THE ART OF A POLITICAL REVOLUTION ARTISTS FOR BERNIE SANDERS 2016
“Shortly after I was elected Mayor of Burlington, Vermont, I helped create the Burlington Arts Council, hoping to unleash the creativity of our residents and harness the untold benefits that investment in the arts brings to communities. At that time, way back when, it was almost unheard of to have a municipally supported and funded effort to promote the arts. We brought the arts to underserved communities and brought the arts to neighborhood parks. We collaborated with our schools, recognizing that a strong introduction to the arts fuels the imagination and teaches children to be expressive. We supported street murals, performance art, and music festivals that captured the distinct character of our city. And when I look back on my eight years as mayor, founding the Burlington Arts Council was one of my proudest achievements. I’m even more proud that the effort not only continues today, but has grown in ways that we could not even have imagined in the early 1980s.

I have continued my long-standing commitment to the arts and an arts education during my time in Congress, in spite of terrible attacks on the arts from conservative ideologues. You have my promise that, as president, I will be an arts president. I will continue to advocate strongly for robust funding of the arts in our cities, schools, and public spaces. Art is speech, art is what life is about.”

- Senator Bernie Sanders to the Arts Action Fund, September 2015
“People over power, putting the power back in the people's hands. People power.”
"Bernie restored my faith in the existence of politicians who work for the good of someone other than themselves. With him, we can sort out our society, so that we can finally achieve humanity’s destiny—to ascend to the stars."
"We must fight the greed of the powerful and restore the basic fairness of our society and our democracy. The most crucial step in fighting against political corruption and forcing politicians to get back to creating the greatest good for the greatest number of people is to reform our current campaign-finance structure. This piece is specifically making fun of the idea pushed by Citizens United that money is speech, but following that logic that means that the only speech listened to is the speech with big money behind it."
Artist: Ron English

Title: Empower US

"A map of an empowered United States."
"This piece was created early on in Sanders's campaign to finally have a piece of artwork that shows him as the thoughtful and captivating figure he is."
America is standing out for all the wrong reasons. Violence, racial and gender injustices, political and corporate corruption, debt-inducing education, and unprogressive health-care systems. Leaders cannot be trusted, choosing to make decisions fueled by ignorance, money, or hatred.

A slight word change and color swap are meant to convey the antithesis of Trump’s well-known campaign slogan. We need leaders like Bernie Sanders who have a history of compassion. Loose, hand-done type and acrylic spray are common in my work, but I also liked that it feels authentic to the underground movement that is the backbone of Bernie’s 2016 campaign.”
"This work is about the American woman and her power to decide. It's simply crazy that in the 40+ years since Roe v. Wade, a woman's right to govern the natural functioning of her own body remains open for political debate. Choice is the divine right of each woman. Period. Bernie 2016."
"My daughter was born a few weeks ago and this piece represents my perspective on how fragile things can be—not just her, but the environment around us. The wings in the image represent carrying and helping those in need to higher heights—those who are fragile and could collapse at any moment."
Artist: Bryan Blue

Title: This Is A Painting About Police Brutality

“The piece is about police brutality in America. I use it to display different ideas of decay and preservation. The piece was inspired by the things I’ve seen growing up these past 28 years in America.”
"I shot this photo when I was in my first photo class. It was January 18th, 1992. A group of friends went to protest a Ku Klux Klan rally on Martin Luther King Day in Downtown Denver. What started off as heckling protest turned into a riot with everyone from all walks of life—hippies, skaters, punk rockers, and gangsters running the Klan out of town. It did also get pretty crazy when the crowd wasn’t feeling the police because they were protecting these racists, so cop cars were over-turned and smashed. Then came the tear gas and it was over for me, but the crazy thing I forgot to say was I was 15 years old when I shot this."
Artist, Josh Maupin
Title, Dotty Loves Bernie

“The print Dotty Loves Bernie is an illustration of my character Dotty thinking about all the issues Bernie expresses in his campaign.”
In Bernie’s own words: ‘The government of the US belongs to ALL of us, not just a handful of wealthy campaign contributors. Let’s understand that when we stand together, we will always win. When men and women stand together for justice, we win. When black, white, and Hispanic people stand together for justice, we win.’"
"The Great Outdoors deals with income inequality. The inspiration comes from one of the hundreds of homeless encampments, or tent cities, that have popped up in Los Angeles in the past year. Just north of the 110 outside of downtown Los Angeles lies a row of tents and makeshift shelters precariously nestled alongside lanes of whizzing cars, set before a backdrop of towering glass skyscrapers that represent a financial America that will never be accessible to those living in the tents. These people have been relegated to an existence of living and surviving outside, however they can. I’ve been living in Los Angeles for a decade and have never seen so many homeless people living in so many places throughout the city. Always rows of alternating tents and blue cardboard tarp structures. What is really different this year is that these tent cities have seemed to become more permanent fixtures. Each time I see these tent cities, I’m reminded of the growing income inequality in America and the disappearance of our middle class. I also lament the loss of jobs and work in America due to the great recession and the long-running trend of shipping jobs and manufacturing overseas. Now, more than ever, the failure of our society lies visible for us to acknowledge and act upon."
Artist_Amanda Marsalis

Title_Self Portrait

“So much of my work is personal. When I think of Bernie, I keep coming back to this self-portrait. Because it is my own life that will be affected the most if Bernie becomes president.”

