

Mask of Anarchy: A Cover

In October of 2018, President Judie Wexler sent a message to the CIIS community titled *Reaction to Hate*. I was greatly inspired by her call for action. This project is my response; a conscious petition “to defend our liberties and repel the forces that seek to take them from us” (Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, part 1 opening scene). The fresco imagery was created to symbolize modern suffering. The curtain of 1000 cranes is an action of hope for change. Marimo Moss Balls are living representatives of healthy eco systems. They consume harmful algae and create a thriving environment for aquatic animals.

The poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley *The Mask of Anarchy* is the focal point of this artwork. Shelley wrote this political poem in 1819 immediately following the Peterloo Massacre. It was not published during Shelley’s lifetime, rejected due to the belief that “the public at large had not become sufficiently discerning to do justice to the sincerity and kind-heartedness of the spirit that walked in this flaming robe of verse.” (Leigh Hunt, *The Examiner*). It was a call for freedom. Many believe it was the first code of nonviolent resistance.

The Mask of Anarchy by Percy Bysshe Shelley

*“Stand ye calm and resolute,
Like a forest close and mute,
With folded arms and looks which are
Weapons of unvanquished war.*

*And if then the tyrants dare,
Let them ride among you there;
Slash, and stab, and maim and hew;
What they like, that let them do.*

*With folded arms and steady eyes,
And little fear, and less surprise,
Look upon them as they slay,
Till their rage has died away:*

*Then they will return with shame,
To the place from which they came,
And the blood thus shed will speak
In hot blushes on their cheek:*

*Rise, like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you:
Ye are many—they are few!”*

ART MATTERS!!

Shelley’s poem gave birth to a lineage of nonviolent political activists for social justice:

Mohandas Gandhi modeled his version of passive resistance after the ideas within Shelley’s poem.

Henry David Thoreau wrote *Civil Disobedience* which was inspired by Shelley’s poetic verse.

Alice Paul

Martin Luther King, Jr

Rosa Parks

Te Whiti o Rongomai

Tohu Kakahi

Leo Tolstoy

Daniel Berrigan

Philip Berrigan

James Bevel

Vaclav Havel

Andrei Sakharov

Lech Walesa

Gene Sharp

Nelson Mandela

Desmond Tutu

Jody Williams

Mairead Maguire

