

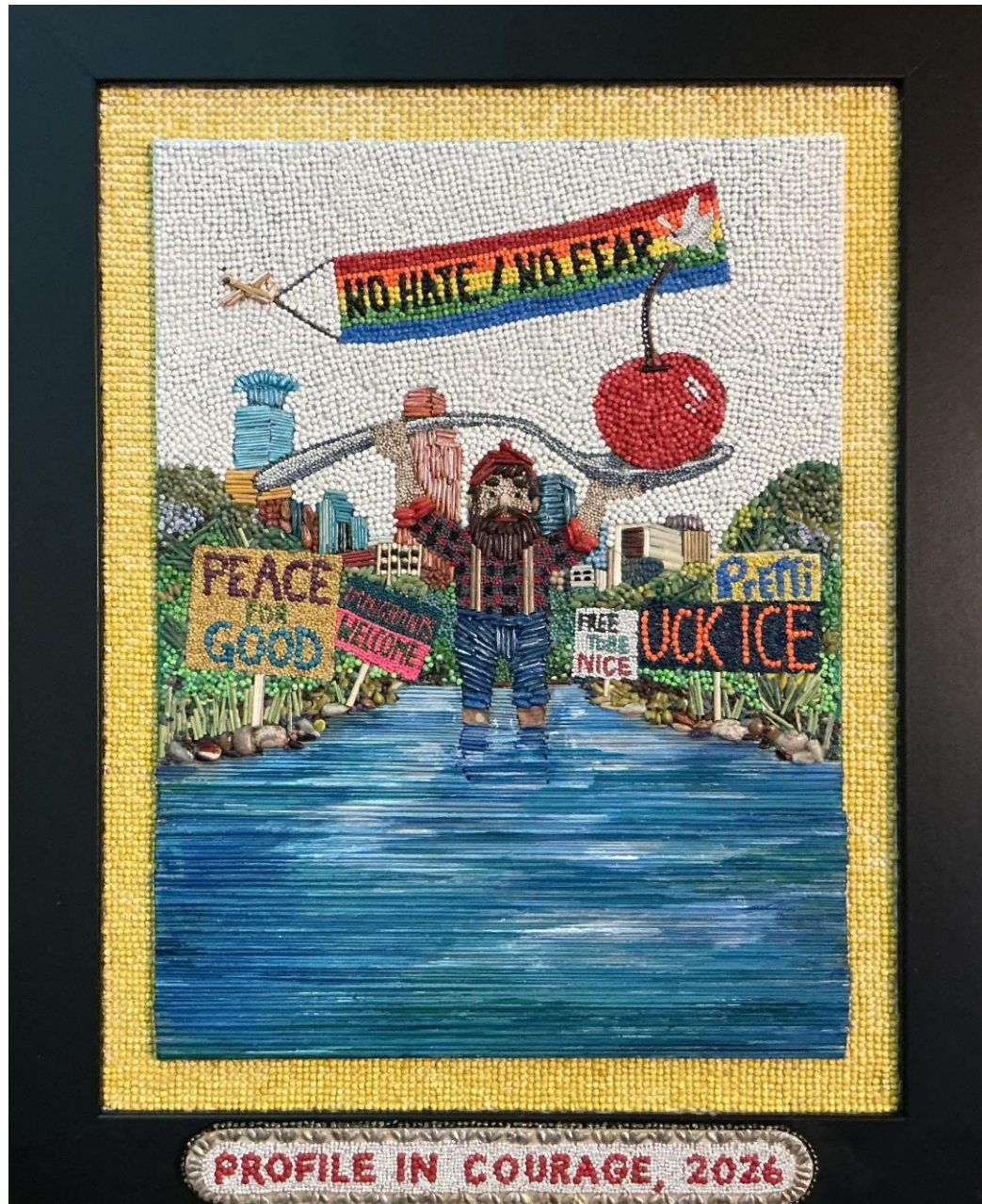


Crop Art Tributes to the Minnesota Resistance



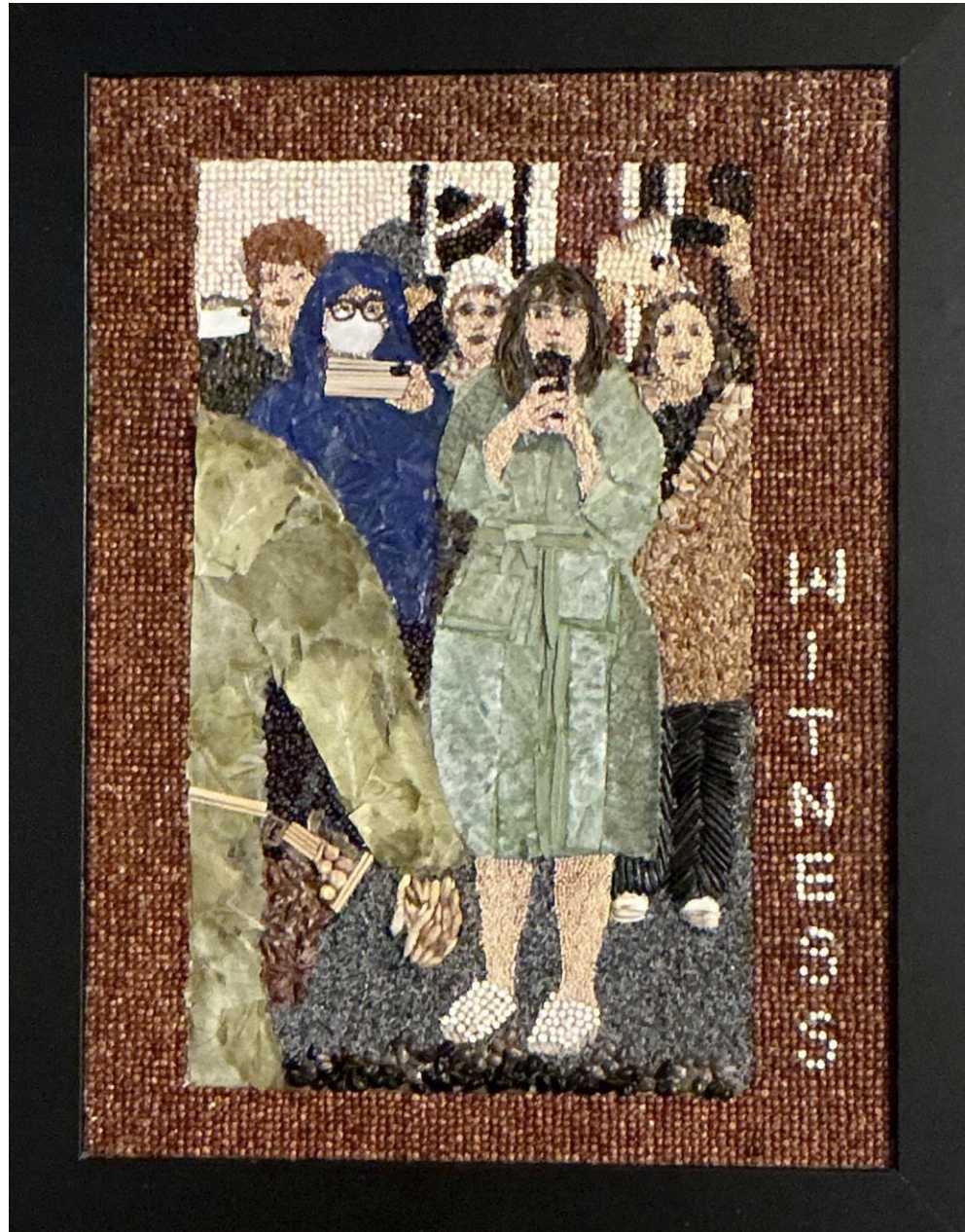
Note 1: This collection only includes works by artists who granted permission to include them.

