

Arts & Ideas

The New York Times



The Arts of Protest: Creative Cultural Resistance



Nadine Bloch for the
International Center on
Nonviolent Conflict



The Arts of Protest: Cultural Resistance

The broad use of arts, literature, and traditional practices to challenge or fight unjust or oppressive systems and/or power holders within the context of nonviolent actions, campaigns and movements.

Why study Cultural Resistance?

***To broaden understanding of the use of CuR within Civil Resistance**

***To identify and analyze strategic functions of CuR.**

***To increase the capacity and effectiveness of the use of cultural activity/arts in organizing, mobilizing, and accomplishing nonviolent direct actions.**

Borne in Effigy

If Protest Is Theater, Its Biggest Actors Are Puppets

By PHILIP KENNIGOTT
Washington Post Staff Writer

Near the front of the tens of thousands of antiwar marchers heading north on 17th Street Saturday was a gauzy Madonna (with dead child), the mother's body mounted on a shopping cart, her arms manipulated with broomsticks. Shortly after came a bulbous-headed George W. Bush, with a hawkish beak of a nose and a bomb cradled in his right hand. And then a weeping woman, an image borrowed from Picasso's "Guernica," her head craned back at a painfully impossible angle, her mouth open as if she's catching raindrops and screaming at the sky simultaneously.

If not a huge display of puppetry, it was a representative one. The Madonna belongs to Marianne Ross, a puppetmaker from Bethesda who works regularly with the granddaddy of political puppet companies, the Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater. The Guernica puppet was made by the husband-and-wife team of Marco Giammetti and Carol Hendrickson from Freehold, N.J. It harks back, says Giammetti, to the European tradition of large masks and puppets used during Carnival celebrations. And the George Bush figure was made by a guy from Bryn Mawr, Pa., with no particular background in the form.

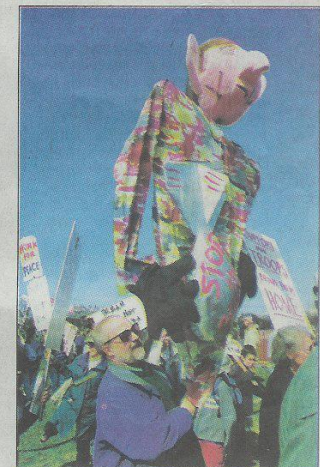
"My daughter told me to do a puppet," says Hank Wilson, holding Bush low around the president's magenta, gray and yellow camouflage pattern drapery that forms its midriff. "Because it's fun."

See PUPPETS, C2, Col. 1



PHOTOS BY LARRY MORRIS—THE WASHINGTON POST

Saturday's march brought out "Another Mother for Peace" made by Marianne Ross, dressed in red above. Hank Wilson, right, hoists his large-eared caricature of President Bush.

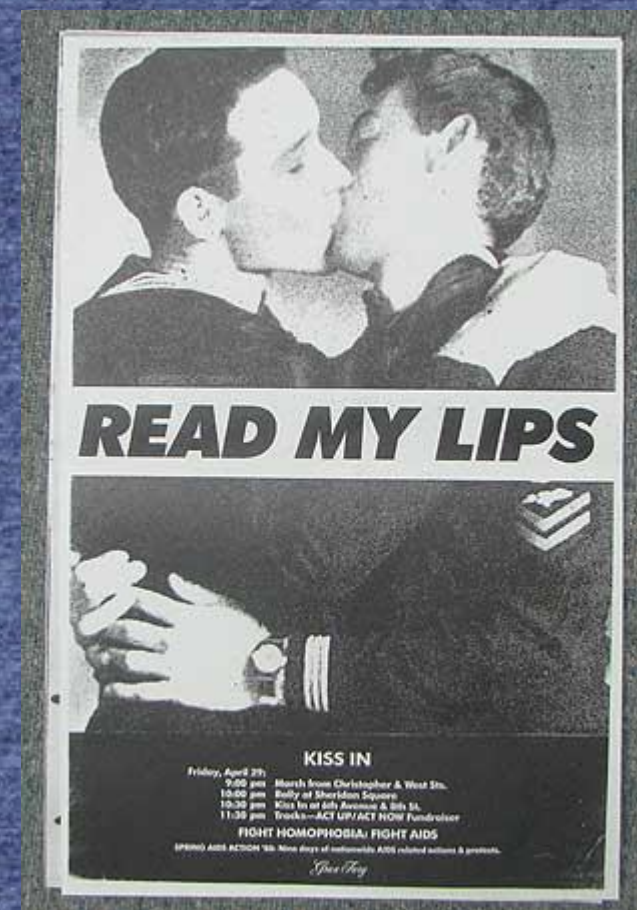




Categories of Cultural Resistance Work

- 1. 2-D arts**
- 2. 3-D arts**
- 3. Sound/Music**
- 4. Theater**
- 5. Movement/Dance**
- 6. Media/Documentation**
- 7. Traditional Crafts**
- 8. Language preservation**
- 9. Literature/Writing**
- 10. Delineation of Space**
- 11. Traditional Ritual/Celebration**
- 12. Cultural Institution Building**

