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INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SINCE 1989



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STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

STREET SHEET

A small illustration of a person carrying a bag on their back, standing on a red staircase that leads up to the right side of the word "STREET".

CURRENTLY ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY HOMEWARD STREET JOURNAL VENDORS IN SACRAMENTO



ART AUCTION 24

Cover Art:

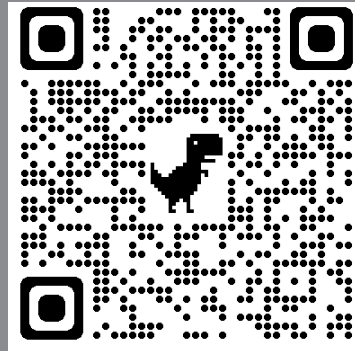
Jeff Musser Angela, 2024

Oil on canvas with antique frame

“My first job after graduating from The School Of The Art Institute Of Chicago was designing Happy Meals for a now defunct ad agency in Chicago. The job paid well, but I was artistically miserable. I learned very quickly that I could not be creative for someone else during the day and keep my painting practice going at night. Something had to give. So when the rumor of layoffs within the agency started to circulate, I greeted the gossip with hope. When the layoffs became reality, I was suddenly free to pursue my love of painting. On the downside I now had to deal with issues of surviving, and how to overcome the much-romanticized notion of a starving artist. My painting style has changed dramatically over the years, but my love for portraiture and narrative figurative painting has always been at the heart of my practice.”

“There is a unique way that sunlight hits the pavement under a freeway overpass. Or maybe it just appears unique to my eyes. Walking under a multi-lane freeway is a bit like walking through a tunnel. The atmosphere is dark, so your eyes have to adjust to the momentary change in light. But unlike a tunnel, a freeway overpass has gaps. I first saw Angela when I was walking underneath one of those gaps. As I was walking toward her, the light from above was illuminating her face in the way you see here. The moment was so striking I asked if I could take her picture. She was hesitant, but I told her I was an artist and that she had a nice face. She laughed and agreed to let me take her picture. After I took my third photo, an angry voice from across the street yelled, “Angela!” She immediately looked down at the ground and whispered, “I’m sorry, I have to go.” The man she ran to pushed her inside of a tent and angrily kicked a liter of Dad’s Root Beer towards me. I only saw her in my neighborhood a handful of times after our first encounter. Sometimes she would say “hello” with a smile or a wave. Other times I could sense that acknowledging me would bring her unwanted aggression or harm from the men surrounding her. I think about her every time I walk under that particular freeway. I wonder if she would enjoy that painting I made of her.”

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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agendas to us.

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

Editor: TJ Johnston
Artistic Spellcaster: Quiver Watts

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ORGANIZE WITH US

HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TUESDAYS @ NOON

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WEDNESDAYS @12:30

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join! Email lpierce@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!