Note 2: The MN State Fair crop art competition includes many more political pieces, but this slide show highlights those related to Minnesota resistance to the federal immigration enforcement campaign, especially Operation Metro Surge, launched by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in December 2025.



The Twin Cities received the 2026 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award to honor local residents for peaceful resistance, developing rapid-response networks, and protecting immigrant neighbors during Operation Metro Surge.

Maureen Sorensen



“This piece is based on a photograph published by the Star Tribune, taken by photographer Leila Navidi. The green robe is worn by Sam Stroozas, the MPR reporter who sprang into action from the comfort of her home—never intending to draw publicity to herself.

‘Witness’ honors the quiet bravery of ordinary Minnesotans standing firm as a community against adversity.”

Maureen Sorensen



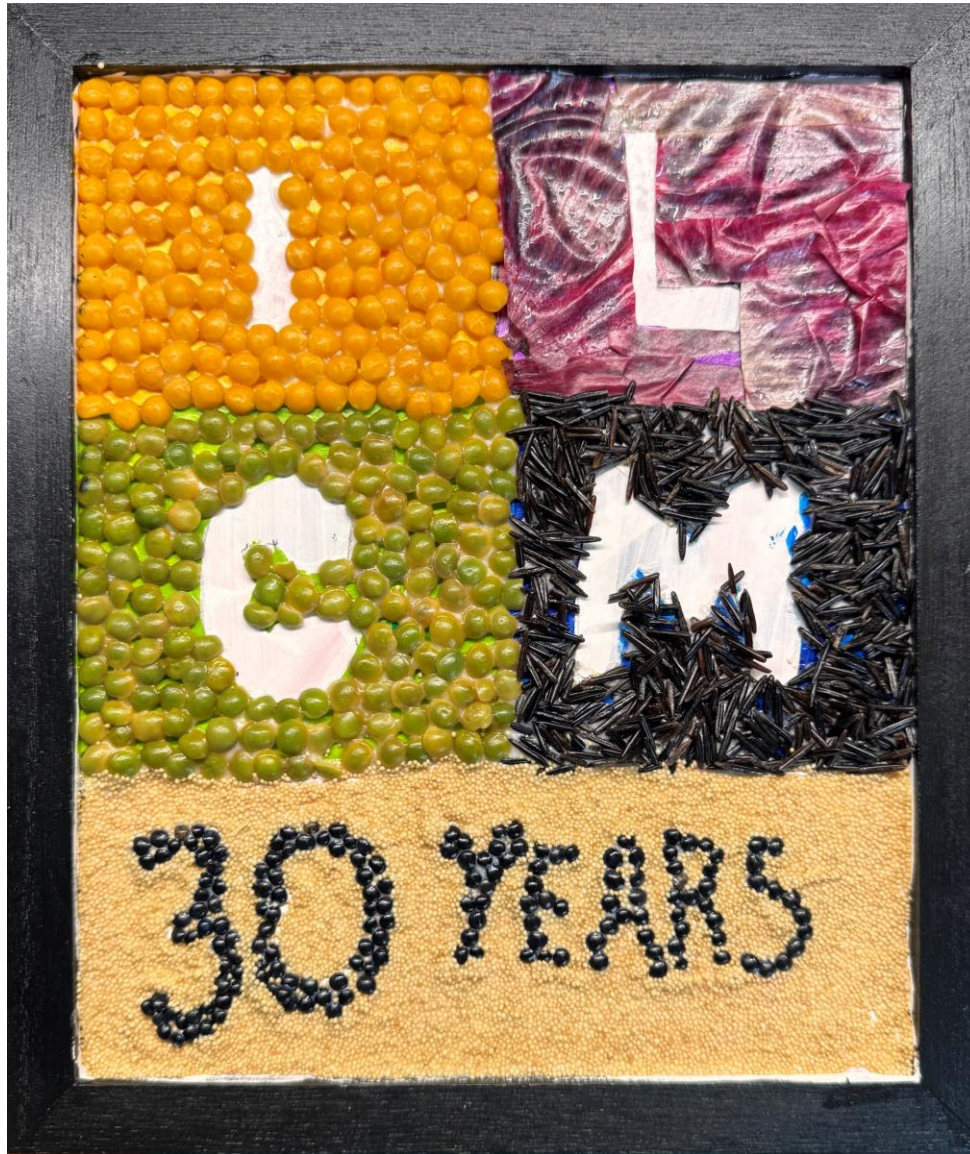
“Although this piece doesn’t mention Operation Metro Surge, it was inspired by the work of so many people in Minnesota who did what they could to take care of their neighbors during this dark time. Some protested, others documented, some drove kids to and from school or delivered groceries, others provided pro bono legal aid, and some gave money to support all the above.” Teresa Anderson