Artist_Charlie Becker

Title_99 Problems (Bein' Rich Ain't One)

“We hear a lot about the 1%, but we used to just call them Fat Cats. They control an increasing share of wealth, while the rest of us are just told to “Hang in there, baby” and wait in vain for the prosperity to trickle down. Income inequality is at the heart of all the other problems we are trying to solve—it needs to be addressed if we hope to make gains in other areas.”
“Bernie Sanders exemplifies qualities that are not normally associated with mainstream politics or establishment politicians. He’s been a consistent voice for fairness, justice, and positivity for over 30 years. While mayor of Burlington, Vermont, he allowed for a certain kind of autonomy for the youth to create their own space, and with his wife, Jane, he created the Mayor’s Youth Office. While most of the country was clutching their pearls and scoffing at the burgeoning punk scenes popping up everywhere, Sanders encouraged kids to open 242 Main, a youth center and all-ages music venue. The DIY hardcore scene that flourished there was an instrumental node in the growing movement that connected politically minded kids across the nation and across borders, in an age before the Internet.

I came of age in the DIY punk scene of the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, and it helped make me who I am. I’ve always been proud that I contributed to something so positive and powerful, which is still alive and thriving today. Bernie Sanders is the first presidential candidate that could conceivably be considered an honorary member of that scene, whose values and conduct are emblematic of a movement that strives to promote honesty, integrity, and self-reliance.

I created this piece as an homage to Bernie, in the style of a show poster you might have found in your back pocket after a great night, something you might tack up on your wall as a souvenir, and something to look forward to—the next righteous show.”
Artist_Erin Garcia
Title_Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

“I’m not going after specific campaign issues with my posters. Bernie’s smiling face is enough for me. All these years, he’s stood for integrity, straightforwardness, and an uncompromising fight for the little guy. And yet, sadly, that’s rare. There’s some grit to the guy, and battle scars to boot. That’s so refreshing in a world of rat-faced, orange-tanned, disingenuous, pandering, blowhard, aloof, fear-mongering candidates. Bernie tells it like it is, and that’s enough for me.”
Canadians understand poor leadership; we’ve overcome a decade’s worth. The United States belongs to the people, and should be led by them—not corporations. No one can buy Bernie Sanders, but you can vote for him.
"One of things that really saddens us is to watch the dismantling of the middle class in the United States. To see more and more wealth absorbed by the wealthiest 1% and, especially during the recovery, most of the new income going to the wealthiest of Americans while the rest of the population’s wages stagnate or even drop is scary. Our economic system is so out of balance and cannot remain viable, and the signs of its collapse are everywhere. However, if greed is the dominant value of those in power, the majority of the population will be squeezed until there is nothing left of us. Bernie Sanders appeals to us because he actually understands this, recognizes where the problems lie, and has specific ideas on ways to bring more prosperity to the other 99%.”
Artist: Donny Miller
Title: Super Bernie

“This piece was inspired by superhero art created during the Bronze Age of Comic Books.”
WE ARE ALL ON THIS ISLAND TOGETHER.

Artist: Jeremyville
Title: We're All On this Island Together

"The aim of my pieces is to connect with people, to provide a moment of stillness during our fast-paced lives, and to cut through the noise of the barrages of images we receive online daily."
Nowhere Fast, 2016, reflects on the nomad architects of the west. Tipping its hat to the Austrian architect (Neutra) who brought his stark organization to the California coast, reshaping the landscape perched amid vistas of this mysterious, lawless, undeveloped region generally regarded as the Wild West. Gunn Becker utilizes the air-pump hose replacement to address and resolve deep-seated issues with concepts of production and consumption. Recalling a time when resourcefulness and thrift were valued, Gunn Becker incessantly refuses to discard the perfectly well-functioning air pump and instead sources the interchangeable replacement hose for a more common yet non-compatible pump, urgently seeking a resolution that does not add more factory waste to the world landfill. This only culminates with the additional assistance of a found racket grip and a used zip-tie by which the artist favors a system defined by his own law, in an action that is neither vengeful nor grandiose, he exercises his capacity to engage in social themes pertaining to change.
Artist_ Hayley Starr
Title_ Bernie's Smile

"There is an underappreciated honesty in Bernie's smile.
The child is a familiar symbol of our future; she represents our fate."

