

Compare and Contrast: Andy Warhol + Andrea Bowers

Art + Social Justice



Themes:

- Protest
- Racism
- Power
- Oppression
- Resistance
- Justice
- Social Movements

The following artworks are in the permanent collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Each work relates to the theme of art and social justice.

Explore their meanings, answer questions, and discuss together.



Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol
(American, 1928–1987)
Birmingham Race Riot,
from the portfolio, “X +
X (Ten Works by Ten
Painters)”, 1964
Screenprint, ed. 347/500

SBMA, Gift of Mrs. Donald Bear
to the Donald Bear Memorial
Collection, 1984.25.4
© Andy Warhol Foundation for the
Visual Arts / Artists Rights
Society (ARS), New York



Andy Warhol



This screenprint by Andy Warhol was sourced from a documentary photograph printed in a May 1963 photo essay in *Life* magazine about police dogs attacking civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama. Warhol enlarged and reversed the original image - changing the format from a photograph to a print.

Original Photo

THE DOGS' ATTACK IS NEGROES' REWARD



ATTACK DOGS. With vicious guard dogs the police attacked the marchers—and thus rewarded them with an outrage that would win support all over the world for Birmingham's Negroes. If the Negroes themselves had written the script, they could hardly have asked for greater help for their cause than City Police Commissioner

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CONTINUED



Andy Warhol

1. What differences do you see between the original photograph and Warhol's screenprint?
2. How does the language used in the original magazine publication influence the way you experience the photograph?
3. How does the body language of the attacking dogs compare with the posture and stance of the people they are attacking?



Andrea Bowers

Andrea Bowers

(American, b. 1965)

Fight for \$15 March
(December 4, 2014),
2015

Graphite on paper

SBMA, Museum purchase with funds
provided by the General Art
Acquisition Fund, 2018.7

© Andrea Bowers



Andrea Bowers



The work of Los Angeles-based artist Andrea Bowers centers on the convergence of art and activism, addressing such topics as workers' rights, gender discrimination, and the history of labor movements and protest in the United States. *Fight for \$15 March* is from a series of photorealistic pencil drawings of activists Bowers photographed at workers' rights marches. These meticulous, labor-intensive drawings celebrate these individuals, while also critiquing the common ways that protests are depicted in photojournalism.

Andrea Bowers

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1. Why do you think Bowers drew the protester in the middle of the paper and against a plain white background?
2. Think about the labor and time involved in making this drawing. What does drawing accomplish that photography does not?
3. Read the protester's shirt and reflect on its meaning. What does "Dignity and a Living Wage" mean to you?



Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: What are the similarities and differences between these two artworks?

Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: How is the form of protest or resistance depicted in these two images?

Art + Social Justice



This presentation was created by the Education Department at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in 2020 in collaboration with Santa Barbara-based high school teachers.

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