Quote from Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi

Also, Desmond Tutu said "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

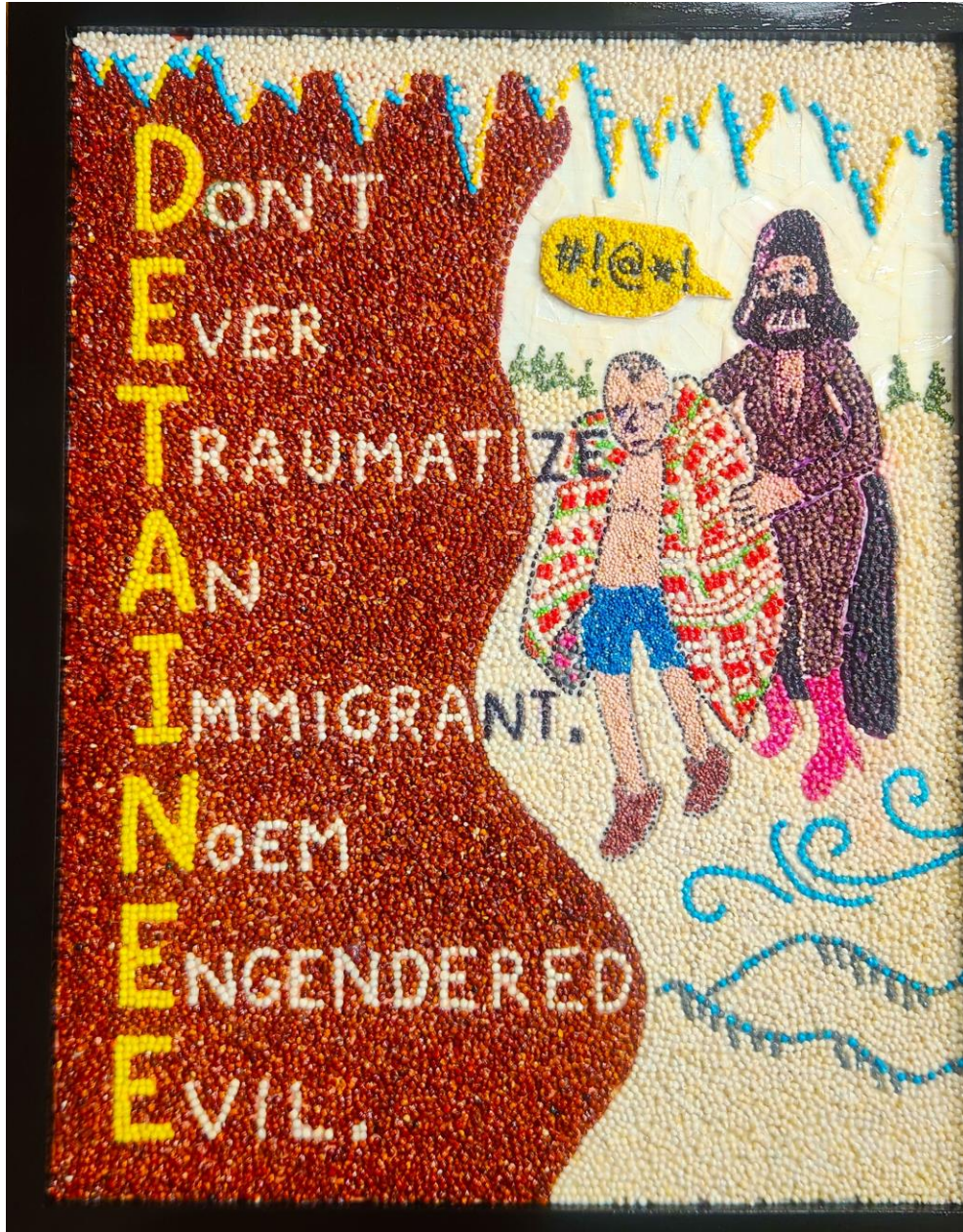


Ashley McDonough



30 Years of the
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Juventino Meza



On January 18, 2026, ICE agents mistakenly arrested ChongLy Thao, a 56-year-old Hmong-American and naturalized U.S. citizen, at his St. Paul home. Agents forced entry without a warrant, and detained him at gunpoint in freezing weather wearing only underwear and shoes.

Joel Alter



Marta Shore



Protest sign made, and used by,
Christina Myers for No Kings Rally,
March 28, 2026



VOTE!

Created as a team by Women's March Minnesota, designed by Heather Friedli



By Kate Martin

"The sluts will save us" is a slogan about The Smitten Kitten sex shop community. During Operation Metro Surge, the shop became a hub for mutual aid, resource distribution, and neighborhood support.

The Smitten Kitten store received the international Aachen Peace Prize, awarded in Germany on September 1, 2026.



Censored version for the MN State Fair

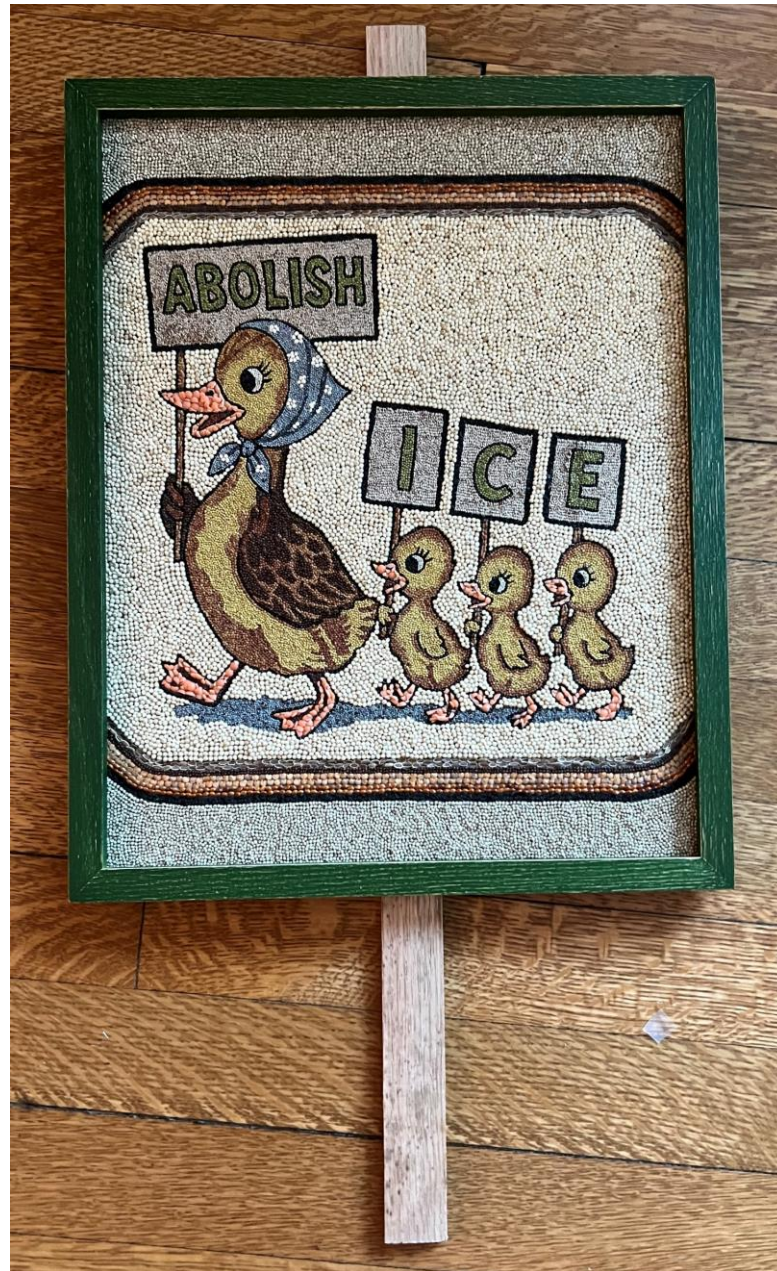


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Kate Martin



2018 crop art by Nick Rindo
repurposed into protest sign



Laura Melnick



Rebel Loon of Glory! scarecrow

Created as a team by Art of Heather Friedli,
designed by Heather Friedli



By Melissa Shugarman, based on
stained glass artwork by Gilded Moth
Studio, made in honor of the people of
Minnesota during Operation Metro
Surge.



