

# PUBLIC ART: REPHISTORY

## GULF LABOR / PRECARIOUS WORKERS PAGEANT



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**14. Precarious  
WORKERS PAGEANT**  
#GULFPAGEANT GILFLAE G

YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT  
TO  
ORGANIZE

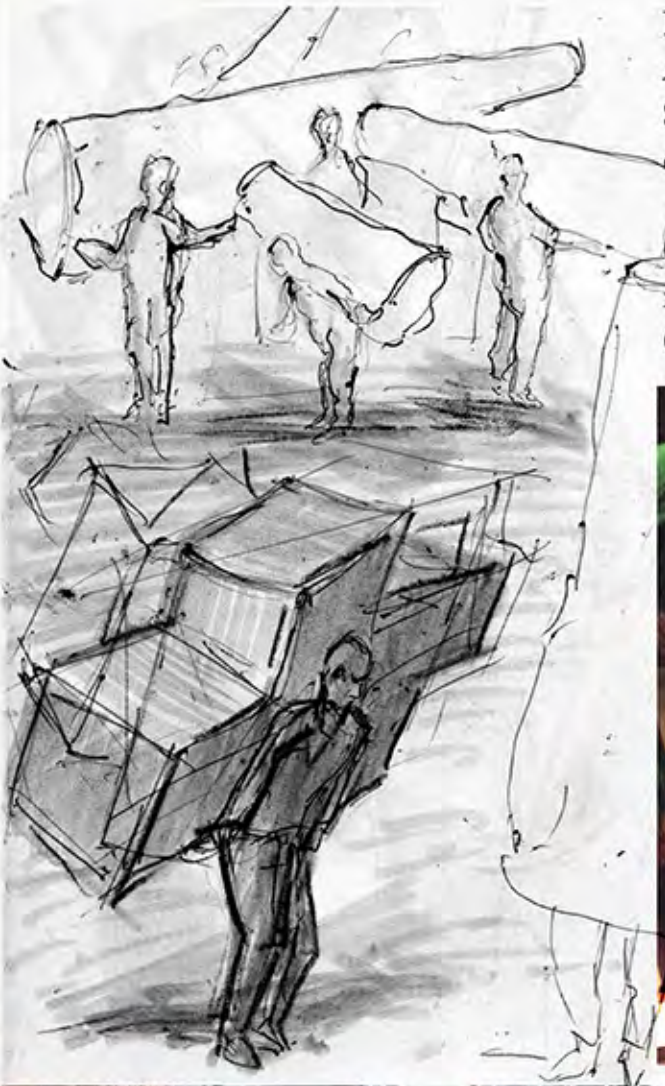
YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT  
COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING  
**NOW**

COMMON  
ART  
COMMON  
CREATE  
COMMON





Precarious Workers Pageant, Venice Italy, performed August 7, 2015 with NYC construction workers and Social Practice Queens students “deconstructing” the deconstructivist architecture of Frank Gehry’s proposed Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Museum, UAE. Clockwise: One of my sketches for the project, constructing props in Venice, pageant heading to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection for a performance of “our commons.”





Precarious Workers Pageant, Venice, Italy 2015

# HYPERALLERGIC

Sensitive to Art & its Discontents

## At Venice Biennale, Artists Stage a Pageant for Precarious Workers in Abu Dhabi

by [Gretchen Coombs](#) on September 1, 2015



Inside S.a.L.E. Docks waiting for the performance (all photos by Greg Sholette unless otherwise noted)

VENICE — When I arrived in Venice three weeks ago, I immediately headed to the tip of the Dorsoduro to [S.a.L.E. docks](#), a contemporary art space run by artist and activist Marco Baravalle. As part of its unofficial Biennale programming, members of [Workers Art Coalition](#), Aaron Burr Society, [Social Practice Queens](#), and G.U.L.F. was set to have the [Precarious Workers Pageant](#) that evening. The last time I'd been in Venice, I was a student fellow at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

