

Corita Kent, also known as Sister Corita, gained international fame for her vibrant serigraphs during the 1960s and 1970s. A Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, she ran the Art Department at Immaculate Heart College from 1964 until 1968 when she left the Order and moved to Boston. Corita's art reflects her spirituality, her commitment to social justice, her hope for peace and her delight in "the world that takes place all around us."

Corita was born Frances Kent in 1918 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She grew up in Los Angeles and joined the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1936, taking the name Sister Mary Corita. She graduated from Immaculate Heart College in 1941 and then taught grade school in British Columbia. In 1946/47 she returned to Immaculate Heart College to teach art. In 1951, she received a master's degree in art history from the University of Southern California; it is also the year she exhibited her first silkscreen print.

Corita's earliest works were largely iconographic; known as "neo-gothic" they borrowed phrases and depicted images from the Bible. By the 1960s, she was using popular culture (such as song lyrics and advertising slogans) as raw material for her meaning-filled bursts of text and color. Corita's cries for peace in the era of Vietnam were not always welcome. In 1965 her "Peace on Earth" Christmas exhibit in IBM's New York show room was seen as too subversive and Corita had to amend it. However her work continued to be an outlet for Corita's activism—in her words: "I am not brave enough to not pay my income tax and risk going to jail. But I can say rather freely what I want to say with my art."

By then Corita was the chairman of the famous Immaculate Heart College Art Department. Buckminster Fuller described his visit to the department as "among the most fundamentally inspiring experiences of my life." Other influential friends of hers included Charles Eames, Ben Shahn, Harvey Cox and the Berrigan brothers.

August was Corita's time for her own art making. During the three weeks between semesters, she and her students would work round the clock printing new serigraph designs by the hundreds. Corita's chronic insomnia no doubt made some of this possible, but it was often accompanied by a bleak depression.

In 1968 Corita decided to devote herself entirely to making art. She left the Order and Los Angeles, and moved to Boston's Back Bay. She made numerous commissioned works (Westinghouse Group W ads, book covers and murals) and continued to create her own serigraphs (over 400) in the next 18 years. Still using exuberant splashes of color, the tone of her work became more generally spiritual and introspective. Watercolor plein air paintings and great floral silk screens dominated her later works.

Corita remained active in social causes and designed posters and billboards for Share, the International Walk for Hunger, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Amnesty International. The Boston Gas tank on the Southeast Expressway still bears her famous 150-foot rainbow swash, which is a similar to her design for the 1985 Love Stamp. On Sept. 18, 1986 Corita finally lost her battle with cancer and died in her own home.

Corita's works appear in the permanent collections of over 40 major museums including the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. The Corita Art Center has over 600 of Corita's 800 original serigraphs for sale and an extensive archive collection of articles and memorabilia available for researchers.

– Sasha Carrera, Los Angeles.

SISTER MARY CORITA KENT

Born Frances Elizabeth Kent, 1918 in Fort Dodge, Iowa, USA
Died 1986, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