“This piece features a gray duck, which is a Minnesotan classic from childhood, on a shattered ice background. ”

Natalie Gansmoe



Radical Weft



Casey Bissener



Morgan Helme



This piece was completed and entered in the MN State Fair in 2025, before the local Metro Surge. But it includes anti-ICE sentiment based on earlier local and national activity, and a good quote from Cornel West.

By Teresa Anderson



Megan Bell



“Some of the many things that inspired me this year:

- Sledding to protests
- Dressing up as frogs and gnomes
- Singing your hearts out
- Feeding strangers
- Pouring out love to others

It’s all that whimsy that kept spirits up and I love it.
So proud.”

Stephanie MacDougall



“When we found out that Renee Good’s last words were trying to calm the person who murdered her, I couldn’t get it out of my head... Her family did mention that she liked sparkles, so I added some glitter paint to this piece.”

Kaela Bari Reinardy



“My piece was inspired by Picasso's Guernica, a work that was his response to the Nazi's bombing of the Basque town. I thought there was a fitting parallel between these incidents about the high price paid by ordinary people when aggressive regimes try out new tactics of war, as well as a fitting juxtaposition of the darkness of living such an experience and the light we shone through it in our own resistance and care for one another. The patterns near Renee Good and Alex Pretti's mouths are actually their last words in Morse code: 'I'm not mad at you,' and 'Are you okay?'" Jennifer Nelson



Group project by Angie Weber,
Julie Davis and Stephanie Dehler,
titled *Lentil-y Unfit*.



Laura Melnick



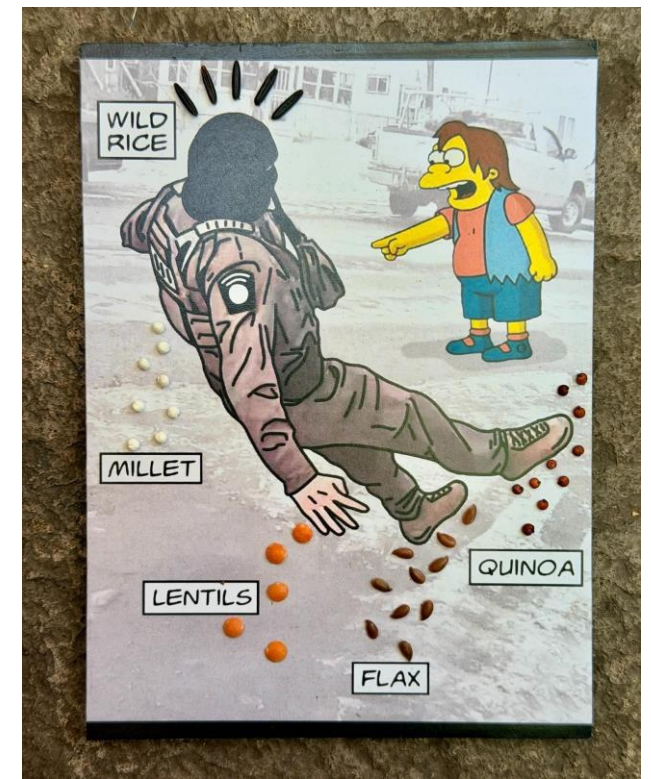
“This piece was inspired by my work directing a local food shelf and by the fear and uncertainty I witnessed among so many of the families we serve during increased immigration enforcement activity in Minnesota. As families became afraid to leave their homes and unsure of what might come next, our work quickly shifted to meet the moment. It was an overwhelming time—the worst of circumstances bringing out the very best in people as community came together to make sure families felt supported and cared for.

While this piece may not represent resistance in the traditional sense, to me, hope can be an act of resistance. Choosing compassion over fear, peace over division, and continuing to care for one another—even during uncertain times—is powerful.

Seed by seed, it became a reflection of the strength I saw in families, the compassion of our community, and my hope for what comes next.

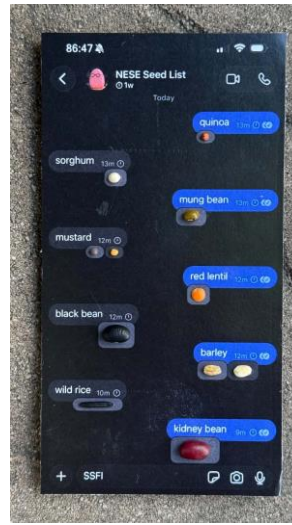
Peace. Hope. Minnesota Strong.”

By Patti Sinykin



Legend card, identifying seeds

“This piece was driven by outrage to the federal government's terroristic occupation of my beloved Twin Cities. I trust that my messaging was pretty clear with that one.” Ike Whiting



Legend card, identifying seeds

“My second piece is inspired by an incredible group of people in my northeast/southeast Minneapolis community who have committed considerable sacrifice and risk to accomplish one singular mission--protecting our neighbors. These brave and talented folks have been hard at work since last summer building a grassroots structure of community policing and support. I jumped in as the January surge was underway, and together we have accomplished so much. This group is stubbornly dedicated, fiercely empathetic, magnificently diverse and exactly who you should want to share a community with. I'm a better person than I was before I met them, and I'm forever grateful to be part of the NESE force. Minneapolis is the best. Minnesota is the best. Don't believe anyone telling you otherwise.” Ike Whiting

