

LIBERTY & JUSTICE

June 11–July 25, 2026

Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia, PA



LIBERTY & JUSTICE

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 11, 6–9pm

Second Reception: Thursday, July 9, 6–9pm

*Box Spring Gallery at Crane Arts, Suite 100C,
1400 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19122*

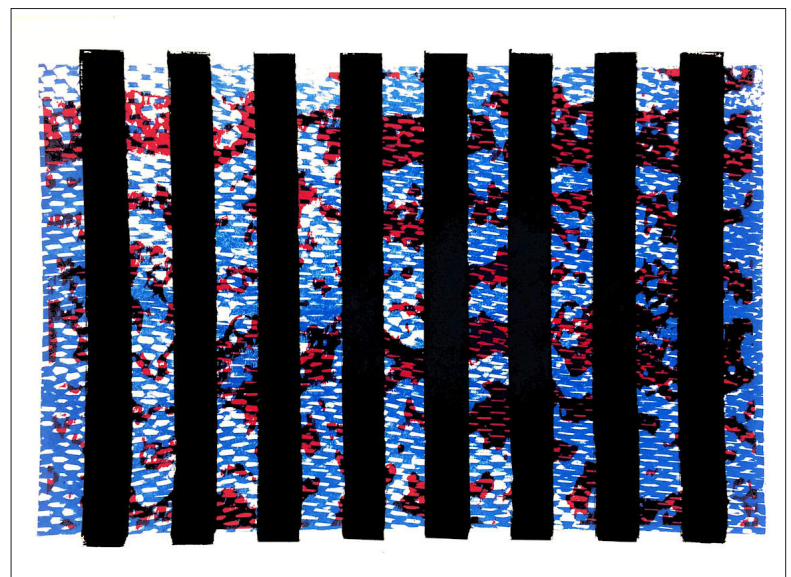
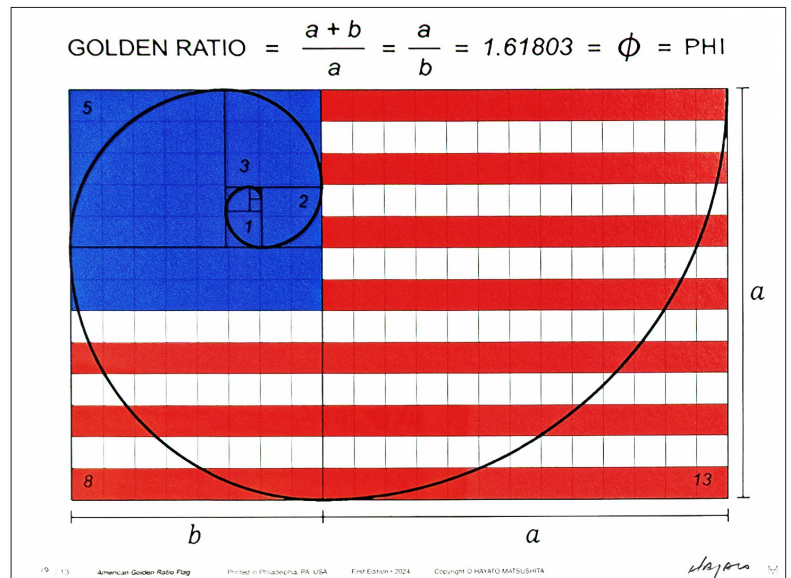
*Open Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 1–6pm, or by
appointment: contact@boxspringgallery.com.*

Liberty and Justice are abstract concepts and foundational societal ideals. They are defined as
Liberty: *The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.*

Justice: *The principle of fairness, moral rightness, and equity, ensuring individuals receive what they are due including rights, treatment and consequences.*

In anticipation of celebrating (and some inevitable protesting) the Semiquincentennial, Box Spring Gallery posed the question in our Call for Art: *How can messages of Liberty and Justice be conveyed visually in respect to Philadelphia, our Nation's 250th Anniversary, or historical and/or current events?* Artists local to Philadelphia, a.k.a. the birthplace of our Nation, have a lot to say.