2-D Art



Act Up posters,
USA, 1980's

Otpor!
Serbia, 2001



3-D Art



Bread and Puppet Theatre, 2008



Greenpeace Human Banner, 2004



Gigantonas, Grenada Nicaragua

Sound/Music



Somali Protest Poetry



**Plastic People of the Universe, Czech
1977**



Drum Circles, Congo Square, LA 2008

Theatre



The Yes Men, 2009



Bread and Puppet Theater, 2008



Aarohan theater group, Nepal, 2008

Movement Dance



Salt March, India 1930

La Bomba, Puerto Rico

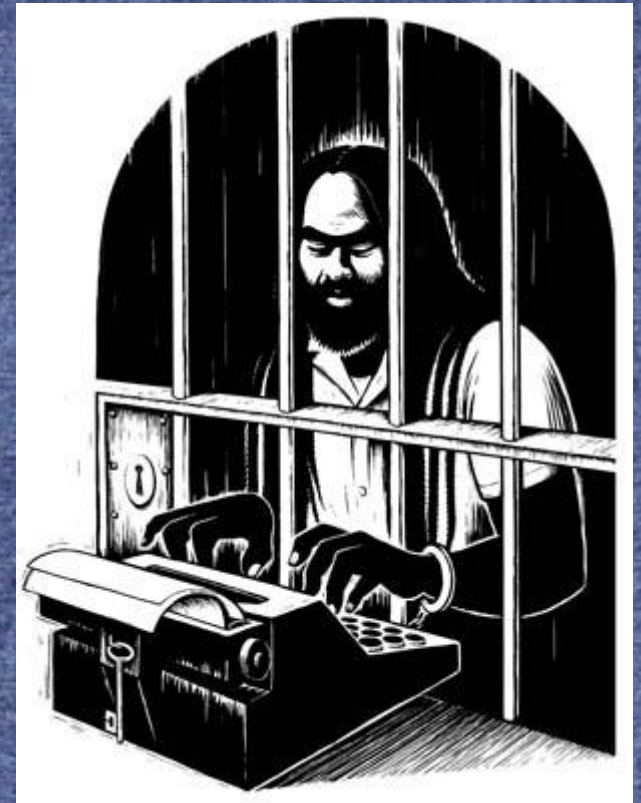


CIRCA Rebel Clown Army, UK, 2000

Media/Documentation



Indy Media



Mumia Abu-Jamal and
Prison Radio

Traditional Crafts



Khadi, Indian homespun fabric



