

LIZ GOLDNER

WE PROTEST: An Art Exhibition for our Confrontational Political Environment

Was open during the recent "Fall of Freedom" events

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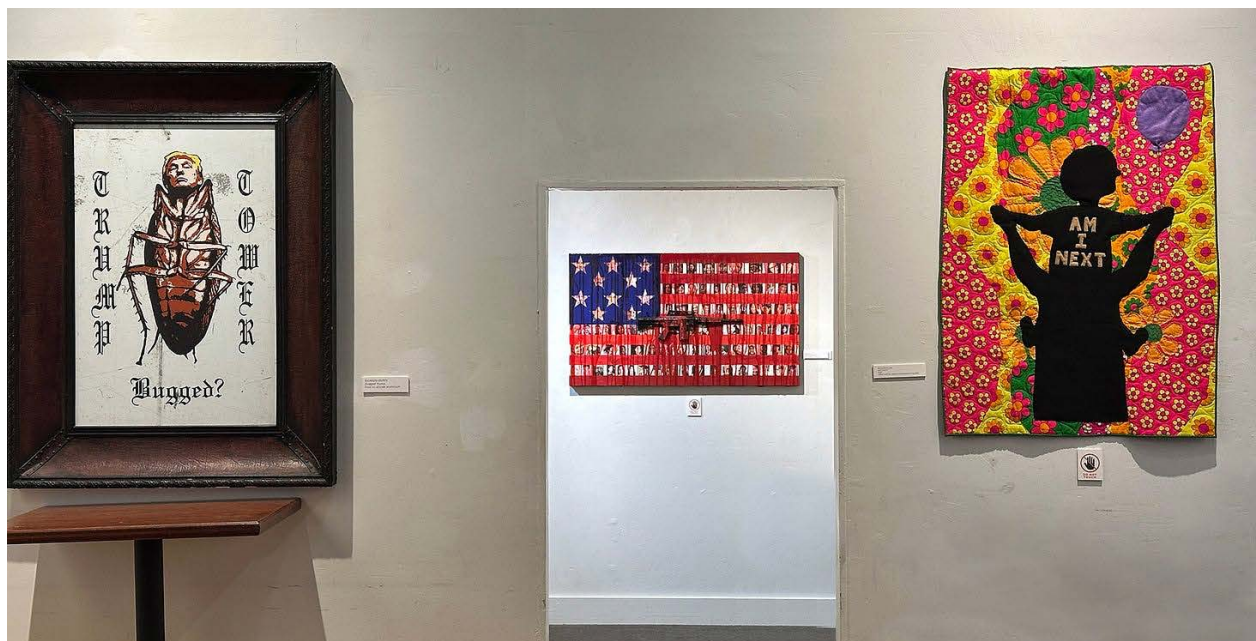
All installation images are by Tom Lamb, LBCAC Curator

WE PROTEST, an exhibition of photos, paintings and drawings at Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center, Laguna Beach, powerfully addresses the growing, evolving and evermore vociferous nationwide protest movements. These include the "Hands Off!" protests in April 2025, opposing various Trump administration actions; the "No Kings" October

12 events, where seven million people protested against immigration, democracy, federal spending and other policies; and the November “Fall Freedom” events, organized by artists.

We Protest was open during the “Fall of Freedom” events, November 21 and 22, and was part of the movement. Eighteen, mostly local artists participated in the show.

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Ricardo Duffy’s “Bugged” (2017), a print on aluminum alloy from a fighter jet, in the show, features Trump’s face within a cockroach body, reflecting his accusations in 2017 that President Obama had been wiretapping (bugging) Trump Tower in 2017.

David Milton contributed his painting, “Banned Books” to the show. He wrote: “My painting was inspired by the urgency of the moment we find ourselves in. I discovered that many classic books that students read in school now make the list of banned books. ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four,’ ‘To

'Kill a Mockingbird,' 'The Diary of Anne Frank,' 'The Grapes of Wrath,' and hundreds of other books are being removed from school libraries because people object to their content. I am against censorship of the right to read and feel compelled to express in the strongest terms my objections."



Gail Rebhan contributed photos from the October "No Kings" protests in Washington D.C. She also contributed photos from The Bethesda (Maryland) African Cemetery Coalition (BACC), founded in 2017 by leaders in the Social Justice Ministry of Macedonia Baptist Church to stop the desecration of the 100-year-old Moses Cemetery. She wrote: "Today, BACC includes leaders and members from dozens of local organizations as well as individuals from around the world who are disturbed by Montgomery County's active desecration of a historic African American burial ground. BACC works to end the desecration of Moses Cemetery, to educate our community about those who were buried there, to build a museum and sacred space to honor our African ancestors, and demand accountability for those responsible for this criminal desecration."