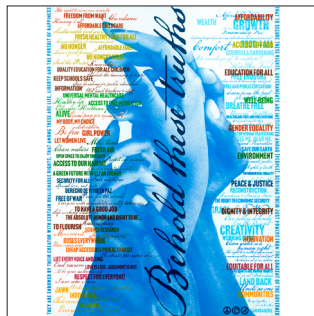
Besides general statements on the importance of Liberty and Justice in our democracy, artists express common views on the current political polarization, the administration, unequal distribution of power, marginalized groups based on race, gender, sexual orientation, incarceration, wealth-distribution, and more. The visual megaphones emphasize inclusivity, equity, and persistence, recognizing that our country as a democracy is an ongoing experiment. Some of the artworks present as political cartoons and satire, many offer A LOT to read and digest. References are made to our nation's complicated history, but also to our American pride in the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and icons of Liberty and Justice, reknown throughout the world and locally. Regarding our own City of Brotherly Love, artist Gloria Klaiman reminds us to be positive, and paints "We have a great stake in our Democracy."



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Rhonda Babb
Behold These Truths
16 color screenprint, AP, on
recycled card and gessoboard
24"x 18" | \$2,500



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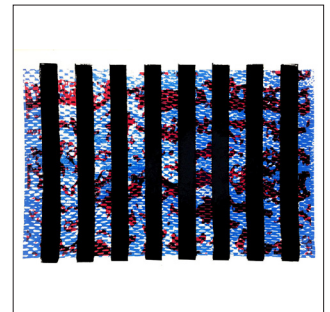
Sandra Benhaim
We Hold These Truths – 2
Laser print of analog collage with
hand-stamping
14½"x 12", fr. 22" x 18" | \$400



Sandra Benhaim
Equality Forever Abstracted
Mixed media collage on Arches
and other papers, postage stamp
18"x 22", fr. 26"x 31" | \$975



Jim Biglan
We the People
Ink on paper
17"x 14", fr. 19"x 16"
\$400



Bill Brookover
Jarring Dissension
Screenprint, AP
15"x 22", fr. 18"x 24"
\$300



Linda Dubin Garfield
Let Freedom Ring
Mixed media on paper
12"x 12"
\$250



Jenny Hartt
Liberty From the Gift Shop
Oil and acrylic on oil paper
mounted to board, magnetic LED
14½"x 14½" | \$400



E. Sherman Hayman
*WHEEL, DEAL, STEAL THEN
SPIN II – Did Ya' Know?*
Mixed media collage on wood panel
13½"x 17½" | \$600

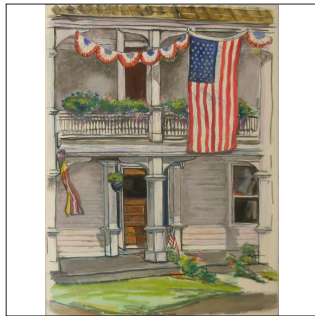


E. Sherman Hayman
*WHEEL, DEAL, STEAL THEN
SPIN IX – Juris(im)prudence*
Mixed media collage on wood panel
13½"x 17½" | \$600

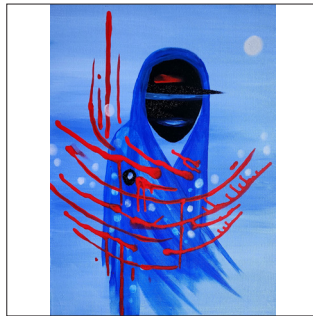
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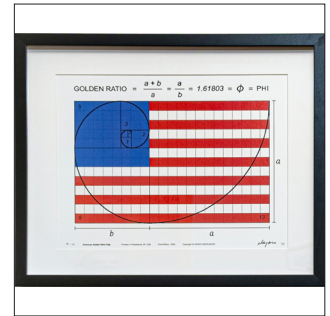
Michael S. Heitler
Americana with Pride
Gouache and pastel
30"x 22"
\$900



Aaron Kalinay
Stars and Stripes, Proud to Be
Acrylic paint and glitter on canvas
24"x 18"
\$400



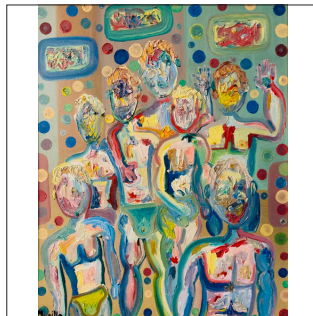
Gloria Klaiman
Philly Love
Acrylic and watercolor on canvas
11"x 14"
\$125



Hayato Matsushita
American Golden Ratio Flag
Digital print on Strathmore cover, ed. 11/13
13"x 17", fr. 16½"x 20¼" | \$250