The cavernous, brick-lined building, a former warehouse for salt storage with high ceilings and exposed beams, was a cool respite from Venice's demanding heat. In a corner were DIY constructed geometric forms made of tape, fabric, and cardboard, recalling the Russian Constructivists and the stage scenery of Varvara Stepanova. A lone horn player (Jim Costanzo of the [Aaron Burr Society](#)) wore a cape with the words: "Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi Evil Empire of Art." A large screen

# AN EVENING WITH GULF LABOR



**Friday, October 2, 2015**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

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**THE NEW SCHOOL | VERA LIST CENTER**  
**UNIVERSITY CENTER, 63 5TH AVENUE, UC LI04**  
**NEW YORK CITY**

**Free admission, reception to follow**

Celebrating the release of "The Gulf: High Culture/Hard Labor" (OR Books)

A group of four people is holding a long red banner with white text. The banner is split into two sections. The left section contains the text 'GUGGENHEIM, LOUVRE, NYU, RESPECT WORKERS' DIGNITY!' and the right section contains 'A LIVING WAGE'. The protesters are standing in front of a building with large glass windows and doors. The ground is paved and has some circular markings.

GUGGENHEIM,  
LOUVRE, NYU,  
RESPECT WORKERS'  
DIGNITY!

A LIVING WAGE

## Who's Building the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi?

### Week 7 . Matt Greco & Greg Sholette . Saadiyat Island Workers Quarters Collectable, 2013



*Matt Greco & Greg Sholette*

*Solomon R Guggenheim*

*Saadiyat Island Workers Quarters Collectable, 2013*

*"Shop-Dropped" 3-D Prints, printed label, plastic boxes: unlimited edition.*

This week's contribution to Gulf Labor's 52 Weeks is by **Matt Greco & Greg Sholette**

To view more [images](#) and a [video](#) from this week's contribution please click on the links via "images" and "video"

Repayment of recruitment fees by foreign workers on Saadiyat Island often takes months or years and is "the single greatest factor in creating conditions of forced labor." – Human Rights Watch Report

Despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world Abu Dhabi has yet to agree on measures to assure fair labor conditions even as they seek to legitimize their cultural endeavors by purchasing the choicest of Western brands: The Guggenheim, Louvre, New York University. The Workers Quarters Collectable was "shop-dropped" at the Guggenheim Museum gift shop in New York as part of a larger campaign by Gulf Labor Coalition called "52 Weeks."



# The Lower Manhattan SIGN PROJECT



# SIGN PROJECT

June 27, 1992-January 1, 1993

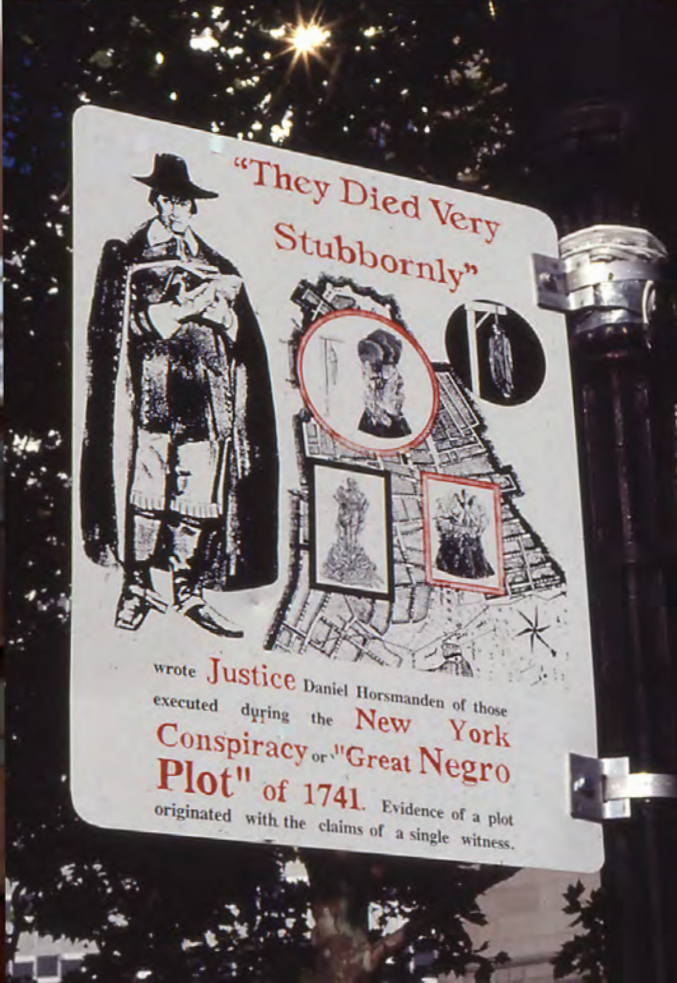
Opening: Saturday June 27  
 Castle Clinton in Battery Park  
 (Raindate Sunday June 28)  
 Artists Reception 2 pm  
 Parade 3 pm

