

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Announcement: *Official Unofficial Voting Station* and Related Tactics' *Never Again Is Now*

Aram Han Sifuentes and the artist collective Related Tactics team up at SoEx to visualize an election that includes the voices of all of our community members

October 13, 2020, San Francisco, CA – On November 3, 2020, Southern Exposure (SoEx) will be an official polling place for the Consolidated General Election, and for weeks before and after, it will also be a site for those who normally are not allowed the opportunity to vote to do so. According to the U.S. Election Project, in 2016 28.6% of Americans, or more than 92 million people, were disenfranchised and ineligible to vote in the presidential elections. The disenfranchised groups include youth under 18, non-citizens, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people (depending on state laws), residents of U.S. territories, and those without government-issued IDs (depending on state laws). This monumental number does not even factor in voter suppression.

From October 21 through November 20, 2020, Aram Han Sifuentes and the artist collective Related Tactics (Michele Carlson, Weston Teruya, and Nathan Watson) will team up at SoEx to envision a world where past, present, and future scenarios of protest come together to include the voices of all of our community members. Aram Han Sifuentes' project, [*The Official Unofficial Voting Station: Voting for All Who Legally Can't*](#), allows the disenfranchised to become more visible by casting their symbolic votes. By imagining voting opportunities for the disenfranchised, Han Sifuentes both points to the inherent

inequities in our voting system and creates a space for all of us to come together to protest and celebrate each of our individual perspectives.

The project, which was born out of her own inability to vote in the 2016 election, will be presented at multiple venues throughout the country leading up to the U.S. election, allowing her to collect data from multiple locations and create a wide vision of what the U.S. actually looks like. Southern Exposure will distribute ballot kits to neighbors, community members, and SoEx audiences and collect and share the data. Community members can vote at officialunofficial.vote or by filling out the form [here](#) to receive a ballot kit in the mail to have their voices heard. As this information is collected, it will be on display through SoEx's front windows along with an installation by Related Tactics that layers historical protest materials and declares, "Never Again is Now." Voter responses will be viewable from the sidewalk through the windows of SoEx, scrolling on a monitor, and online at officialunofficial.vote.

[Never Again is Now](#) calls on histories of protest as they intersect with the ongoing struggle for racial justice. Drawing from histories of protest and its visual culture, this installation, viewable from the sidewalk of Southern Exposure, explores the relationships between social movements and interrogates the ways our current socio-political moment is both a consequence and reflection of the past.

PROJECT INFORMATION

What: *The Official Unofficial Voting Station: Voting for All Who Legally Can't*
Aram Han Sifuentes' project, *The Official Unofficial Voting Station: Voting for All Who Legally Can't*, allows the disenfranchised to become more visible by casting their symbolic votes.

When: October 21 through November 20, 2020

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
and online at officialunofficial.vote

What: Related Tactics presents *Never Again is Now*
Never Again is Now calls on histories of protest as they intersect with the ongoing struggle for racial justice. Drawing from histories of protest and its visual culture, this installation, viewable from the sidewalk of Southern Exposure, explores the relationships between various social movements interrogates the ways our current socio-political moment is both a consequence and reflection of the past.

When: October 21 through November 20, 2020
Wednesday - Friday, Noon - 5:00 PM

Location: Viewable from the sidewalk outside Southern Exposure
3030 20th Street, San Francisco 94110

ABOUT ARAM HAN SIFUENTES

Aram Han Sifuentes is a fiber, social practice, and performance artist who works to claim spaces for immigrant and disenfranchised communities. Her work often revolves around skill sharing, specifically sewing techniques, to create multiethnic and intergenerational sewing circles, which become a place for empowerment, subversion and protest. Her work has been exhibited at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation (St. Louis, MO), Jane Addams Hull-House Museum (Chicago, IL), Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago, IL), Chicago Cultural Center (Chicago, IL), Asian Arts Initiative (Philadelphia, PA), Chung Young Yang Embroidery Museum (Seoul, South Korea), and the Design Museum (London, UK).

Aram is a 2016 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, 2016 3Arts Awardee, and 2017 Sustainable Arts Foundation Awardee. She earned her BA in Art and Latin American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and her MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

ABOUT RELATED TACTICS

Related Tactics is a collective of artists and cultural workers producing creative projects, opportunities, and interventions at the intersection of race and culture. Our projects explore the connections between art, broader social issues, and the public through trans-disciplinary exchanges, making, and dialog. Related Tactics is a conceptual space and platform where we confront systemic and institutional racism or inequities that influence our immediate socio-cultural lived experience that benefit from collective support and sharing knowledge or resources. We do this through collaboration and critical thought strategically implemented amongst and for communities of color and the diaspora.

Related Tactics is a collaboration between Michele Carlson, Weston Teruya, and Nathan Watson though there are many community members that make our work possible. We work between the San Francisco and Washington DC areas. Our projects have been exhibited and supported by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Berkeley Art Center, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery at Parsons School of Design (New York), Southern Exposure Gallery and Alternative Exposure Grants (San Francisco), Chinese Cultural Center (San Francisco).

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Stevie Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 x102 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 12:00PM to 5:00PM. *Please note that our office hours are limited and our gallery is currently closed in accordance with San Francisco's shelter-in-place restrictions.*

Website: soex.org.

Southern Exposure is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, California Arts Council, The Fleishhacker Foundation, The Gelfand Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Nicholson Family Foundation, The pH Foundation, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Arts & Artists Relief Fund, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, The Violet World Foundation, Walter & Elise Haas Fund and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.