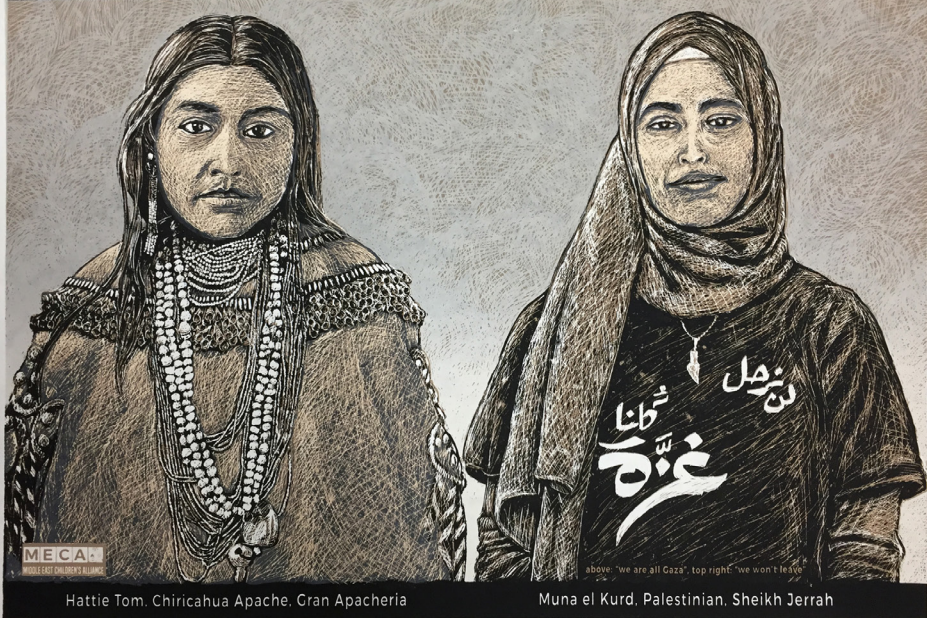


Street Sheet is published and distributed on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We recognize and honor the ongoing presence and stewardship of the original people of this land. We recognize that homelessness can not truly be ended until this land is returned to its original stewards.



ABOVE: STAND WITH GAZA
JOS SANCES
BELOW: OCCUPATION POSTER

OCCUPATION & SETTLEMENTS ARE ILLEGAL



Hattie Tom, Chiricahua Apache, Cran Apacheria

Muna el Kurd, Palestinian, Sheikh Jerrah



EL CORAZON NO TIENE FRONTERAS - PATRICK PIAZZA



'AUMĀKUA A MICHAEL
NICKI AQUINO

INTO THIN AIR CHRISTINE KEMP



"My work is my continuous exploration of ascribed/prescribed identity, (re)appropriation, perception, and belonging through a variety of artistic mediums—specifically installation, relief print-making, painting, and sculpture. Art making is one of the tools that I use to make sense of the world and better understand the complex relationships between history, power, and personal/shared identity. I often incorporate so-called "traditional" Chinese, Filipino, and Native Hawaiian motifs and techniques, as well as popular Asian American iconography in my pieces as a way to reaffirm, honor, and put into question the experiences of Asian American, Oceanic and "third culture" individuals in diaspora."

ARTAUCTION24 SEPTEMBER 12 5PM @SOMARTS

This year's ArtAuction24 (AA24), transforming art into action is celebrating 35 years of our amazing Street Sheet. This illustrious paper started in a classically organic way. Phil Collins had just released a fan favorite "another day in paradise" and invited us to table at Shoreline Amphitheatre. The year was 1989. We created a newsletter to give out and made thousands of copies. Concertgoers were not particularly interested in reading literature during a show so we came home with a lot of those newsletters and couldn't think what to do with them. One of the folks at the office had the idea to try selling them and Street Sheet was born. Street Sheet is not just

the longest continuously running street paper in the country, it is one of the rare ones that is advertising free, and given to unhoused people to sell for free. It is devoted to covering homelessness and poverty issues direct unfiltered from the street and most of our writers, artists, poets who contribute either are and have experienced homelessness. It creates alternative income for vendors, who do us a huge favor of disseminating the paper. It is a beautiful paper with lots of art and perspectives you just won't see in the mainstream media. And we are committed to truthful reporting, backing up our claims with plenty of evidence. This has been a very

tough year for unhoused people still stuck on the streets - but we still have a lot to celebrate as we come together in loving community. We will be featuring over 150 pieces of art at a range of prices, and our admission is sliding scale. We will have live T-shirt printing by the T-shirt conspiracy, food, live music, DJ and this is a year you will not want to miss. Come together in community, break bread with others who are swimming

upstream against the billionaire takeover of SF, who are standing up for human rights, and fighting like hell for the San Francisco we dream of where everyone is thriving, and has a dignified place to call home.



SHARING DRINKS
MAKIKO HARRIS



BEAUTIFUL THINGS #1
RITI

THE ART ROOM
HALEY SUMMERFIELD AND ALICE HANSHU



JOHN
ANDRÉ RENAY



BEAUTY MARKS II
JOSEPH ABBATI



SF PRIDE WAS A RIOT
JIM CRUZ-YOULL

HEAT WAVES POSE DISPROPORTIONATE RISK TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

VOLKER MACKE

According to a new British study, people experiencing homelessness have, by the age of 43, an average state of health equivalent to that of an 85-year-old with a home. Common health complaints include heart disease, respiratory issues, organ damage and infections caused by poorly healing wounds. Heat waves can also be as fatal for people sleeping rough as they are for elderly people.

For years, the beginning of spring marked a great sigh of relief in German local authorities' social services and public order departments if nobody had frozen to death over the winter. Winter emergency aid programmes, including night cafés, cold weather buses and soup kitchens, were initiated to ward off the worst risks to people experiencing street homelessness, often – though not always – with success. But now, the climate crisis has brought new dangers.

