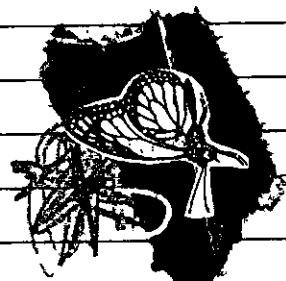
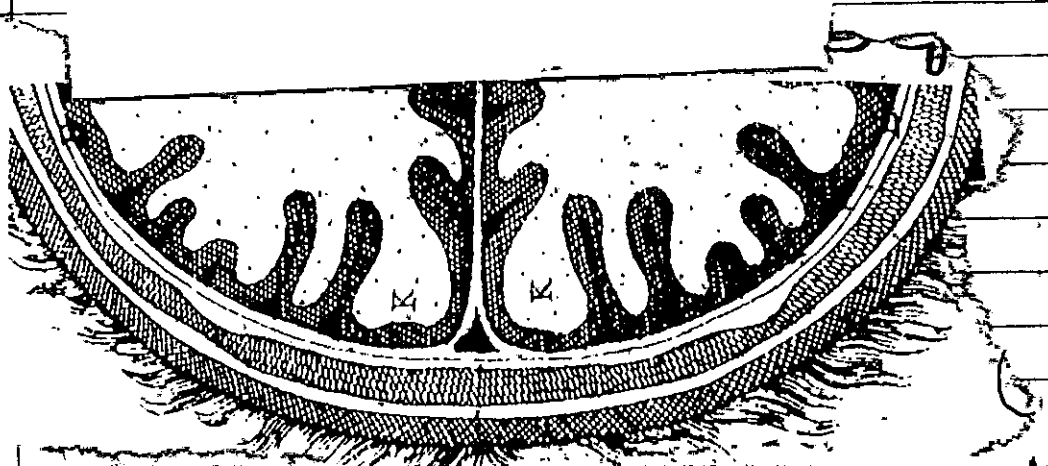


HAIL DIRT #4
artists refuse
passivity



FREE PALESTINE



The New York Times poetry editor resigned from her position, she wrote in her published resignation letter that becoming absent is her protest against the genocide in Gaza. She writes that as artists we can protest by discontinuing our artmaking and ceasing our contributions to the culture. She is calling for an artists strike.

I was at a rally calling for ceasefire at the plaza in front of city hall, listening to a drumline play. People were dancing and chanting and stomping their feet in unison. A man ran into the middle of the crowd and started yelling "Children are dying! And you are dancing!" He was deeply upset at all our demeanors. A leader of the drumline called back to him saying "Our dance is our protest! Our song is our resistance!" A woman next to me said "Dance is a prayer! We are sending our prayers!" The man collected himself and left. The drumline kept on playing and their leader began dancing fiercer and fiercer with every beat. He started dancing in the Brazilian style of Capoeira, a dance/fight style created as a resistance to oppression (as is the origins of most art forms). A stranger from the crowd joined him in fighting/dancing and I wept in the face of such a display of careful practice in intentional unity and freedom of the spirit and body.

I attended a music performance at a warehouse. The headlining band was deeply political in their music, singing songs about how you should steal soup and give it to your friends. Hearing the whole audience yell out their lyrics along with the singer I understood that I was experience a rare place of safety for most everyone in the room. Voices that are normally killed off before they can scream loud enough were heard that night. In between songs the singer told the crowd about past efforts to stop ships carrying weapons of war from leaving docks in the US and carrying the weapons to warzones. That Friday a ship in a nearby port was stopped by protestors for almost a full day.

If, as artists, we ceased from society, we stopped singing and writing and dancing and painting, our society WILL go on. We are not the ones holding the fabric of our economy together. It is true that we are the only thing feeding our collective spirit, but that is a thing that only shows wear over time. The only thing we would be doing by putting down our pens is giving up our collective voice, which at the moment is very very loud, louder than you might think.

Your most powerful weapon is you pen!
You sharpest knives are your dance shoes and your drums!
Do not be tricked into giving up your voice by a passive, liberal, wealthy, mainstream artist who has worked for a monopoly media corporation!

Information and Organizers:

Arab Resource and Organizing Center

<https://www.araborganizing.org/>

Palestinian Youth Movement

<https://palestinianyouthmovement.com/>

Jewish Voice for Peace

<https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

No Tech for Apartheid:

<https://www.notechforapartheid.com/>

Bay Area Anti Repression Committee Bail Fund:

<https://rally.org/ARCbailfund>



FREE PALESTINE





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