Artist_ Saelee Oh
Title_ Planet Earth

"This is my depiction of planet Earth with a toxic, polluted ecosystem and the threat of extinction to more of our animals due to human irresponsibility and political negligence. Being proactive about environmental issues should be a priority for the future happiness and health for our country and all of our global neighbors."
“I made my first Bernie art, a Vermont Bernie license plate, in 2010. Like Bernie, I am a resident of Burlington, Vermont, and I have followed him since he was the mayor here. I have not exactly been what I would call a very political person, but since Bernie started running, that has changed. I think he has a lot of integrity as well as some really great ideas. So it is a pleasure to start making more Bernie license plates because I am more than ready for a revolution state to state.”
“Together: I think the word really sums up the Bernie Sanders campaign. Together, the majority of us are being pressed on all sides. Pressed by the unhealthy influence that big money exerts in the halls of government...a government that’s supposed to belong to us. Pressed by the growing inequalities in wealth and the need for a decent living wage in exchange for fair work. Pressed by the corporate-industrial greed that continues to abuse our planet, progressively damaging its ability to sustain various forms of life. Pressed by a variety of institutions and individuals whose primary aim is to keep us divided into hostile camps, not talking to each other...not listening to each other.

Together, we can unite behind a candidate who would speak truth to power and represent a movement that's intent on upholding the ideals of fairness, equality, and compassion. This growing movement of people understands the need for a critical reexamination into how we’ve been doing things and how we care about our communities, our planet, and each other. We need bold leadership to voice and address these concerns in the highest levels of our government. A voice that comes from you and me. I'm supporting Bernie.”
Artist: Heidi Hartwig

"In my years of traveling across America capturing images of everyday folks, these images have always stood out to me the most. What I love about Bernie Sanders is that he’s fighting and advocating today, and has been always throughout his entire career, for everyday Americans, like the folks shown here."
"I feel like I’ve spent my whole life trying to stand up for the underdog, those who couldn’t defend themselves, or those who needed a leg up. This time around I’m standing up for a hero. Back in June, I started reading about Bernie Sanders and started mocking up some ideas here and there over the next few months. In August, I had some work to finish and no new projects, so I worked exclusively on those and two Bernie Sanders pieces. At some point, I got in touch with the campaign and got some positive feedback and I kept trucking.

I’m thrilled to be a small part of a big thing, and I’m ecstatic to support a man who is giving this country and ALL of its people a reason to cheer and hope. Bernie is a man who is looking out for our futures, who is actually trying to build a better country for all of the people, not just the corporations and the extremely wealthy.

As far as I’m concerned, he’s the first person running for president in a long time who has the best interests of America at heart and powerful ideas that can not only create positive change but also, as demonstrated, inspire a nation of people to know that they are important and they have a say."
Artist_Tyler Gibney
Title_Gun America

“This image was originally done in 2002 for our Political Minded series of art exhibitions as a commentary on gun culture and, more specifically, the gun violence in America. Many times since then I have wished to retire this image, but sadly, as demonstrated recently in Newtown, Virginia Tech, Aurora, Tucson, Charleston, Santa Barbara, Oak Creek, San Bernardino, and Roseburg, Oregon, this graphic is getting more relevant every day.”

Artist_Sven Barth
Title_Position E

“This drawing is the American electorate, disconnected while connected. Alone in a crowd.”
“Bernie’s campaign is not just Bernie’s campaign. It’s OUR campaign. It’s the campaign of the people, coming together to create positive change. And in corporation-owned politics where the right person is not always put in charge, a little good luck can go a long way.

When you make a fist and then lift your thumb, you turn a symbol of strength into a symbol of optimism. Bernie represents the power of unity to create positive change.”
Artist_Patrick Martinez

Title_Po-lice 4

Martinez chose to turn to his own artistic dash cam to focus on the never-ending
reports of police brutality that have come to light over the past few years.
Taking on the ultra-American Pee Chee folders, Martinez replaces typical American
imagery with illustrations that accurately depict the deathly racial situation in
America right now: police brutality and misconduct. “The original Pee Chee folders
had a theme of youth and sports,” says Martinez. “I’m switching that all-American
sports scene with real situations.”
Bernie is very passionate about the issues facing our country. This poster aims to portray Bernie solely through his iconic and expressive hands. You feel as if you are standing on stage next to him, hearing him address the American people.
"Bernie is a candidate of the people; this is not just his campaign but all of ours, and he emphasizes togetherness to create change. This graphic interprets the duality of Bernie's ideology. He looks at issues from the point of view of the people, not just the politician. We are all Bernie and Bernie is all of us."
"The concept behind the work is subtle but provocative. The multiracial girl is holding a small rose bush that is withering and needs to be nurtured and replanted. The leaves loosely resemble the outline of the U.S. and the roses, although looking dry and withered, are red, white and blue.

The feeling behind the piece is a need to begin replanting at the roots of the country. The girl holds the top of the roots tenderly as though saying a prayer, and the two other hands cupping the roots at the bottom are those of the parents, symbolizing stability and unity of family. The hands are tough working-class hands, worn and strong, having physically dug the hole, they are replanting the rose, starting afresh, and building a new solid foundation for healthy growth.

I feel the piece not only attends to the environmental issues of healing and nurturing, but could also represent social and economic regrowth.

It was important to depict the figures ‘hands on’ and down and closely connected to the earth, grounded and physically doing the work to show that only through effort and the responsible action of every individual citizen, unified and all inclusive, will positive change be accomplished."
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In Solidarity,

Luis Calderin
Arts, Culture & Youth Vote Manager
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