“Heat is just as dangerous as cold,” says Berit Pohns, spokesperson

for the National Federation for the Homeless in Germany (BAG W). The nationwide umbrella organisation of major homelessness aid providers such as Caritas, Diakonie, Paritätische and AWO is currently increasing the pressure on politicians to focus on the dangers of long, warm summers in addition to the almost established winter emergency aid.

“We have called on local authorities to take greater account of people experiencing homelessness in their heat protection plans,” emphasises Pohns. “We are still of the opinion that there is not enough focus on protection against heat.”

Federal Health Minister Karl Lauterbach presented an initial heat protection plan for Germany in the summer of 2023. However, it was largely concerned with

recommendations for action, particularly for so-called vulnerable groups, including elderly people, young children and people experiencing homelessness. His recommendations: drink plenty of water, keep your home cool, stay in the shade, avoid exertion, and eat light food.

But for people living on the streets, shelter and shade are in short supply. Many people sleep rough in the concrete jungles of city centers, close to aid facilities. Most

of the shade available is on private property, from which people can be excluded by barriers or security services, leaving them exposed to the sun.

The health of people on the streets is already a cause for concern: after analyzing a large number of individual health studies from over 30 countries, a group of scientists

led by London-based public health researcher Robert Aldridge came to the conclusion that people experiencing street homelessness have an almost 12-fold higher risk of heat-related death than the general population.

“The extreme health inequalities identified require intensive cross-sectoral policy and service interventions to prevent exclusion and improve health outcomes for people who are already marginalized,” the report states.

BAG W is calling for free drinking water for people on the streets in every city in Germany as the first and most important action in providing heat relief. “In addition, cool rooms must be made accessible. At present, the problem is not being tackled systematically enough. This is what we would like to see,” says Pohns. “If a person experiencing homelessness is cooling off or seeking shade in a park, underground or public building, they should not be evicted.”

Courtesy of Asphalt / INSP.ngo

London-based public health researcher Robert Aldridge came to the conclusion that people experiencing street homelessness have an almost 12-fold higher risk of heat-related death than the general population.



HIGH TECH: A MIXED BAG FOR POOR FOLKS

JACK BRAGEN

I live among low-income, disabled people, and I see poor people using high tech every day. This is made possible by means of mass production and innovative ways products can be cheaply manufactured. Where these so-called “low-end” products are concerned, I find high tech to be a boon for poor people who are willing to apply themselves to get used to this gadgetry.

A microcomputer costs only a few hundred dollars. And such a gadget can withstand use for years, or as long as the operating system (OS) is still supported, or the hardware is recent enough to continue with a supported version. Windows works fine for poor people. And I’ve just recently begun using Google Docs, and you do not have to pay anything to use it.

Most of the tools involved in computer access are free or cost next to nothing. It is a matter of diving in and seeing how things work. If you know how to use one, a computer doesn’t care about your background—whether you have a college degree or if you have a checkered past.

If we’re talking about Apple products, that’s an arena in which poor people need not apply. Apple’s stuff is expensive. Does it work better? I don’t know. All I know is that the PCs I have used seem to work well enough for me.

And yet, iPhones have become the standard. I don’t have one, but my

Android phone, which was provided at no cost when the phone company upgraded to a 5G network, does what I need it to do.

It appears high tech has eliminated more jobs than it has created, and increased income and wealth disparity. The fact that artificial intelligence does so many tasks that at one time human beings did, blows a hole in the economy. But companies are forced to automate to the extent they can, if only because their competitors do, and it is reflected in profits or losses.

Another thought: Companies could hire people to perform tasks that humans do best, like answering phones, without being subordinated by AI. But the corporations can hoard even more money with their cost savings. I frequently see news reports of mass layoffs at high tech companies. Most likely, the companies are not in financial jeopardy at all.

A past job: switchboard operator—ancient history. And there was “secretary-receptionist”—I have not seen any ads for that position in a long time. “Computer operator,” not needed—If computers can operate themselves, why is one even needed?

Jobs like data entry could work for someone who can perform repetitive tasks quickly and accurately without getting bored.

