

THE RADICAL IMAGINATION: A retrospective portfolio by Favianna Rodriguez

THE RADICAL IMAGINATION is the first retrospective print portfolio of acclaimed artist activist and printmaker, Favianna Rodriguez. She is an interdisciplinary artist, environmentalist and social justice leader based in Oakland, California. Her iconic images and unique style have launched global reconfigurations of progressive cultural consciousness best exemplified by her ubiquitous "*Migration is Beautiful*" butterfly design's reconceptualizing of migration as a positive life force, countering global authoritarian attempts to criminalize migrants. Favianna is co-founder and President of The Center for Cultural Power, an organization igniting change at the intersection of art and social justice. She was the recipient of the 2016 Robert Rauschenberg Artist as Activist Fellowship, the 2017 Atlantic Fellowship for Racial Equity, and the 2018 SOROS Equality Fellowship.

This portfolio documents an impressive scope over a 15 years span of Favianna's work. The pieces in the collection range from powerful protest pieces editioned globally in the thousands, to the most intimate, complex, and unique linoleum block and screen-printed collages. The works address themes of racial justice, immigrant rights, abortion, decolonization, climate change, food sovereignty, sexual freedom and wellbeing.

Boxed Set: Limited Edition of 15

Works from 2008 - 2024

Contains 20 prints and posters

Mediums: Collage, Screenprint, Linoleum Block, Digital Art and Offset

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Black Latino Unity

2008

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

This piece celebrates a groundbreaking Black and Latino Summit that took place in Los Angeles in 2008. The images depict the parallels between the social injustices faced by both Latine and Black communities in the United States. Both communities face structural racism, family separation, economic inequity, and mass incarceration. Yet both communities are also resilient and are organizing around their self determination. The piece served as a call for unity and solidarity among all people of color.

Additionally, many Latine people are also Black, yet this truth is not always embraced due to colonization and racism. The slave trade occurred throughout Latin America, much more than it

did in the United States. Yet many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have moved slowly - or failed entirely - to recognize the deep impacts of racism and continue to promote a white-centric culture. This piece is also a call for Latine people to recognize their African roots and engage in anti-racism work.

Make Out Not War

2008

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

This poster was originally commissioned by Code Pink and launched at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. It was designed to interject an eye-catching pro-peace platform into the convention where Barack Obama was selected as the Democratic candidate. I intended for the piece to be a statement about love. The peace signs in the woman's sunglasses represent the need for us to work together to build a better future.

El Maíz Es Nuestro

2009

12" x 18"

Digital Print

I developed this piece to expose how the planting of transgenic maize in Mexico is a crime against maize farmers, against biodiversity and food sovereignty. The domination of genetically modified seeds, along with unfair trade agreements such as NAFTA, are destroying the way of life for farmers all over Latin America as well as strangling biodiversity.

Undocumented Unafraid

2010

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

After Arizona's governor signed an anti-immigrant bill, SB 1070 into law in April 2010, a movement of organizers around the country rose up to fight it. I traveled to Arizona as part of an artist delegation to document the impacts on women and children. At one of the marches, I photographed a young Latina girl in the crowd and developed this poster. The phrase, "Undocumented. Unafraid" is a term that was coined by a migrant youth movement around 2009 as they rejected respectability politics and fully owned their lived experiences as a source of

power. This poster was originally commissioned by AltoArizona.com, a project organized by the organization, National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON).

Tu Lucha Es Mi Lucha

2010

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

This piece reads, "Tu Lucha es Mi Lucha," which translated means, "Your Struggle is My Struggle." On the left is a farmer reaching out toward the planet, which is symbolized by a seed. The woman on the right is singing and sharing her truth. The two figures at the top are looking to the future. I placed the plant inside the seed as a metaphor of our ecosystem, to show how all forms of life are dependent on each other. This piece was originally designed for the United States Social Forum in 2010.

International Women's Day

2011

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

This piece celebrated the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. The image depicts a Latina worker organizing her community to stand up for the rights of immigrants. Behind her is a depiction of a feminine figure symbolizing both Mother Earth and every woman on the planet. There is no eye on the figure because the woman is all of us.