EDUCATION

1951 MA, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA
1941 Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Corita Kent*, BLITZ, Valletta, Malta
We Can Make It: The Prints of Corita Kent, Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Mass Appeal: The Art of Corita Kent, California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks, Thousand Oaks, CA, USA
Corita Kent, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, USA
- 2016 *Corita Kent: Spiritual Pop*, Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, USA
In the Beginning was the Word: Works by Corita Kent, Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, Miami, USA
Corita Kent and the Language of Pop, Berkeley Art Museum, USA / San Antonio Museum of Art, USA
Sister Corita's Summer of Love, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand
Love is Here to Stay and That's Enough: Prints by Sister Corita Kent, Robert & Karen Hoehn Family Galleries, University of San Diego, San Diego, USA
- 2015 *Sister Corita: Summer of Love*, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand
Resurrection of the Spirit, Galerie Allen, Paris, France
Someday Is Now: The Art of Corita Kent, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland / The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, USA
- 2014 *Let the Sun Shine In*, Circleculture Gallery, Berlin, Germany
But, There is Only One Thing That Has Power, Galerie Allen, Paris, France
Someday Is Now: The Art of Corita Kent, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, USA / Tang Museum, USA
- 2013 *The Gospel According to Corita Kent*, Parson House Gallery, Assonet, USA
The Corita Kent Exhibition, The Herb Alpert Educational Village, Santa Monica, USA
There Will Be New Rules Next Week, Dundee Contemporary Arts Center, Dundee, Scotland, UK
Someday Is Now: The Art of Corita Kent, Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, USA
- 2012 *R(ad)ical Love: Sister Mary Corita*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, USA
To Believe: The Spirited Art of Corita, John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library, The Catholic University of America, Washington, USA
- 2011 *A Joyous Protest: The Graphic Work of Corita Kent*, The Markhausen Gallery of Art at Concordia University, Seward, USA
Sister Corita: The Joyous Revolutionary, Thornhill Gallery, Avila University, Kansas City, USA
Sister Corita Christmas, Kit Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Tas Yard Café, Tokyo, Japan
E is for Everyone: Celebrating Sister Corita, The Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco, USA
To Create Is to Relate, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Celebrate Corita!, Castro Valley Library, San Francisco ; The John O'Lague Galleria at City Hall, Hayward, USA
Yobel—Jubilee: A Celebration of the Life of Corita, Buckley Center Gallery, University of Portland, Portland, USA
Sister Corita Kent, Neon Parc, Melbourne, Australia
- 2010 *Sister Corita: The Joyous Revolutionary*, Sordoni Art Gallery, Wilkes-Barre, PA; University of Michigan Art Museum, Ann Arbor, MI; Tyler Art Gallery, Oswego, NY
Corita Prints and Posters, Ufizzi Salon, Austin, USA
EveryDAY Miracles: Corita, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, San Pedro, USA
We Can Create Life without War – The Corita Peace Project, Courtyard Gallery, Hollywood Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, USA
- 2009 *Corita Kent*, Zach Feuer Gallery, New York, USA
Corita Retrospective, Los Angeles Cathedral, Los Angeles, USA
The Corita Show, LouWe Gallery, Pasadena, USA
A Passion for the Possible: The Works of Sister Corita, cur. Aaron Rose, California State University, Northridge, USA
Sign Language: The Pop Art of Sister Corita, cur. Ted Hughes, Missoula Art Museum, Missoula, USA

- Corita: A Retrospective 1951-1985*, Judson Studio Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Sister Corita: The Joyous Revolutionary, Richard F. Brush Art Gallery, Canton, NY; Crown Center Gallery, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, USA
Corita – Breaking (All) the Rules, Jundt Galleries, Gonzaga University, Spokane, USA
Corita: Serigraphs and Watercolors 1951-1985, The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, USA
 2008 *Sister Corita*, Kalfayan Galleries Thessaloniki, Athens, Greece
Inspired Images, Breslin Fine Art Gallery, East Greenwich, USA
What's in it for you? Plenty! The practice of Sister Corita, cur. Signal, JET, Berlin, Germany
Sister Corita, Kalfayan Galleries, Athens, Greece; Thessaloniki, Greece
Corita: A Retrospective 1951-1985, Judson Gallery of Contemporary and Traditional Art, Los Angeles, USA
Power Up: Serigraphs by Corita Kent, cur. Fr. Thomas Lucas, Thacher Gallery at the University of San Francisco, USA
We Can Create Life Without War: A Retrospective Exhibit of the Works of Corita Kent, Breslin Fine Arts, Inc., East Greenwich, USA
A Passion for the Possible: The Works of Sister Corita, cur. Aaron Rose, Circle Culture, Berlin, Germany; Monster Children Gallery, Sydney, Australia
Power Up: Sister Corita, DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, Scotland, UK
Power Up—Have a Hippy Holiday, Barneys, New York, USA
 2007 *Bright Bird: The Art of Sister Mary Corita Kent*, Spirit Room Gallery, Fargo, USA
Yes People Like Us: Prints from the 1960s by Sister Corita, cur. Julie Ault, Museum Ludwig, Ludwig, Germany
Corita Kent: Serigraphs, The Snite Museum of Art, Notre Dame, USA
Corita Kent Serigraphs, LouWe Gallery, Pasadena, USA
Wet and Wild: The Spirit of Sister Corita, Signal Center for Contemporary Art, Malmo, Sweden
 2006 *Corita's Love of Life*, San Luis Obispo Art Center, San Luis Obispo, USA
Sister Corita: Works from the 1960s, cur. Julie Ault, Between Bridges, London, UK
 2005 *A Passion for the Possible: Serigraphs by Corita*, St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, USA
 2004 *The Power of Corita, A Retrospective*, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, USA
 2000 *The Big G Stands for Goodness: Corita Kent's 1960s Pop*, cur. Michael Duncan, Luckman Gallery, Los Angeles; Norah Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University; Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA UTSA Art Gallery, University of Texas, San Antonio; Beaver College (Arcadia University) Art Gallery, Glenside, USA
 1981 *Corita Kent*, Suzanne Brown Gallery, Scottsdale, USA
 1980 *Corita: A Retrospective*, De Cordova Museum, Lincoln, USA
 1967 (Maybe 1965) *Morris Gallery*, New York, USA
 1965 *Peace on Earth*, I.B.M. Storefront, New York, USA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *California: Designing Freedom*, Design Museum, London, England, UK
10th Annual California Hall of Fame Artifact Exhibit, California Museum, Sacramento, CA, USA
Yes yes yes yes: Graphics from the 1960s and 1970s, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Typeface to Interface: Graphic Design from the Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA
Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, USA
 2016 *Politiques de l'art*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
You Say You Want a Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England, UK
Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, USA
 2015 *Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
When Artists Speak Truth..., The 8th Floor, Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, USA
 2013 *Tell It to My Heart: Collected by Julie Ault*, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel, Switzerland; Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal; Artists Space, New York, USA
Decade of Dissent: Democracy in Action 1965-1976, Santa Monica Art Studios, ARENA 1, Santa Monica, USA
Letters from Los Angeles: Text in Southern California Art, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, USA
Air de Pied-à-terre, Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York, USA
Elements, Rudiments, and Principles, Boston University Art Gallery, Boston, USA
Doing as You Like, Grafikens Hus, Mariefr, ed, Sweden; Hein Onstad Art Centre, Oslo, Norway
 2012 *Arthur Rainbow*, Air de Paris Gallery, Paris, France
Decade of Dissent: Democracy in Action 1965-1976, Center for the Study of Political Graphics at West Hollywood Library, West Hollywood, CA; Santa Monica Art Studios, ARENA 1, Santa Monica, USA
Purely Observational/Everyday Political: Artwork of and Inspired by Corita Kent, Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of

