

Creating this online exhibition, Remembering the Suffragists; 100 Years of Women Voting in the United States, I wanted to engage a large network of artists by making it an Open Call. I invited their participation in recognition of the Women's Suffrage Movement, and questioned what that means to us as womxn, as well as to draw a connection to current and ongoing inequalities that still must be fought. I asked artists, how does this moment in time bring meaning to you? Art's ability to represent history and personal narrative is its own form of activism.

As we celebrate 100 years since the 19th Amendment was passed, the hard work, the protests, and achievements of the Suffragists, has been awe-inspiring by what these women started over 150 years ago. As with any major movement, this one had its conflicts. But it brought attention to protest as the foundation of our democracy, along with voting. It also brought attention to the creative use of the handmade that the Suffragists employed, another important remnant historically, how the arts were used to further their messaging and aid in their protest.

We received many submissions, all so diverse in their responses, which is very exciting for me. I thank everyone who chose to submit, and enjoyed looking at such a vast array of art. My selections reflect upon what I thought brought the most stimulating and provocative ideas and approaches to this theme, each individual artwork and artist acting as a counterpoint. This forms the first exhibition. There will be evolving components, future iterations to add to this exhibition, including discussions, talks, and areas for response. Living during this pandemic, there are many challenges to give voice to, a time to re-examine every aspect of our ways of doing things, inclusive of voting rights and inclusivity. Poignantly, the Suffragists faced similar obstacles.

As my own personal counterpoint, I have been part of the Rodeph Shalom Suffrage Project at my synagogue, collaborating with members on research and action. For my part, I started the Makers Group to make a connection to the Suffragists, how they used the arts to provide much needed visual messaging for their protests. We now have a website devoted to this important historical research and creative work, inviting participation from the public. To learn more about the Rodeph Shalom Suffrage Project click [here](#).

For me, keeping memory alive, while facing loss, it's beautifully human to remember. In addition to creating "Remembering the Suffragists; Suffragists; 100 Years of Women Voting in the United States, to build a collective memory, I remember a wonderfully gifted artist and dear friend, Judy Gelles, who devoted her life to make the world a better place. I include the last artwork she was working on, "Needs to Be Heard".

– Patricia Moss-Vreeland