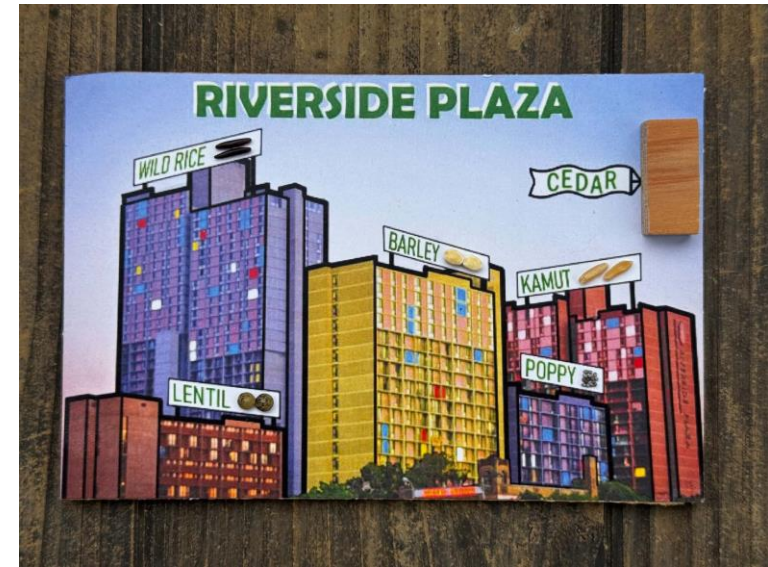
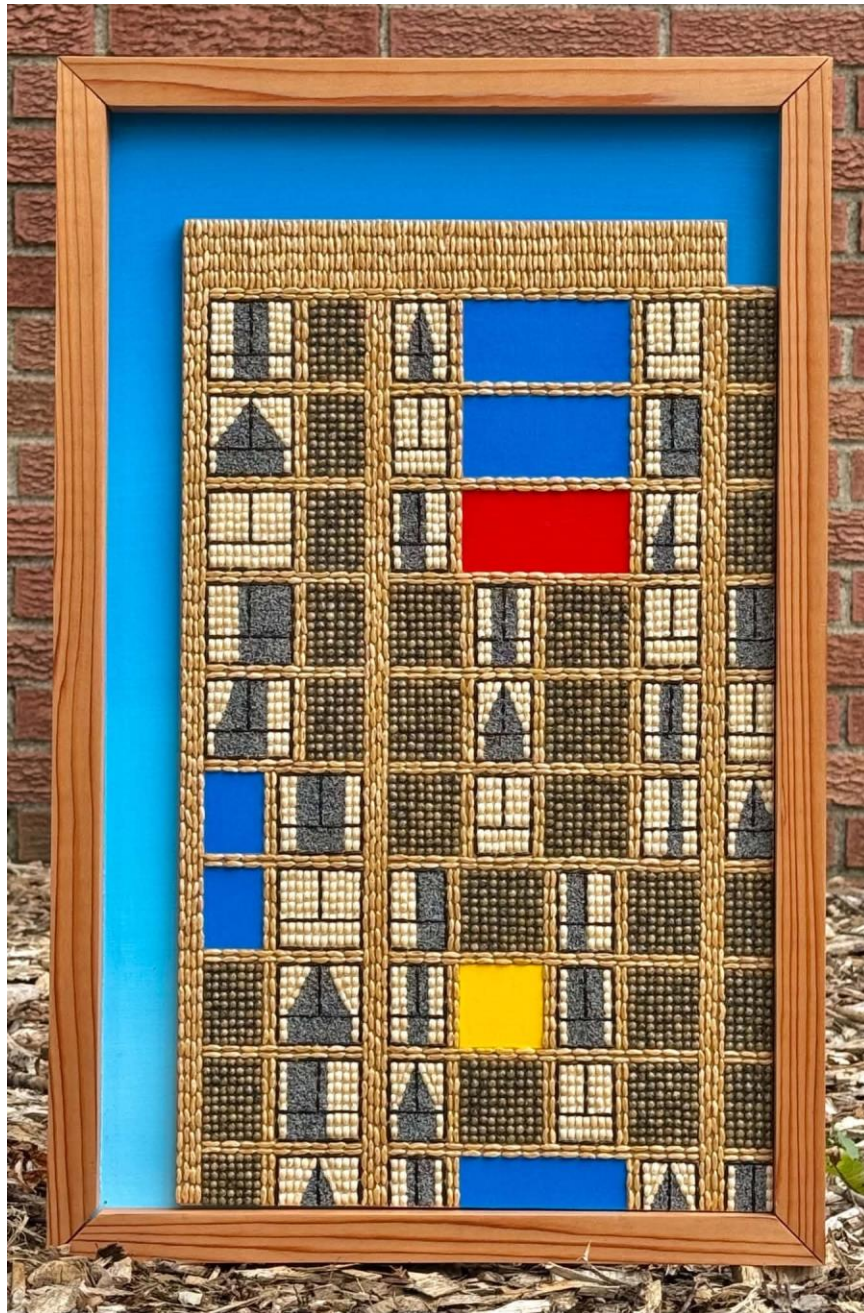


Legend card, identifying seeds

“Inspired by the totally real and totally-in-existence organization bringing society to its knees. George Soros himself paid for my amaranth.

I am Plantifa.”

Ike Whiting



Legend card, identifying seeds

The Riverside Plaza residential complex in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis was designed by architect Ralph Rapson and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the home of many Minnesota immigrants and refugees and was targeted by ICE.

"I've had this idea on my list for a while, and it became obvious last year that it was time to make it happen."