Deanna McLaughlin
Stop Fingerpointing
Acrylic and mixed media
16"x 20"
\$1,917



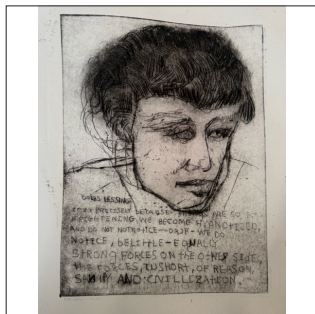
Jesus Vicente Murillo
Renegades
Oil on canvas
16"x 20"
\$1,000



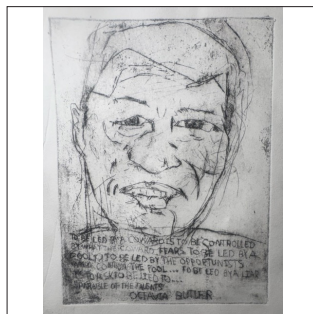
Abigail Reeth
Rhythms of Resistance 4/7
Newspaper, handmade paper, and acrylic on canvas
12"x 12" | \$490



Robert Reinhardt
We the People – Art
Digital collage
13"x 9", fr. 23"x 19"
\$350



Matthew Schley
Doris Lessing
Etching and drypoint, ed. 1/10
8"x 6", fr. 18"x 15"
\$150



Matthew Schley
Octavia Butler
Etching and drypoint, ed. 1/10
8"x 6", fr. 18"x 15"
\$150



Jed Williams
Will Jazeta Justice and Libertygal Stop the Pumpkin and his Goons??
Ink and pencil on cardstock
11"x 17" | \$500



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RHONDA BABB *thehopesymbol.com / @thehopesymbol*

This print was made as part of Mural Arts Philadelphia's "Printmaking by the People" project. "Printmaking by the People" is the largest community-based project focusing on the Semiquincentennial. Over forty printmaking workshops were conducted over a two-year period. Led by various artists, utilizing multiple printmaking techniques, participants were asked to define what the key ideas of the Declaration of Independence means to them in 2026. In addition to the rich archive of participants' work, a mural will be installed this year. Through a selection process, I was chosen to create the mural design. The design focuses on the words of workshop artists that were inscribed on the prints created during the workshops. Philadelphians are asking for basic rights and needs to be fulfilled. During the creative process, I was struck by the many similar ideas that people shared. In my note-taking, I filled eight pages and started color-coding the concepts to create an organizational structure. Sharing the notes with an advisor, it was suggested that carrying this into the mural design would create an interesting visual element. Taking that suggestion, I remembered the colors used in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and used them as a basis for the work's color palette. The needs and wants of Philadelphians turn out to be universal, and they lead us into a larger conversation about what our nation and our world could be if we would take the people's voices into account. The hands in the image are uplifting and joyful. When selecting this image, I was instantly reminded of the Statue of Liberty's flame. Together, these images create Philadelphia's letter to the world at this inflection point in our history. In addition to the mural design, there are many works from the workshops on exhibit at the Free Library's Central Branch on the Parkway until August 2026.

SANDRA BENHAIM *sandrabenhaim.com / @sbenhaimart*

Hand-stamped with the opening words of the US Declaration of Independence, *We Hold These Truths 2* celebrates unalienable rights like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The imagery reflects a modern commitment to true equality for everyone, regardless of race or identity.

Being fully abstract, any political or social messages are open to subjective interpretation through *Equality Over Abstracted's* formal elements. Near the center of the piece is an "Equality Forever" postage stamp. The use of red, white, and blue naturally recalls national symbology (such as the American flag). The fractured, bleeding execution of these colors can be interpreted by viewers as a reflection of our current political polarization, societal turbulence, or the rebuilding of national identity amid ongoing cultural changes.

JIM BIGLAN *jim-biglan.website / @vaughn_biglane*

In 1776 this country was founded on a rebellion against a monarchy. This drawing depicts a contemporary vision of a renewed struggle against unequal distribution of power. The rebellion against the English King in the thirteen colonies was driven by a cross-section of society. This redistribution of power today will also need to be spurred by everyone. We cannot allow the current oligarchy to generate wealth on the backs of the rest of us Americans.



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BILL BROOKOVER *billbrookover.com / @bill.brookover*

Jarring Dissension presents a visual representation of incarceration. Many innocent residents of the United States are being held in jails and makeshift criminal justice facilities through illegal and unconstitutional actions. The right to petition for a writ of habeas corpus has long been celebrated as a fundamental safeguard of individual liberty.