But I can’t do data entry—I’m too

slow and clumsy, though I have an advantage when engaging in higher functions. My problem is that I don’t have a bachelor’s degree. Regardless of their ability and aptitude, people without a college degree are locked out of thinking jobs.

Gadgetry continues to encroach on employment of human beings. And this will force a major change in how the U.S. does business.

The U.S. should become a country where working isn’t required to exist. We have plenty of money to go around, even if we paid for the support of those who can’t work, don’t want to work, or otherwise aren’t working. Instead, those who don’t or can’t maintain a job are left to starve and die of exposure to the outdoor elements. It doesn’t have to be this way.

When human beings are displaced from the workforce due to automation, it is a blow to everyone, not just the segment of those displaced. It is like trickle-down unemployment.

There are countries that provide universal basic income. And the U.S. can afford to do this too.

We see many Americans who can’t get work ending up on the street. The jobs are gone. And if we’re speaking of manual labor, not everyone can do it due to a physical limitation.

We are not seeing a compassionate society, but one where you have to be part of a machine. High tech also entails people fulfilling roles that resemble being a machine.

If you can adapt well to gadgetry, it helps you if you want to survive. In fact, it is a necessity.

Windows and Android are the cheaper cousins of Mac and iPhones. Either way you need to be plugged in. Even if you have to go the route of “unemployment by total disability,” technology often is a route to survival. You still need gadgets to call doctors and pharmacies as well as dealing with all of the voicemails.

Still, I can remember, when I was dealing with human beings, life was easier. We weren’t looking through a technological portal if we wanted to accomplish something. Today, human beings have become inaccessible and thereby unaccountable.

As a writer, I find the PC computer to be a welcome development. It meant that I could afford to write and submit as many manuscripts as I want without the need to pay for photocopying and postage. Spell-check is yet another benefit, since I am not constantly looking up the spellings of words.

However, the PC will not filter out idiocy from my writing—that part is up to me.

WRITING: Write about your experience of homelessness in San Francisco, about policies you think the City should put in place or change, your opinion on local issues, or about something newsworthy happening in your neighborhood!

ARTWORK: Help transform ART into ACTION by designing artwork for STREET SHEET! We especially love art that uplifts homeless people, celebrates the power of community organizing, or calls out abuses of power!

PHOTOGRAPHY: Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you’d like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet!

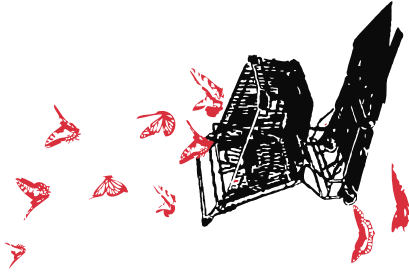
VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/

OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET TO BE CONSIDERED
PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR
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OVERDOSE AWARENESS

AUGUST 2024 SAN FRANCISCO

| | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| 8/1 | CANDLELIT VIGIL @ CITY HALL | 5 - 7 PM |
| 8/5 | PEER HARM REDUCTION GROUP OPEN TALK ON OVERDOSE PANEL W/ XANDER 730 POLK STREET (4TH FLR) | 3 - 4 PM |
| 8/9 | FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE TALENT SHOW @ KELLY CULLEN COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM 220 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE | 5 - 7 PM |
| 8/12 | PEER HARM REDUCTION GROUP @ SFCHC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION W/ DEMETRIA & JUNEBUG 730 POLK STREET (4TH FLR) | 3 - 4 PM |
| 8/15 | TAY OD AWARENESS @ LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES 134 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE | 11 - 2 PM |
| 8/15 | BLACK/AA OD AWARENESS @ CODE TENDERLOIN 1221 MISSION STREET | 11 AM - 3 PM |
| 8/19 | PEER HARM REDUCTION GROUP @ SFCHC HIV & PREP W/ VIIV HEALTHCARE 730 POLK STREET (4TH FLR) | 3 - 4 PM |
| 8/26 | PEER-HARM REDUCTION GROUP @ SFCHC GRIEF SUPPORT / JOHNNY 730 POLK STREET (4TH FLR) | 3 - 4 PM |
| TBD | WELLNESS EVENT WITH ART AUCTION | TIME TBD |
| 8/30 | CLOSING EVENT - DETAILS TBD GLIDE, 330 ELLIS STREET | TIME TBD |