Ike Whiting



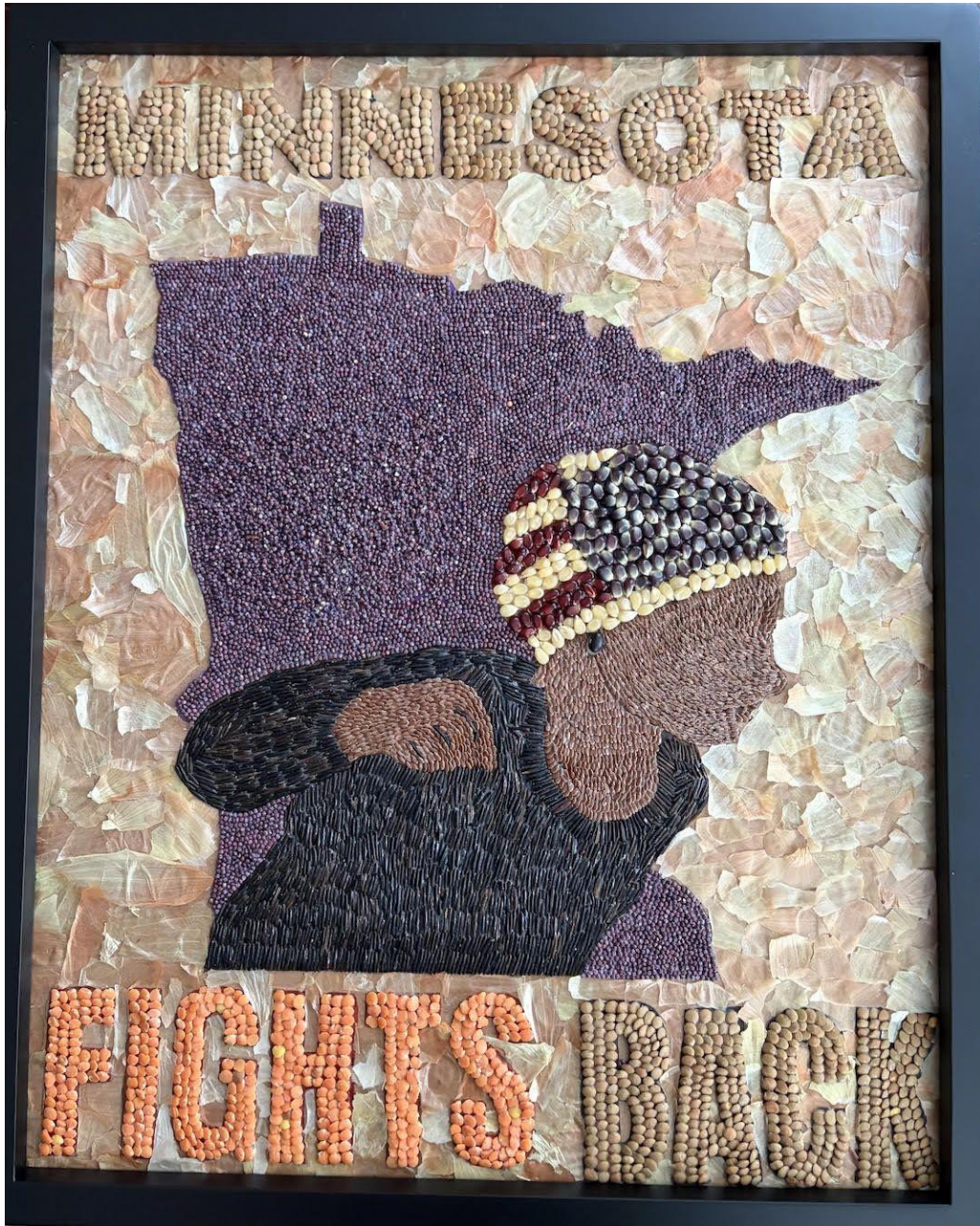
Legend card, identifying seeds

“The rebel loon. A symbol of resistance, of strength and of an entire population of Minnesotans banded together to make sure this administration does not accomplish its vile goals.” Ike Whiting

This piece is the logo for The Rebel Loon Archive--a growing project which seeks to preserve protest art created in response to Operation Metro Surge.

Design by MN artist Bambi Khan.

rebelloonarchive.com



“On January 27th, an agitator attacked Congresswoman Ilhan Omar at a town hall regarding ICE activity in the district. I cannot speak to how she felt internally, but she did not look scared. She did not look defeated. She was strong—so strong that she raised a fist and tried to fight back. She called him a “f*cking a**hole” and proceeded with the town hall. And when the press asked about the situation after the town hall, she remarked that “we don’t let bullies win.”

That’s the message we needed to hear to get ICE out of our cities, and also serves as a testament to the courage of the fierce Minnesotans that stood up when the comfortable choice was to stay seated this winter.”

Charlie St. Dennis



“Based on ‘The Great Seal’ of the United States that we see on our money every day; ‘Out of Many, One’ repurposes national imagery to symbolize Minnesotan solidarity during operation Metro Surge.”

Katie Mountain



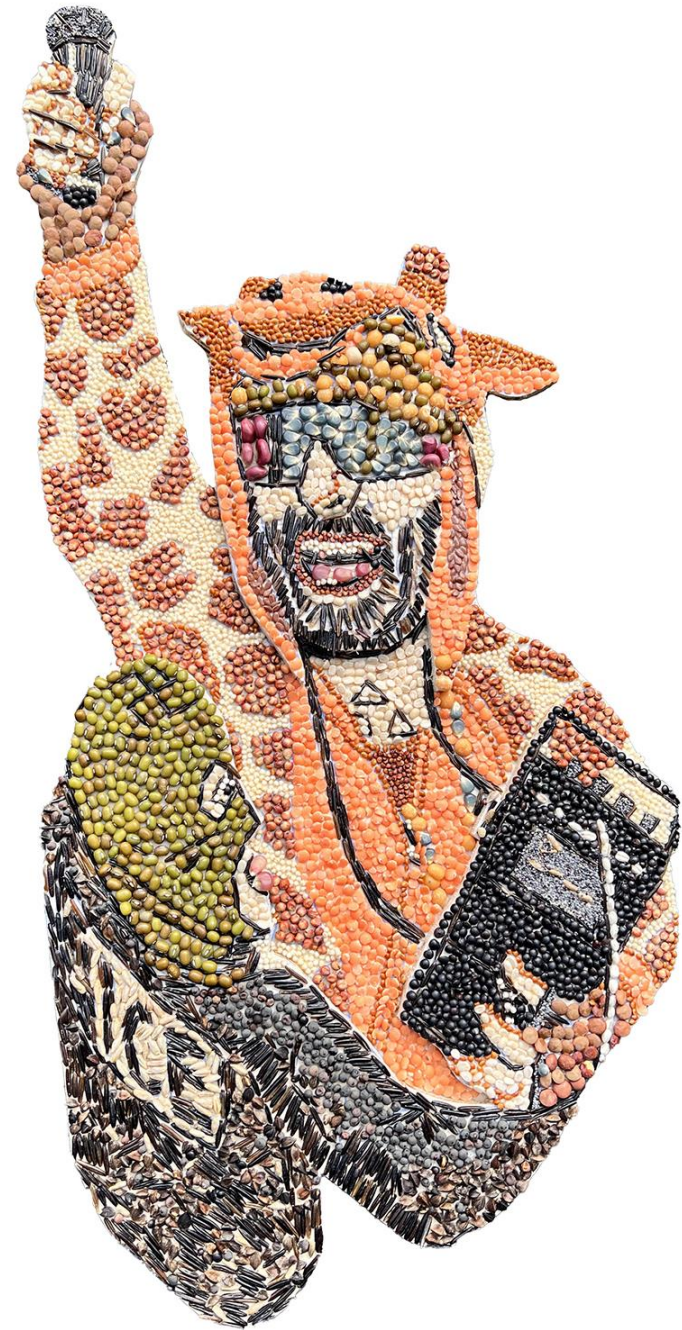
Resist loudly (like a cicada)
By Sarah Jensen Bivens