- Art and Design, Los Angeles, USA
 Trienal Poli/Gráfica de San Juan: América Latina y el Caribe, El Panal/The Hive, Puerto Rico
You, Me, Sbe, We, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
Doing What You Want: Marie Louise Eckman, Corita Kent, Mladen Stiljinovic and Martha Wilson, Testa Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Decades of Dissent: Democracy in Action 1960 – 1980, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, USA (Organized by the Center for the Study of Political Graphics)
Amateurism, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany
Pull Everything Out, Spike Island, Bristol, UK
- 2011 *1.85 Million*, cur. Joseph Allen Shea, Campbelltown Arts Center, Sydney, Australia
For Love Not Money, Tallinn Print Triennial, Tallinn, Estonia
Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America, The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Dubuque; Center for History, University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College, South Bend; Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, USA
California Design, 1930 – 1965: Living in a Modern Way, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
The Personal is Political: Women Artists from the Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA
Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center, Municipal Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park and the Watts Towers Arts Center, Los Angeles, USA
Cruising the Archive: Queer Art and Culture in Los Angeles 1945 – 1980, ONE Archives Gallery and Museum, West Hollywood, USA
Proof: The Rise of Printmaking in Southern California, Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, USA
 Pacific Standard Time, Los Angeles, USA
- 2010 *You Can Heal Your Life!* Circus Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Pieces of 9: Reframing the Collection, University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach, USA
The Joyous Revolutionary, Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, Lubbock, USA
Power Up: Female Pop Artists, Kunsthalle Wein, Vienna, Austria
Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America, S. Dillon Ripley Center at the Smithsonian, Washington; Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York; Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Cleveland, USA
Messaging: Text and Visual Art, Chadron State College, Chadron; Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, USA
Corita and Friends: 40 Years of Heart Tales, FINDings Art Center, San Pedro, USA
California Design Biennial: Action/Reaction, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, USA
SWELL: Art 1950 – 2010, Nyehaus, Friedrich Peztel Gallery, and Metro Pictures, New York, USA
Freedom of Speech, Hamburg, Germany
 The California Endowment, Sacramento, USA
- 2009 *Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; The Women's Museum, Dallas, USA
Signs of Change: Social Movement Cultures, 1968-present, cur. Josh MacPhee, Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
Divine Abstractions, Gallery 92 West, Fremont, USA
Connections: LA Printmaking 1962 to 1973, cur. Donald Krieger, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, USA
 Winter, State Farm Insurance Building, Los Angeles, USA
I Am. Amen., Trahern Gallery, Austin Peay State University, Clarksburg, USA
- 2008 *That was Then... This is Now*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, USA
Signs of Change: Social Movement Cultures 1960s to Now, cur. Josh MacPhee, Exit Art, New York, NY; Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon, Pittsburgh, USA
246 and Counting, Recent Architecture and Design Acquisitions, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA
Made in the USA, The LA Brewery, Los Angeles, USA
That L.A. Desire (Part 1), Galerie Dennis Kimmerich, Dusseldorf, Germany
Social Space Between Speaking and Meaning, White Columns, New York City, USA
Flower Power: A Subversive Botanical, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, USA
Dissent! 1968 & Now, Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, USA
HouseGuest, Armand Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA
We Have Never Met Before [...], Standard (Oslo), Oslo, Norway
Brussels Biennial 1, Brussels Biennial, Brussels, Germany
- 2007 *If Everybody Had an Ocean: Brian Wilson, an Art Exhibition*, cur. Alex Farquharson, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France; Tate St. Ives, Cornwall, England
The Believers, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, USA (Curated by Jerome Grand and Nato Thompson)