Palestinian Traditional Dress

Language Preservation



**The Qiang people
of China**



**Shoshone-
Bannock Tribes**

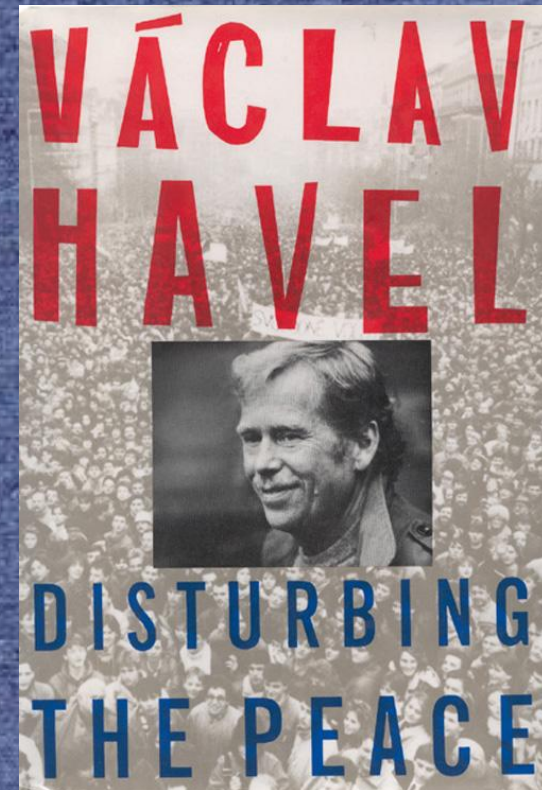
Literature/Writing



White Rose
Collective
Germany,
1940's



Yes Men Spoof, USA 2010



Czechoslovakia
autobiography

Delineation of Space



Peace Village, Burundi



Nuclear Weapon Free Zone



PARK(ing) Day, SF, USA 2005



Peace Garden, New Zealand

Traditional Ritual/Celebration

**ACT UP Funeral, Steve Michael,
1998**



**Feminist and Anti-
Occupation Seder Plate**

Cultural Institution Building

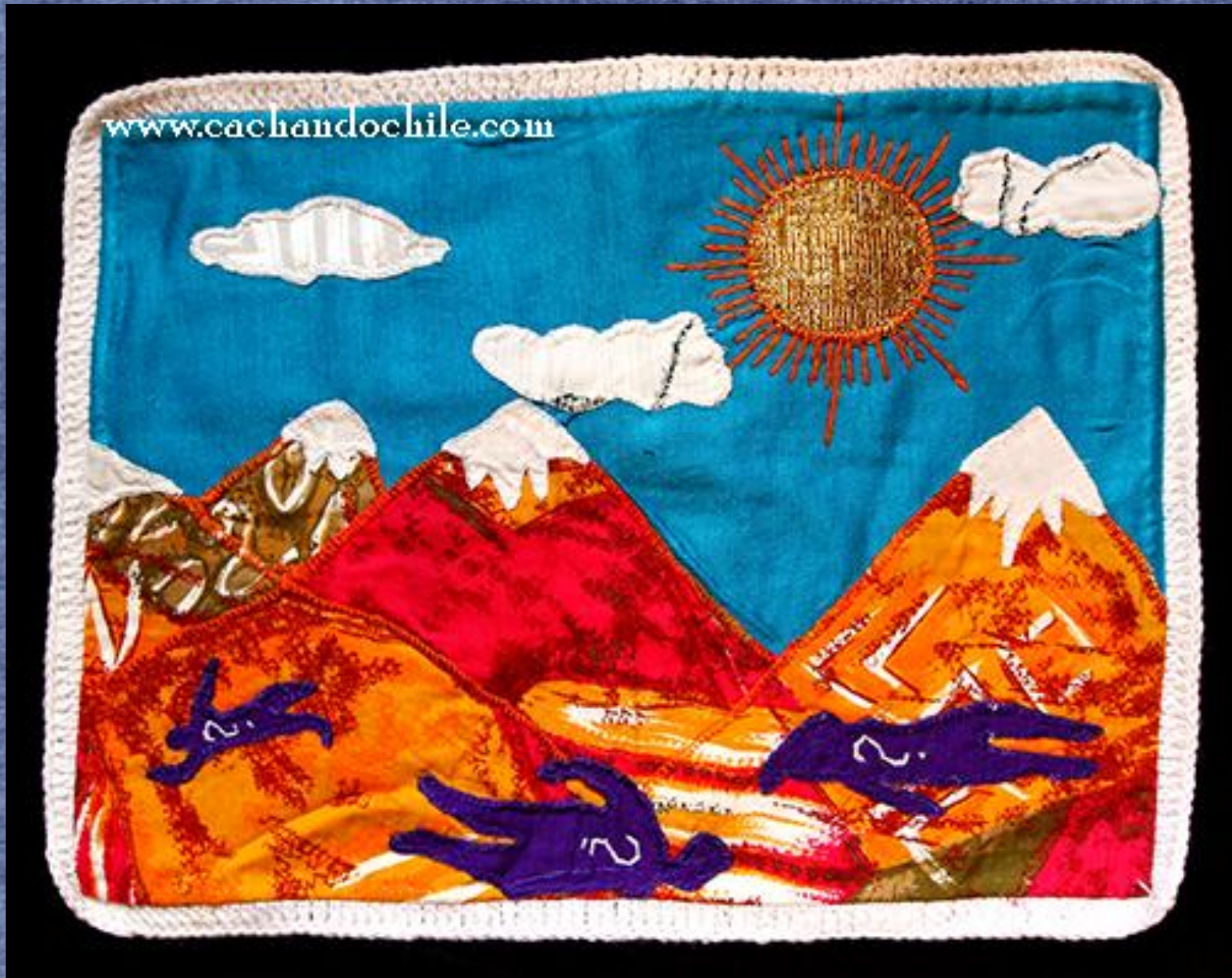
St. Joseph's Indian School,
South Dakota