LINDA DUBIN GARFIELD *lindadubingarfield.com / @garf621*

The Liberty Bell has become one of the most powerful symbols of freedom and justice in the United States. Originally cast in 1752 and placed in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), the bell is famous for its inscription, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof." During the American Revolution, it came to represent the struggle for independence from British rule. Over time, the Liberty Bell's meaning expanded beyond the founding of the nation to include the ongoing fight for equal rights and justice. Abolitionists, civil rights activists, and others have looked to the bell as a reminder that freedom should belong to everyone. Its famous crack also symbolizes that the pursuit of liberty is an ongoing effort — imperfect, but always worth protecting.

JENNY HARTT *jennyhartt.com / @hartt.studio / @jennyhartt.studio*

My artwork explores our relationship to icons and signifiers of liberty and justice by depicting items purchased from gift shops at sites promoting U.S. history and freedom. *Liberty From the Gift Shop* depicts a gift shop statuette of the Statue of Liberty in a still life dark box set-up, behind a sheer curtain, having been — as this is meant to signify — put away but held precious as an object. The painting comes with a deliberately tacky push button light that is battery operated and which provides some illusion of diorama depth to the painting.

E. SHERMAN HAYMAN *shermanhayman.com / @mur.sherman.hayman*

The *WHEEL, DEAL* series developed as a result of observing the current situation of vicious-circle politics, whereby present polarization has paralyzed Washington, engendering hatred and mistrust. This tends to eliminate moderates, embolden extremists and encourage even more hatred and mistrust of government. Each of the ten panels uses a historical perspective to illuminate the contemporary landscape. The works contain text as an additional visual element — drawn speech bubbles, printed copy in highly manipulated fonts, and incised lettering — to incorporate statistics, poetry, quotations, and research material, inviting the viewer to peruse the words as well as the images.

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AARON KALINAY *aaronkalinay.com / @aaronkalinay*

This work represents the conflict of a person in a country that touts “Liberty” while simultaneously treating them as dangerous, unworthy, the other. *Proud to be an American* is a hard mantra to live by when patriotism (the red, white and blue), is only for people that look a certain way, practice religion a certain way, and love a certain way. Admirably, the marginalized still try to find a little sparkle in life and encapsulate beauty and elegance in pain. Do we embrace or reject patriotic color combinations when that flag is attached to malicious ideals?

GLORIA KLAIMAN *gloriaklaimanartist.squarespace.com / @gloriaklaiman*

In this time when our rights, dignity, health and well being are under attack by the administration, Philadelphia’s stubborn resistance and continued insistence on empathy, justice, human rights, and care for each other in our neighborhoods and common spaces, shines through as a beacon of hope.

HAYATO MATSUSHITA *hayatomatsushita.com / @hayatomatsushita*

By overlaying the Golden Ratio onto the American flag, this work explores liberty and justice through balance, harmony, and proportion. Inspired by Enlightenment ideals connected to the founding of the United States, the piece reflects on America as an ongoing experiment in balancing individual freedom with the collective good. The symbol Φ (phi), associated with the Golden Ratio, also connects to “philia,” the Greek root of Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love.”

DEANNA McLAUGHLIN *deannamclaughlin.com / @cartrageous*

Stop Fingerpointing calls out our current sophomoric mindset among politicians and media moguls who consistently cultivate deep polarization — fueled by constant bombardment of endless accusations — that hinder the true goals of liberty and justice. My interpretation of the 1917 draft poster shifts the focus from partisan blame to personal responsibility.

JESUS VICENTE MURILLO *jesusvmurillo.com / @jesusvmurillo*

This Neo-Impressionist snapshot is of a group of friends at a long standing community gay bar in San Jose, CA called “Renegades.” While the title might suggest those who live beyond the law, this painting is both a celebration of freedom and love, and an homage to a space created when queer people were solidly considered on the far fringes of society. Legal access to safe community spaces for citizens of all backgrounds is an essential and part of any healthy society, and so in celebrating the extent of our liberties we also celebrate the justice that marginalized communities have earned, and should continue to fight for in the years to come.



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ABIGAIL REETH *@ponderinpaint*

This collage is part of a series of seven collages sparked by the many protests over the past months, including anti-ICE and “No Kings” marches. The collage is created from newspaper clippings of articles about these current events and social injustices. These newspaper pieces were transformed through papermaking, printmaking, collaging, and painting to become an image of simultaneous mourning, protest, and hope for a more just future. This image acknowledges the pain of the moment while highlighting the actions of ordinary people to rise together as a community working for liberation.