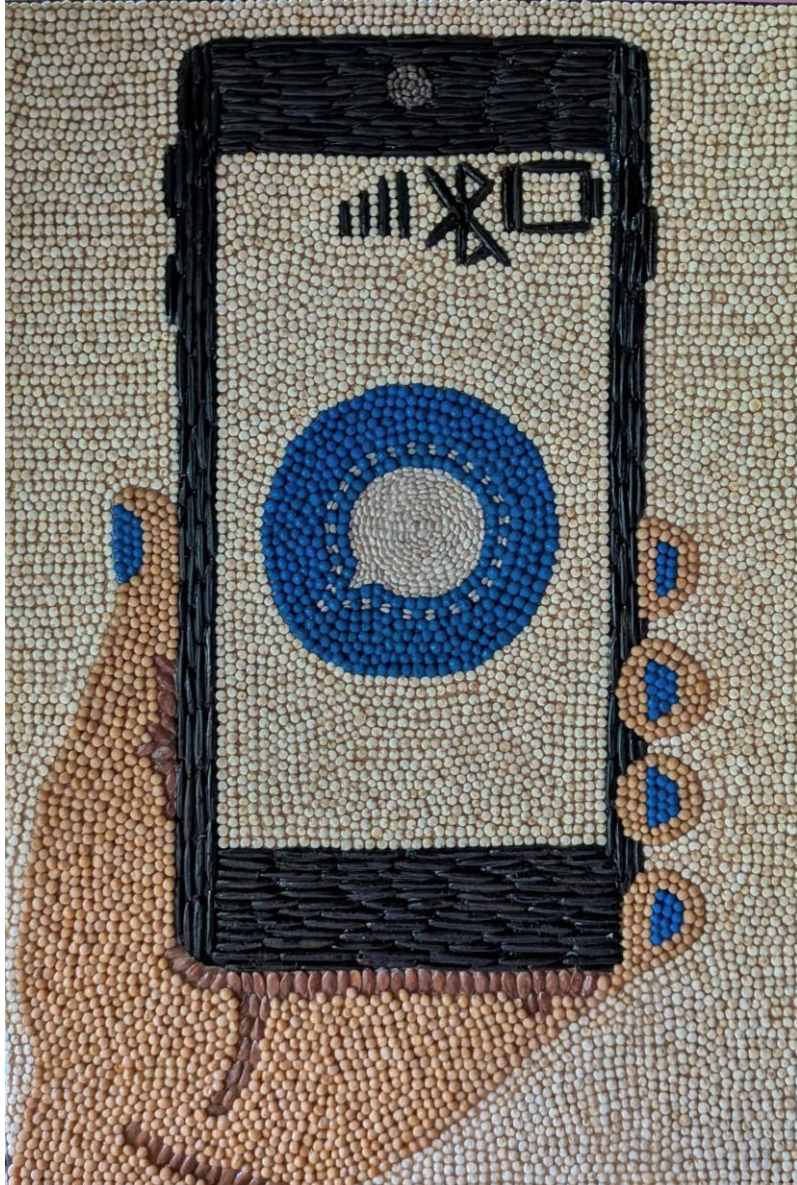


Based on Andi Fink's original artwork
By Gayle Deutsch

“My piece this year is Robby Roadsteamer -- the crass insult comic who dresses like a giraffe and sings songs at the ICE agents until he's arrested.”

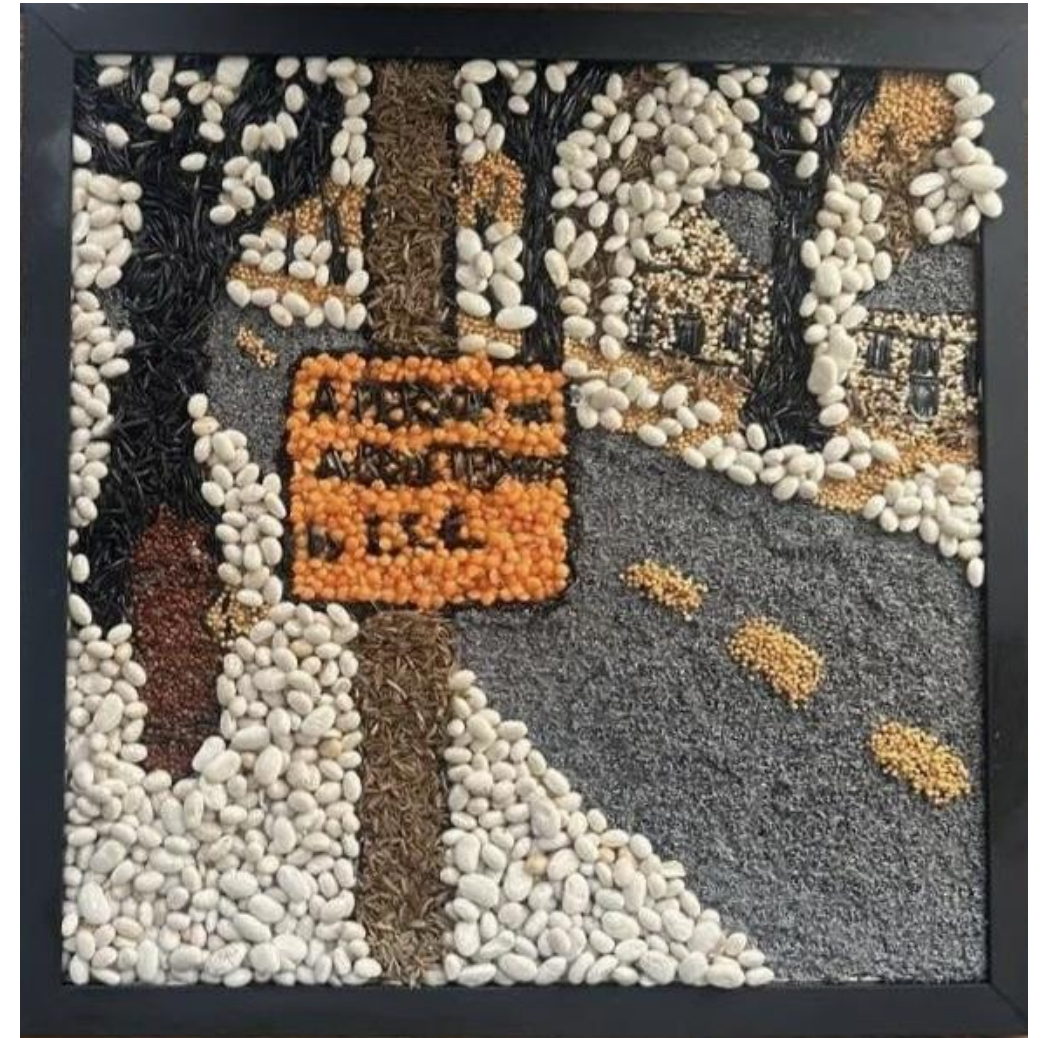
Nick Rindo





“Signal was the app of choice for organizing during and after metro surge. Many rapid responders had their app notifications going wild on their phones -- note the almost dead battery. Community members used signal to call for observers, rapid responders, legal aid, food resources, and much more. This piece is dedicated to all of the people who found a way to help their neighbors, one (or many) chat at a time!”

Molly Gehrke



A person was abducted here by ICE

By Jack Riely



Bethany Nagan



Catrina Ciccone

The St. Paul Winter Carnival began as an act of resistance. In 1885, a group of Eastern newspaper reporters visited Minnesota and subsequently wrote a hit piece about our beloved state, claiming it was "as uninhabitable as Siberia." Minnesotans responded in 1886 by creating an entire festival to celebrate our winters and the abundance of life that is possible even in the coldest part of the year.