Cultural Resistance Examples

- 1. Chile , Anti Authoritarian**
- 2. Palestine, Anti Occupation**
- 3. India, Anti Occupation**
- 4. Indonesia, Anti Corruption and Authoritarian**
- 5. USA, Rights**
- 6. South Africa, Rights**
- 7. Estonia, Anti Occupation**



Chile: Arpillera



La Cueca Sola



**Palestine,
Traditional
Dance Dabke,
Olive Harvest,
Hip Hop Group
DAM**



Palestine
Banksy,
2005



India: Homespun
and Salt



Indonesia: Shadow Puppets
Taring Padi





Indonesia: Taring Padi, Woodcut Prints



Woman House, CAL State, 1971

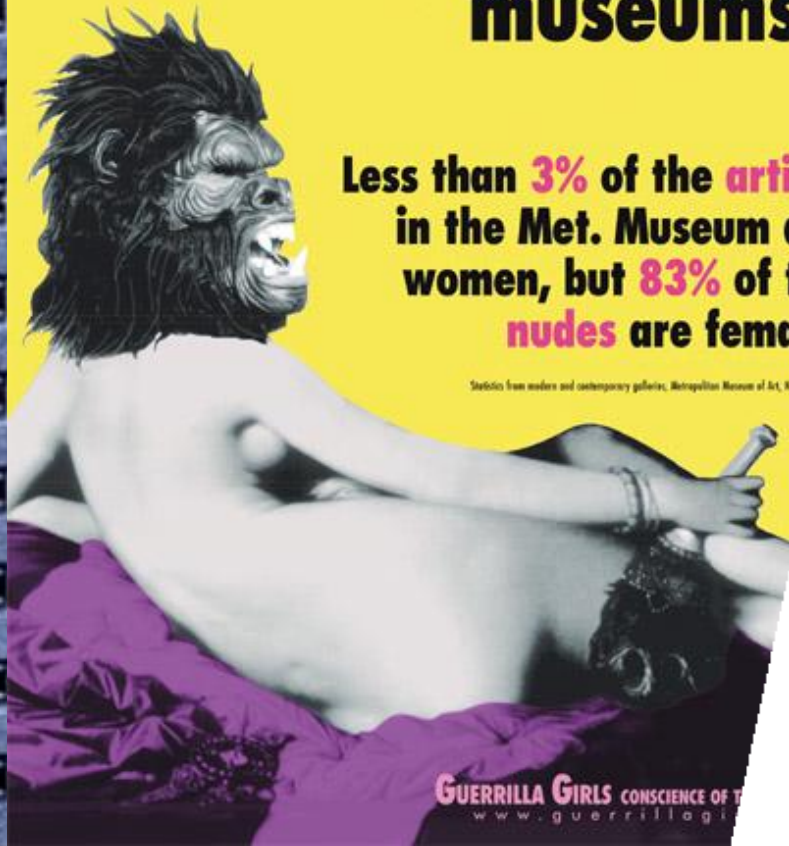
**The Dinner Party, 1972-74
USA**



Do women have to be naked to get into U.S. museums?

Less than **3%** of the **artists** in the Met. Museum are women, but **83%** of the **nudes** are female.

Statistics from modern and contemporary galleries, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD
www.guerrillagirls.com

Guerilla Girls, NYC 1985

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A WOMAN ARTIST:

- Working without the pressure of success*
- Not having to be in shows with men*
- Having an escape from the art world in your 4 free-lance jobs*
- Knowing your career might pick up after you're eighty*
- Being reassured that whatever kind of art you make it will be labeled feminine*
- Not being stuck in a tenured teaching position*
- Seeing your ideas live on in the work of others*
- Having the opportunity to choose between career and motherhood*
- Not having to choke on those big cigars or paint in Italian suits*
- Having more time to work when your mate dumps you for someone younger*
- Being included in revised versions of art history*
- Not having to undergo the embarrassment of being called a genius*
- Getting your picture in the art magazines wearing a gorilla suit*

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM **GUERRILLA GIRLS** CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD
WWW.GUERRILLAGIRLS.COM

**South Africa, Toyi Toyi
Funeral Procession
1970--80's**





**Estonia, Singing Revolution
1986-1991**



5 Strategic Function Categories of Cultural Resistance

Cultural Resistance can:

1. Motivate:

- *articulate a vision
- *provide psychological & emotional support
- *offer a framework for commitment

2. Promote Group Formation:

- *build group identity
- *create a container for consciousness raising and self recognition
- *establish group culture and values
- *encourage unity

3. Develop Cause Consciousness:

- *Increase effectiveness of internal and external education and public relations
- *Expand potential for political discourse
- *Undermine control of authorities