In my art practice, I intentionally draw women as powerful, bold, and inspiring beings. One of the greatest challenges for me growing up was to gain my self esteem as a young woman of color given that pop culture centered white women. I became an artist in order to claim my voice, and to show women of color in our fullest capacity.

This piece was commissioned by Public Services International (PSI), a union based in Geneva, Switzerland, that represents 650 public sector trade unions and their 20 million public sector workers – the majority of whom are women.

Migration Is Beautiful

2012

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

The monarch butterfly represents the beauty of migration. We belong to nature, and nature has no borders. The butterfly is a symbol for the right of all living beings to move freely. Like the monarch butterfly, human beings cross borders in search of safer habitats. Like the monarch butterfly, human beings cross borders in order to survive. In this figure, each wing shows a human profile. The phrase, "Migration is Beautiful," celebrates the resiliency, courage, and determination of migrants who come in search of their dreams.

I launched the "Migration is Beautiful" campaign in 2012 at the Democratic National Convention in collaboration with the UndocuBus. At the time, former President Obama was deporting over 1100 immigrants a day. Since then, this symbol has become a popular symbol of the global immigrant rights movement

It's My Body It's My Pussy

2012

17" x 12"

Digital Print

This poster is part of a series of feminist reactions in 2012, as politicians and conservatives were waging an all out war on women's bodies, our access to health, our right to birth control, and our right to free, accessible and safe abortion. The attacks on abortion continue today, and 2012 was a special year for me because it's when I came out about my abortion.

I came out about my own abortion in order to break the silence and to shed the shame. By telling my story as a Latinx woman, I was putting a face to the debate and complicating the narrative. I was being unapologetic in how I told my story and celebrated sluttiness. I was fed up with misogynist politicians who were working to further limit and hinder our access to our reproductive rights through anti-contraceptive measures. The right to control your own reproduction is the most fundamental right we have as human beings.

I'm A Slut

2012

17" x 12"

Digital Print

This poster is part of a series of feminist reactions in 2012, as politicians and conservatives were waging an all out war on women's bodies, our access to health, our right to birth control, and our right to free, accessible and safe abortion. The attacks on abortion continue today, and 2012 was a special year for me because it's when I came out about my abortion.

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You Are Welcome Here

2017

24" x 18"

Offset Poster

This piece was a reinterpretation of my classic *_Migration is Beautiful_* poster, which was originally created in 2012. Five years later, the symbol was needed more than ever as anti-immigrant hate and legislation exacerbated under the Trump regime. The monarch butterfly represents the natural act that is migration. Human beings have been migrating since the beginning of time. We are a part of nature, and it's in our human nature to move, just as all other species move. Borders were created by governments - but they are meant to keep people in or out, they are not a natural part of our environment. This artwork imagines a world without walls and borders.

This butterfly symbolizes the rights of all living beings to move freely. Like the monarch butterfly, human beings cross borders in search of safer habitats. Like the monarch butterfly, human beings cross borders in order to survive. Each wing in this butterfly shows a human profile.

This design was originally created for the Oakland Unified School District, a sanctuary school district, in the Summer of 2017. The district distributed posters to all of their schools as a way to create a more welcoming environment for students.

Embrace Your Softness

2022

15" x 11.25"

Collage with Linoleum Block and Screenprint Elements on Cotton Rag Paper.

Edition of 50, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

This series is about my ongoing commitment to be soft with the people that I love and the folks in my community. Four years ago, as I was reflecting on lessons learned from an unhealthy relationship, I noticed that I would make decisions that were based in anger and resentment. My approach was to punish. However, that was not aligned with my values and it wasted my energy.

I realized I needed to focus on myself - my own choices and my boundaries. The reality is that I had made the choice to put myself in situations despite seeing red flags, so the shifts needed to happen within me. With my somatics coach, I worked on establishing boundaries and becoming softer. I recognized I had gone through some tough experiences, but I didn't want to close my heart. Rather I wanted to let things go and stay open and soft.