- Uneasy Angel/Imagine Los Angeles*, Sprueth Magers, Munich, Germany
Darling Take Fountain, Kalfayan Galleries, Athens, Greece
Endless Western Sunset, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York City, USA
Two Years, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, USA
2006 *Dissent!*, Fogg Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA
Herd Instinct 360, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York City, USA
2005 *Just do it!*, The Subversion of Signs from Marcel Duchamp to Prada Meinhof, Lentos Art Museum, Linz, Austria
2000 *Power Up, Sister Corita and Donald Moffett, Interlocking*, Armand Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA (Curated by Julie Ault)
1962 *American Printmakers 1962*, Emily Lowe Art Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, USA
1959 *Religious Subjects in Modern Graphic Arts*, New York City, USA (circulated by Smithsonian Institution)
1955 *Southern California Serigraphs*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
1954 *Young American Printmakers*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
1952 *American Water Colors, Drawings, and Prints*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, San Francisco, CA
Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA
Albion College, Albion, MI
Armand Hammer Museum, Grunwald Center for Graphic Arts, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Art Institute of Zanesville, Zanesville, OH
Art Gallert of New South Wales, Australia
Beaver College, Glenside, PA
Berkeley Art Museum, CA
Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France
Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso University, IN
Brooklyn Museum, NY
Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis TN
California State University Chico, CA
California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA
Cape Cod Museum of Art, MA
Carnegie Art Museum, CA
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
The Chartwell Collection, New Zealand
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
FRAC Pays de la Loire, France
FRAC Ile-de-France, France
Free Library of Philadelphia, PA
Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Zealand
Gutman Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Hammer Museum, UCLA, CA
Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
Library of Congress, Department of Prints, Washington, DC
Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France
Lindenwood College, St. Charles, MO
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA
Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany
Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, CA
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Mills College, Oakland, CA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

Museum Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Museum Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum Fine Arts, New York, NY
Museum Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
New York Public Library, New York, NY
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
Oregon State College, Corvallis, OR
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, OK
The Print Club, Philadelphia, PA
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
Queensland Art Gallery/ Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Schlesinger Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, CA
Seattle Public Library, Seattle, WA
Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
Stanford University, Stanford, CA
Tang Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth, TX
Thiel College Collection, Greenville, PA
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Zanesville Museum of Art, Zanesville, OH

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Alanna Martinez, “The Pop Art of Sister Mary Corita Kent to Be Shown at Harvard”, Observer August 2015
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- "Riverside: Groundbreaking female artists to be spotlighted." The Press-Enterprise 4 January 2013.
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- "Sister Corita: From Wonderbread to Workshops". Reaction [beta]. Web. 24 June 2011.
- Rothon, Pamela. "Interview with Sister Mary Corita Kent." Fascimile Magazine April 2007.
- Shaw, Cameron. "Sister Corita Kent" Artforum.com November 2009
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- Kent, Sister Mary Corita. *Damn Everything But the Circus*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970.
- Kent, Sister Mary Corita with Elizabeth Bugenthal. *Ugo Betti Book and Portfolio*. Immaculate Heart College.
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- Kent, Sister Mary Corita with Gerald Huckaby. *City, Uncity*. Doubleday & Co.
- Kent, Sister Mary Corita with Joseph Pintauro. *To Believe in Things*. Harper & Row.
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AWARDS

- Special Recognition of Work in Advertising, Advertising Agency Association, 1972
- Award for Achievement in Art, Governor's Committee on the Status of Women, Massachusetts

GALERIE ALLEN

59 rue de Dunkerque
75009 Paris France
+33 (0)1 45 26 92 33
contact@galerieallen.com
galerieallen.com

For any further information and/or high resolution imagery please contact pour plus d'informations et/ou HD images veuillez contacter :

Joseph Allen Shea
+33 (0)1 45 26 92 33
joseph@galerieallen.com

galerieallen.com

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