**SPIRIT
OF SEATTLE**

4. Create Space:

- *To self organize and ID leaders
- * To have political discourse
- * For opposition that can minimize the risk of oppression
- * To practice organizational development and self government

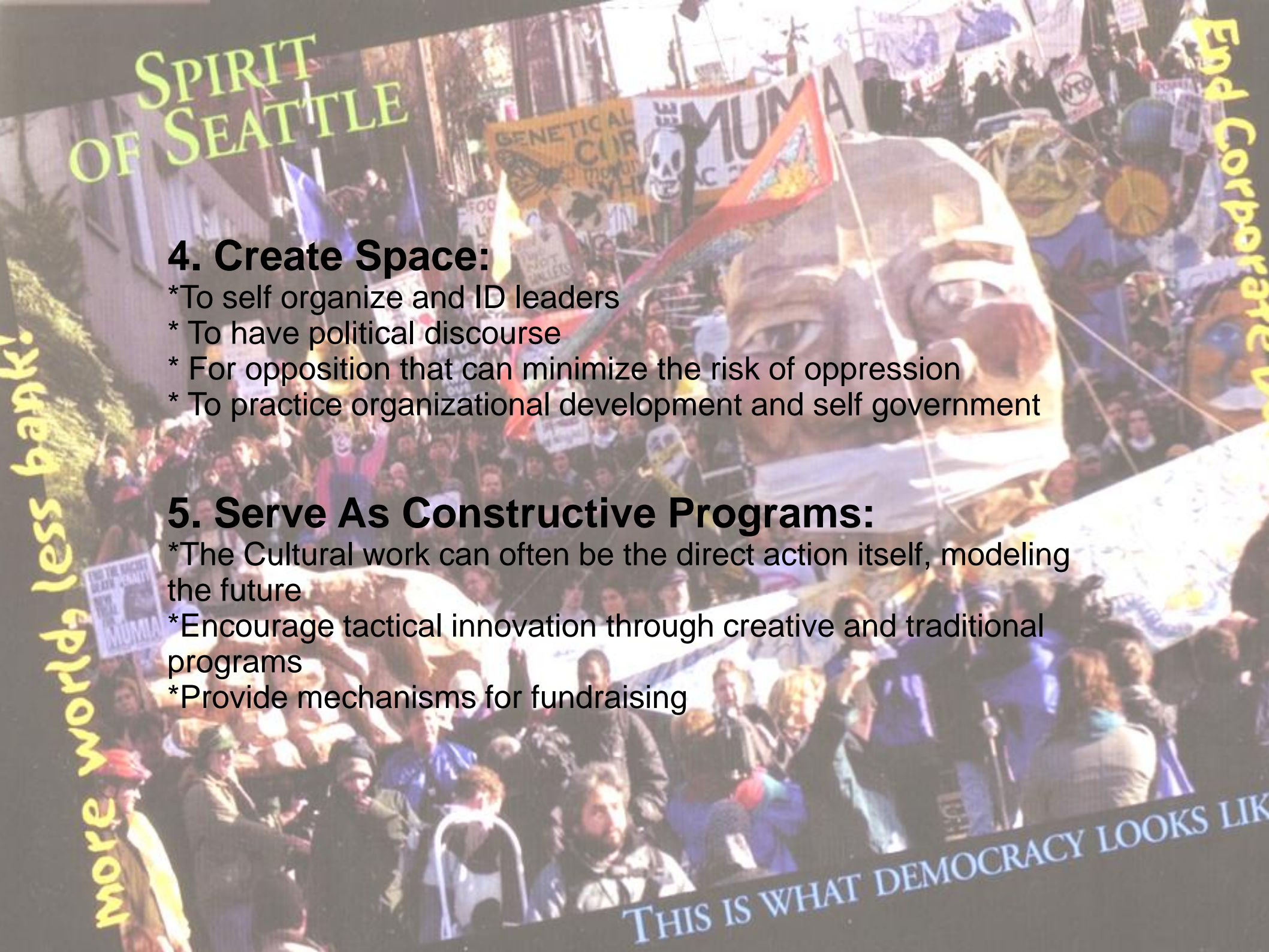
5. Serve As Constructive Programs:

- *The Cultural work can often be the direct action itself, modeling the future
- *Encourage tactical innovation through creative and traditional programs
- *Provide mechanisms for fundraising

more worlds, less bank!

End Corporate

THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE



**SPIRIT
OF SEATTLE**

more worlds less bank!

End Corporate

**GENETICAL
CUR
MUM A**

**WTO
TRADING
AWAY
OUR
FORESTS**

**END THE BIGGEST
WAR
IN THE
WORLD**

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THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE