



## **Bringing the Resistance Art of Palestine to Your Local Community**

w/ thanks to Susan Greene of Art Forces

Inspired by the powerful witnessing eye murals of [I Witness Silwan](#), an international public art project in support of Silwan's (occupied East Jerusalem) longstanding fight against dispossession, activists and artists in Washington state connected with [Art Forces'](#) Susan Greene to bring that witnessing eye imagery to protests demanding U.S. congresspeople in Washington state stop arming Israel.

During the 2024 election cycle, when politicians wanted voters to turn their attention away from Gaza and towards their names on the ballots, the eye murals of I Witness Silwan inspired local activists to show congressional leaders that we refuse to look away from Palestine.

A local artist helped envision [illuminated eye picketing signs that showed up at a rally](#) in the center of a Washington small town, rocks that protesters painted with the images of eyes, and large chalk eyes on the sidewalk courtesy of a local chalk artist. The illuminated eye picketing signs reappeared for an action at a pro-Israel congresswoman's office, [where they lit up the night](#) as protesters built a grief altar for the children of Gaza on the congresswoman's doorstep.

This particular congresswoman is also known for [an annual Big Leaf Maple Leaf contest](#), where constituents compete for who can send in the largest maple leaf. Playing on this tradition, [activists painted eyes on fallen maple leaves from around town and posted the pictures to social media](#). At the end of this campaign, the local artist we worked with used everyone's painted leaves to create [a large art installation](#) for [a vigil](#) remembering the children murdered in Israel's US-funded genocide in Gaza. These art-based actions took place weekly in this small town, building community amongst

participating community members and amplifying the work of I Witness Silwan and the larger movement for a free Palestine.

Meanwhile, in another Washington state community, activists [drew from I Witness Silwan's eye imagery](#) for their own actions to pressure a local congressional candidate to end her support for the genocide in Gaza. They held two connected events. First, they welcomed the community to create art together at their town's First Friday Art Walk when residents are out in the evening for special exhibits and performances and neighborhood connection. They set up an area outside a local community center for We Witness Gaza, inviting people to draw and paint eyes on a banner and signs, as well as to make paper poppies. They also fundraised there for I Witness Silwan.

A few weeks later they used this art in a demonstration and march. They gathered to sing songs and hear from speakers calling for an arms embargo. They grieved for the martyrs of Gaza. They called out their congressional candidate for her support for Israel and they marched to her campaign office and delivered their We Witness Gaza art and the list of our demands and messages to her campaign staff.

### **Tips for art-based resistance actions:**

- Reach out to artists in your local community who may be interested in imagining and actualizing community art projects that center Palestinian liberation. Bonus points if that artist can help folx who come to your action participate in making the art together!
- For social media amplification, choose a unique hashtag that is used on every social media post for your action/campaign so that folx who search for that hashtag will see all the action photos together. We used #wewitnessgaza , but it may be useful to pick something even more specific (e.g. adding numbers at the end so it is truly unique).
- Art is incredibly useful for giving people space to process and channel their grief and rage. Consider how you will intentionally use community art projects to help people engage the emotional realities of fighting for Palestinian liberation.