with new work), and many new exhibitors in a format that will more resemble a traditional print 'salon'.) Contact: info@artofdomcracy.org

Ball State University in **Muncie, Indiana** will be jurying an exhibition from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, 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. Scott Anderson, is organizing the exhibit. The show will include some work brought in from other shows in the coalition. Scott is a professor of painting at Ball



Frances Jetter © 2007

Political image base being developed www.flickr.com/photos/14171155@N08/

We will be adding work to it all the time. The work on this site need only be political, it doesn't have to be scheduled to be in a particular show. Send us your work. Contact: Art Hazelwood
arthur@arthazelwood.com

Fellow Travelers Welcome

We also want to promote groups and individuals who are organizing shows independent of the Art of Democracy. Fellow Travelers will be linked to on the www.artofdemocracy.org web site. Send us that information. Contact us at: info@artofdemocracy.org

Poster Development

The coalition of exhibits is developing posters to promote the shows, to encourage the idea of political activism in general and to put out a particular political message. These posters will be shared among all the participating groups and shows for exhibition and distribution purposes whenever possible. If you want to start working on a poster there is a link on our website to a high resolution copy

State University his large scale paintings are satirical portrayals of the Bush Administration and lackeys. Contact: Scott Anderson sanderso@bsu.edu

The **University of Rhode Island, Kingston** is planning an Art of Democracy exhibition in their [library gallery](#). The exhibition will draw on artists in the area. The exhibition is being organized by Sarina Wyant of Head of Special Collections and Karen Ramsay, Head of Monographic Acquisitions and Copy Cataloging. Contact: Sarina Wyant srw@uri.edu or Karen Ramsay karenr@uri.edu

Francisco Dominguez is well on the way to organizing an exhibition in **San Diego** that will include artwork from San Diego and Tijuana. He is also working to get other artists and communities along the US Mexico border to host exhibitions. Francisco is a photographer and screenprint artist whose work often focuses on the border. Contact: Francisco Dominguez fotowaddle@gmail.com

In **Oakland, California**, the Front Gallery and director Bob Jew will be joining in the effort with a show of Art Hazelwood's work. Art Hazelwood's political artwork has focused on the Iraq War and economic injustice. Additionally posters from the Art of Democracy coalition will be featured at the gallery. www.frontgalleryoakland.com

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

There are several others that have expressed an interest in participating. Keep in mind that this is not about holding out the begging bowl to be in an exhibition. Rather, this is about artists, curators, librarians, gallery directors all together taking a stand.

of the Art of Democracy logo (top) which we encourage you to use.

A detailed description of the Coalition – Art of Democracy

The Art of Democracy is a nationwide coalition of political art shows that will all take place in the Fall of 2008 during the run up to the presidential elections. 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 contains an outline of the coalition and will expand to cover all of the associated exhibitions. Each exhibition will be promoted through the web site as well as through other media nationally and locally. This national coalition is thought to have more chance of penetrating the barriers against alternate voices. A coalition of exhibitions can increase the visibility of all.

Currently we have four venues committed to the exhibition in NYC, Chicago, Oakland, San Francisco. Four others are in preliminary planning - Indiana, Rhode Island, San Diego and New Hampshire. We are talking with other venues around the United States and in other countries as well. These are all shows organized under the coalition of the Art of Democracy. There are no requirements in order to be a part of it, no fees, nothing like that. The purpose is simple – Organize a national voice for political art and artists and amplify that voice by the multiple venues and artists all participating at the same time.

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 President 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 could also provide a vehicle for outreach to artists who may want to submit work to particular shows.

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. All 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 web site can help facilitate this. An image database will be up soon on Flickr.com. The coalition will also be encouraging artists to create posters for the exhibition that can be exchanged between all the venues. Each venue is encouraged to create posters/prints for this purpose.

All the exhibitions are 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 happy to help any local organizers who need help in any way. 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

www.nysetchers.org