To remain soft and release what doesn't serve me allows for me to align more with my feminine side. Being a leader (aka "boss lady") and activist sometimes requires me to show up with masculine energy because our work cultures have been shaped predominantly by men. But that is shifting and I am feeling much more called to be in my feminine energy and to lead while being clear, having boundaries and staying soft.

Listen to Your Body

2022

15" x 11.25"

Collage with Linoleum Block and Screenprint Elements on Cotton Rag Paper.

Edition of 51, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

This print series reflects a lifelong lesson that I've been normalizing for myself, to LISTEN to my body. I grew up with immigrant parents who had a very strong work ethic out of necessity, and they would rarely prioritize rest. On the contrary, I was encouraged since childhood to be highly productive and to be the best at everything. Being great at everything of course requires tremendous sacrifice. Throughout my teens, college and well into my 30s, I would push my body to its limits. A message that my parents would say, "sleep when you die," was etched into my imagination.

Yet through my own decolonization and healing work, I learned that the myth of "productivity" is harmful and that capitalism pushes that narrative while not promoting rest, recovery and overall slowing down. I am naturally a very energetic person and I love the things I do. But I am also releasing the habits of self exploitation, and learning how to become attuned to what my body needs and wants. Sometimes I can go hard but I also cultivate pleasurable periods of rest for myself.

This art piece is about honoring the messages that my body gives to me. My body lets me know when it's time to rest. It lets me know who the right people are for me. Tuning into my body's wisdom, I am able to make the best decisions for myself. My body guides me in the right way.

Coyote 2023

2023

22"x 15"

Collage with Linoleum block & Screenprint Elements on Cotton Fine Rage Paper
Edition of 24, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

This print is part of a collection that celebrates the remarkable Coyote, a creature that has captivated my interest as I've collaborated with the Presidio National Park in San Francisco. As the largest predator in the Presidio, the Coyote holds a significant role in the ecosystem.

What makes Bay Area coyotes truly special are their exceptional adaptability to urban environments. They have established their territories in parks, open spaces, and even suburban neighborhoods, demonstrating an impressive ability to coexist harmoniously with us humans.

The diverse ecosystem of the Bay Area has shaped these coyotes, enabling them to thrive in various habitats, from coastal areas and grasslands to forests and wetlands. Their adaptability allows them to utilize the available resources and flourish in different environments. Thanks to dedicated conservation efforts in the Bay Area, these Coyotes have found increasing protection and support.

In this suite of prints, I have infused vibrant colors and pop-inspired patterns to pay homage to this magnificent creature. Through exploring the Presidio's ecosystem, I gained a deeper understanding of the diverse array of plants and animals that once thrived before colonization. It is a true honor to celebrate the beauty of this majestic animal.

T1TS OUT

2023

12" x 12"

Screenprint on French Paper

Edition of 50

I've learned to really BE in my body and I enjoy being in spaces clothes-free, in the same way that I came into earthside. Throughout my childhood I received negative messages about my body and I was forced to cover my body in ways that did not feel authentic to me as a girl and young woman. I learned to only see my body through a predatory lens.

Growing up in the Queer Bay Area, a place where sexual expression was encouraged, I would try to dress in ways that made me feel confident, sexy and empowered, and because of that I was punished and shamed in painful ways. But this only made me stronger in my drive to be authentic. Being nude or topless became a way for me to fully express. Today, I feel thankful to have the freedom to be expansive in my gender identity and wear things that make me feel playful, joyful, sensual - like myself.

It's important to question the dominant narratives in our society. Why is it that cis male bodies get to walk around showing their chest? Yet many of us have to cover our breasts - these fascinating body parts that help nourish babies, literally ensuring the survival of our species. Why do we have to cover them? Why do we have laws that legislate how a mother can breastfeed their kids in public? These are all patriarchal policies rooted in colonial thinking and they serve to limit the expression and enjoyment of our bodies.