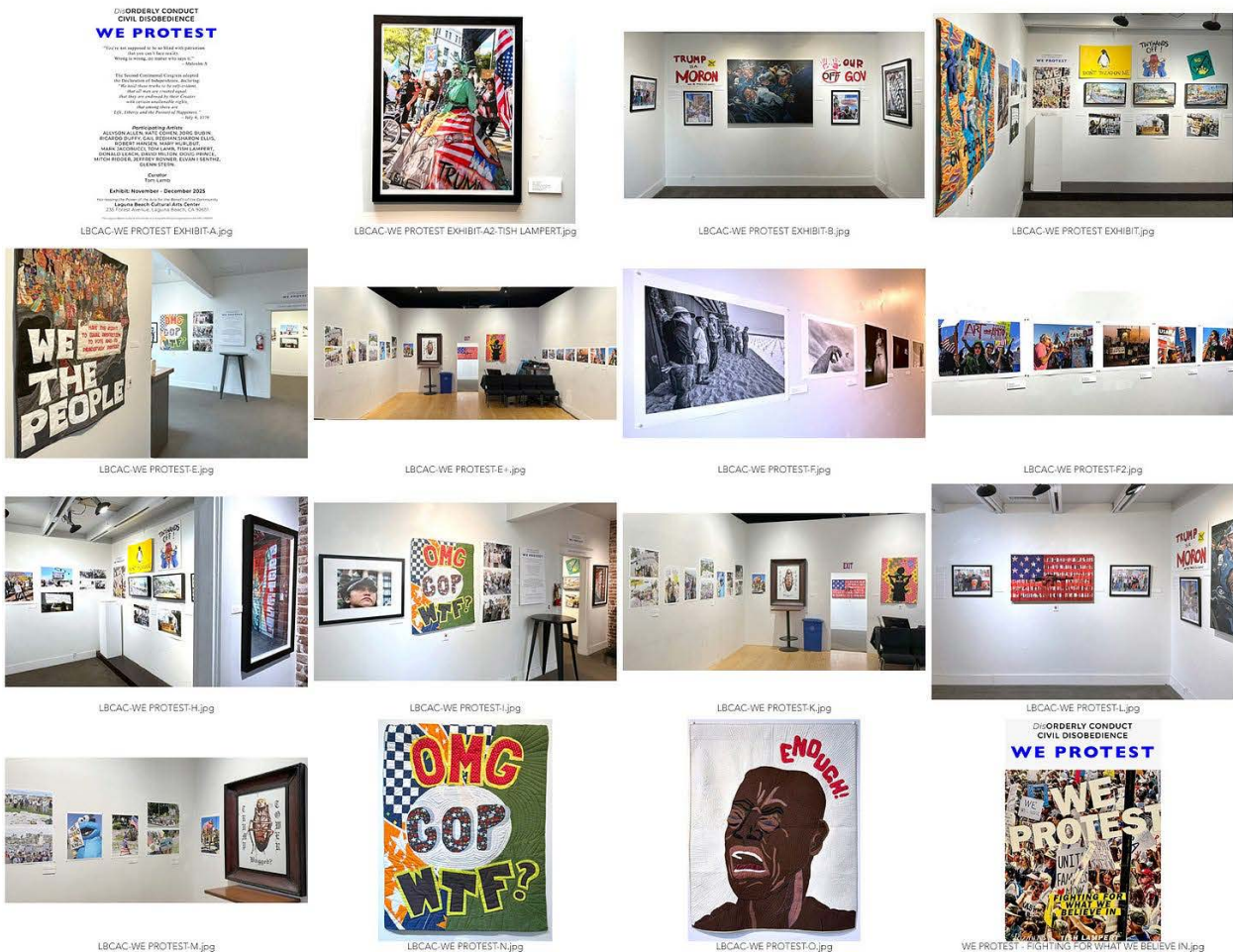


Artist Bob Hansen, a contributor, wrote: “These troubling political times have definitely shaken everyone’s lives to the core. They have awakened us out of a state of complacency to acknowledge what we’ve been blessed with and how we need to take action personally and collectively to ensure that the freedoms, for all participants in our great experiment, continue. My piece, ‘End Patriarchy,’ reflects the mirror that I have enacted for myself to examine my own thoughts about how I relate to the women in my life. The mothers, the wives, the friends, the business associates and the women who I have casual contact with, deserve the same equality in our society as men.”



Artist Kate Cohen contributed protest signs to show. She commented: “We must not be afraid to speak out! There are so many more of us, than them. Our collective efforts will slow down and eventually break the fascist grip on our country. We must remember our shared values and keep them close to our hearts. A better more equitable and inclusive country will rise from the ashes of Patriarchy.’

Photojournalist Tish Lampert wrote: “When I see a crowd amassing, placards waving, when I hear the sound of feet pounding the pavement, voices rising over each other, I feel an uncontrollable urge to be among them, to follow the momentum and capture the spirit that compels people to rise-up. The adrenaline is addictive; it’s been in my blood since I first picked up a camera in 1968 to photograph George Wallace, in Madison Square Garden in New York City.”



Other artists in the show are: Allyson Allen, Jorg Dubin, Mary Hurlbut, Mark Jacobucci, Tom Lamb, Donald Leach, Doug Prince, Mitch Ridder, Jeffrey Rovner, Evan I Senthz and Glenn Stern. Tom Lamb is the curator.

*We Protest is at **Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center**, 235 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA. Through December 2025. The Center's motto is, "Harnessing the Power of the Arts for the Benefit of the Community."*