In 1986, on the 100th anniversary of the Winter Carnival, more than 400 union tradesmen donated their labor to gift the community with the tallest ice palace yet - 128 feet 9 inches at its top-most tower. Many of those tradesmen were members of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen (BAC) Local 1. The large image in the center of this piece is that 1986 ice palace, illuminated with colorful lights at night. The title rests at the bottom, "Solidarity Forever," borrowed from the union anthem of the same name.

The labor movement began as resistance to the dehumanizing forces of capitalism and the Industrial Revolution, and its philosophies, strategies, and organizing continues to be a wellspring of resistance today. **Minnesota's long, strong history of labor organizing is part of the bedrock that supported and informed our actions during Metro Surge. We once again refused to let external forces judge us or divide us, but actively chose solidarity with each other.**

I made this piece in memory of my grandpa, who was president of the BAC Local 1 at the time they made this beautiful gift to the community, and who instilled in me the apparently radical values of honesty, integrity, craftsmanship, solidarity, the beauty of the arts, respect for nature, treating others with kindness, and making sure everyone gets a good education and has a job that pays a fair wage.

2026
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the civil power.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms:

Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury.

[A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.]

250 YEARS - REMEMBER OUR DECLARATION

The history of the present King is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

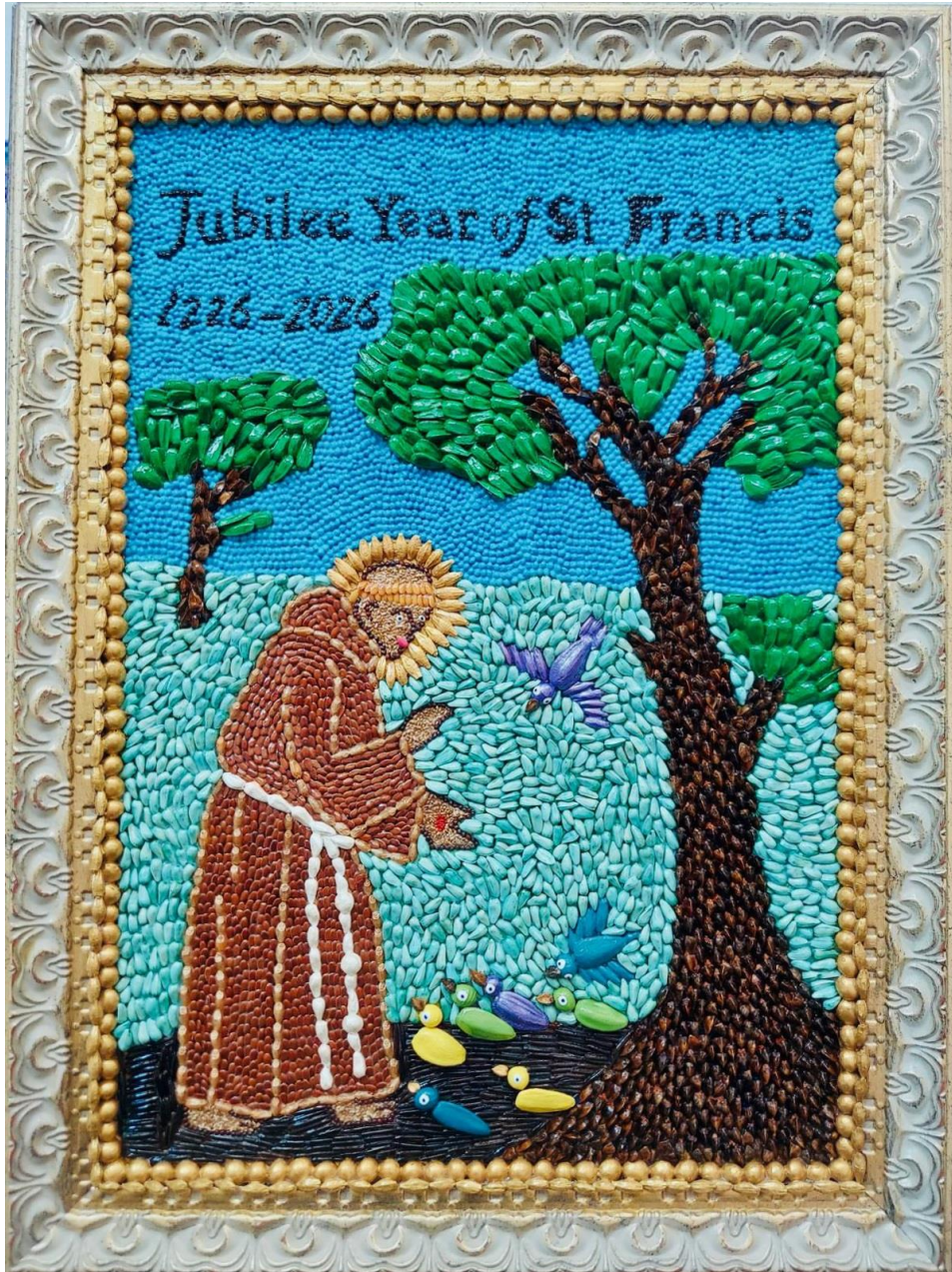
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.

A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Artistic interpretation by Liz Koele



“Saint Francis is the saint of the poor, marginalized, animals and the environment. He's the longstanding, quiet, powerful version of peaceful resistance, right?”

By Suzanne Mears

Based on Giotto's "St. Francis Preaching to the Birds", 1297



“Minnesota magic meets a galaxy far, far away. Inspired by the unmistakable call of the Minnesota loon and the spirit of the Rebel Alliance, this piece brings together two things that don’t seem like they should belong together—but somehow do. ”

Meera Patel



Photo by Theia Chatelle, Jan. 24, 2026

Lisa Palmer created a crop art rendition of the photo taken of DreamHaven Books owner Greg Ketter emerging from tear gas. Ketter was visiting the site of the murder of Alex Pretti when ICE agents threw canisters of gas into the crowd of protesters.



Piece is titled, "First They Came"



Sarah O'Brien



Liam, 5, was taken away by ICE after coming home from preschool in Columbia Heights. He and his blue bunny hat became a symbol of ICE cruelty.

Athena Hollins



Athena Hollins



“I recreated this internet meme of Tomie dePaola's iconic Strega Nona illustration, originally for the Seeds of Justice exhibit, because joy is essential to survival in the face of injustice. The weapon of injustice is cruelty, used to make anyone with a sense of morality feel despair. Sustaining resistance and fighting for change require resisting not only unjust acts but despair itself, and holding tight to joy whenever possible.”

Sarah O'Brien