Similarly, there are many other parts of the body which also get highly sexualized and stigmatized. This is why I resist this colonial framework by walking around naked and free, especially in nature. It feels empowering to me.

This particular art piece is inspired by a trip to the Folsom Street Fair in 2022. I loved how many folks were wearing harnesses and leather outfits that are popular in kink and BDSM culture. I felt so lucky to live in such an open place like the Bay Area. That day, I got myself a really cute harness, and that moment inspired this work.

Freedom Flight

2023

22" x 15"

Collage with Linoleum Block and Screenprint Elements on Cotton Rag Paper.

Edition of 15, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

Throughout 2023, my artistic practice was deeply inspired by the vibrant ecosystems of the Bay Area, where I call home. It became a year of immersion in the ecological tapestry of this region, inspiring me to create art pieces that paid homage to its natural wonders, specifically focusing on the majestic Redwoods and the wetlands of the South Bay.

As is normal for me, I often have to divide my focus between my art projects and my social justice activism. During this time, I found myself not only delving into the avian world, learning about magnificent creatures like the American Avocet, Marsh Wren, and the Long Billed Curlew, but also collaborating with activists and grassroots leaders who work for justice and freedom.

As I explored various species of birds, I marveled at their singing styles, their protective instincts, and the care they took in constructing their nests for their young. These birds became a metaphor for Freedom.

In this collage series, I marry two of my core artistic practices: the use of text to convey bold social and political messages, and the incorporation of vibrant natural elements as a form of biomimicry.

Liberate the Land

2023

15 x 11.25"

Collage with Linoleum Block & Screenprint Elements on Cotton Rag Paper

Edition of 53, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

The land does not belong to us, we belong to the land. This print honors the movement to FREE THE LAND!

Through this art, I celebrate Indigenous efforts to rematriate the land and return it to the stewardship of Indigenous people, such as the work led by Sogorea Te' Land Trust, an urban Indigenous women-led nonprofit rooted in the East Bay.

The phrase "Free the land" has its roots with the New Afrikan Independence Movement which called for an independent Black nation on the North American continent. To "Free the Land" means to support Black land reparations.

Much of my education as a climate justice activist comes from Movement Generation, an organization that recognizes that people of African descent in particular have a unique struggle in reimagining and reclaiming relationships with the land of this continent; doing so in ways that honor our ancestors from the African continent, our enslaved ancestors, and Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island.

In order for us to solve the climate crisis, we must work towards land-based revolutions everywhere. We must work to liberate the land for ALL people. When we say "free the land", we mean free it all. Liberate the gardens! Liberate the forests! Liberate the cities!

Slow Down to Create Something Different

2023

15 x 11.25"

Collage with Linoleum Block & Screenprint Elements on Cotton Rag Paper

Edition of 35, [this is an Edition Varie and each set gets a unique variation.](#)

This print symbolizes the need to slow down in a culture that is always pushing us to move fast. It serves as a reminder that creating meaningful change requires a regenerative relationship to time, as well as a shift in how we create, collaborate, and navigate the unrealistic standards we set for ourselves and others because of capitalism.

Our hyper-productive, hyper-capitalist system demands inhumane speeds from us as creatives, hindering our ability to question ingrained systems. By slowing down, we are able to connect with

our bodies, with each other, and to reject old paradigms in order to open our hearts for different ways of being.

This piece features a banana slug which is common in the Santa Cruz region, near my home. The collection introduces a new dimension with a gradient text—a reflection of the evolving nature of our contemplations.

No Genocide

2024

20" x 16"

Screenprint

Edition of 50

This art piece connects the dots between militarism, occupation, genocide and gender violence in Palestine. Through my work, I immortalize powerful moments of resistance, so that they may remain alive in our collective consciousness. This piece was inspired by a 1970's Vietnam poster.

This art piece connects the dots between militarism, occupation, genocide and gender violence. As an artist, I help build a culture that supports a free Palestine. Through my work, I immortalize powerful moments of resistance, so that they may remain alive in our collective consciousness. This piece was inspired by a 1970's Vietnam poster.