ROBERT REINHARDT *robertreinhardtart.com / @mrrob1818*

This digital photo collage showcases Philadelphia’s symbols of Freedom and Justice, especially our most important call to unite as a free nation, *We the People*. Featured within the work are many familiar local symbols of freedom: the Liberty Bell, the Billy Penn statue, and Rocky Balboa, all cultural icons. All these monuments reinforce this city’s commitment to the freedoms guaranteed to all. Placing these images in a collage is a great reminder of the power of a work of art and the strength of the visual creative voice.

MATTHEW SCHLEY *@willowsticks24*

These etchings are portraits of two women, Doris Lessing and Octavia Butler, who famously wrote novels that explored the contradictions of the human experience. The writers describe how the human experience is a continuing struggle to achieve liberty and justice, for both the individual, and for society.

JED WILLIAMS *jedwilliamsart.com / @jedwilliamsstudio*

I discovered recently that Superman, Wonder Woman et al, had been initially created as propaganda during WWII against the Nazis and fascism. Having had a keen interest for comic books and graphic novels, I wanted to bring the “superhero” sensibility back to our current struggle with fascism, and advocate for social justice and our rights as Americans. “Justice” is symbolically portrayed as an African-American woman, reminding us of the civil rights protest era — a struggle which never really ended. “Jazeta Justice” wields a legendary mystical scale, from which emanate powerful pulses, which can and will tear into and scatter all ICE agents, federal agents, and foes of democracy. “Liberty” is portrayed as “Libertygal” who can, and will, throw her torch. Woe to those who stand in the path of the fire and flames caused by the torch Libertygal throws! I gave her the head-dress and torch of the Statue of Liberty, which I realize are incredibly ornate in real life. “The Pumpkin” is of course our current (um...) President.

I’ve relished the process of creating new works on paper, and getting deeper into my own narratives. I am very influenced by political cartoons — they make us confront important sociopolitical problems while also moving us to laughter. It was especially interesting learning about the cyclical nature of politics, and design styles like revisiting fonts from the 1940s and 50s. So... will you join us in combatting the struggle? YOU CAN BE A SUPERHERO TOO!!

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BOX SPRING GALLERY is the collaborative effort of Gaby Heit and Robert A. Stewart, Esq.

Crane Arts, 1400 N. American St., Suite 100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122

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boxspringgallery.com / [@boxspringgallery](https://www.instagram.com/boxspringgallery) / contact@boxspringgallery.com

Celebrating where art and design meet, Box Spring Gallery provides carefully curated exhibitions with opportunities to purchase contemporary art and design by a variety of creatives.

Box Spring Gallery aims to be an outlet for new audience visibility, educational exchange and cross-disciplinary discourse. Our main goals are to provide creatives with opportunities, guidance, and to educate the consumer public. We strive to show a wide range of creative discipline, innovation and purpose, and look to collaborate with like-minded partners.

GABY HEIT *gabyheit.com / [@gabyheit](https://www.instagram.com/gabyheit) / gaby@gabyheit.com*

Gaby Heit is an art/photo director, graphic designer and creative consultant with a master's degree from Pratt Institute. A four-time gallery director and independent curator, Gaby has represented artists from Philadelphia and New York, and has produced numerous exhibitions that celebrate connections between fine art, science, and design. Some include shows for Le Méridien Hotel, Main Line Health, AIGA, DesignPhiladelphia, Philly Tech Week, the University City Science Center, and more.

With many years of experience in print publishing, she has led the creative direction, rebranding and design for national magazines covering fashion, travel, women's services, business, and fine art. Gaby regularly consults with all kinds of creatives on presentation, organization and self-promotion, and her latest project was to open Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia in June 2024.

ROBERT A. STEWART, Esq.

Robert is a long-time resident of Philadelphia and the husband of artist, Michele M. Tremblay, who passed away in 2022. As a college student he had the good fortune to attend art education classes at the Barnes Foundation in Merion taught by Violette De Mazia and Barton Church. Robert's first art purchase, made in 1973, was an oil painting by Edwin Brent and later he and his wife Michele acquired works by Roger Anliker, Charles Schmidt, Marie Bender, George Sorrels, Carol Oldenburg, Dan Wittels and Roberta Daar. His late wife's work can be viewed online at artofmichele.com, as well as a large mural opposite the entrance to Jefferson Hospital on 9th Street in Philadelphia, which Michele created with New York artist Polly Apfelbaum.