The Lower Manhattan Street Sign Project is a series of 36 temporary historical markers designed and created by REPOhistory, a multi-ethnic collective of artists, writers and educators.

## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

- 1 Jayne Paguazzo-17 Battery Pl. on West St. Pinner's Food/Toy Island
- 2 Todd Aronson-Battery Park & Battery Pl. Indian Grove or When Was America Discovered?
- 3 Mark O'Brien & Willie Birch-Battery Pl. near the Customs House. Great Negro Plot of 1741
- 4 Stephen Duncombe-Bowling Green & State St. Lincoln's Rebellion
- 5 Devin Wachs-Murray St. & Broadway Bulfinch made from Statue of King George
- 6 Tom Klein-Stone & Whitehall St. Commissioner's Forgotten Histories
- 7 Bob-Due Harris-Whitehall St. Whitehall St. Indian Center
- 8 Saira Moore-Pearl St. & Whitehall St. Origin of Pearl Street
- 9 Curlee Hoffman-State St. & Pearl St. Nelson Mandela's wall in NYC
- 10 Catherine Stone-State St. near Whitehall St. Origin of the Word Indian
- 11 Tahara-17 Water St. Indian Government House
- 12 Leslie Romander-Hanover Square & South William St. India House
- 13 Greg Brovatore-Exchange Place & William St. The Other J.P. Morgan
- 14 Jim Costanzo-Broad St. & Wall St. Stock Market Crash
- 15 Ed Eisenberg-Wall St. between Nassau & William St. Future Democracy: Inevitability of the U.S. Senate
- 16 Sam Binkley-Wall St. near William St. Subway
- 17 Clark Kuumi-59 Wall St. near William St. Insurance and National Health Care
- 18 Tessa Timoney & Mark O'Brien-Wall & Water St. Wall Street Journal
- 19 Neertha Yanzoni-Martin & Jeff Skler-Wall & South St. Rose Schrautman-Litvak Artist
- 20 DQRT-Bowling Green near South St. First Chinese Community in NYC
- 21 Alan Michelson-Pratt St. at Water St. John Jacob Astor & Native Americans
- 22 Dan Wiley-Library St. near West St. The Story of the Warehouse
- 23 Lisa Maya Kruse & Janet Koopig-Library & Greenwch St. Madam Teneal & Anthony Comstock
- 24 Neil Bogun & Irene Lachetta-Library St. west of Bowling Green. Where Did They Launch?
- 25 Hilary Kinosh & Betty Beaumont-Madison Lane & Nassau St. What's in a Name?
- 26 Lisa Prosen & Curt Bethe-Willett St. & Fulton St. Gotham City
- 27 Brian Goffarth-Willett & Deveman St. Parkhouse
- 28 Josely Carvalho & Deborah Mesa-Poly Field House, First Row of Bowling St. near Bowline. The Mercurian: Medical Congressman
- 29 Jody Wright-Park Row at the top of City Hall Park. Civil Defense Drill Areas 1952's
- 30 George Spencer & Cynthia Anderson-Park Row at the top of City Hall Park. Bowling & Expatriation
- 31 Laurie Oshroff & Joe Conrad-Municipal Building Chambers St. Forth Right/Left's Job Site. The Free China House
- 32 Anika Mousa & Andy Musall-Chambers & Elk St. The Free China House
- 33 Dan Wiley & Lisa Maya Kruse-Round St. between Broadway & 1st St. Negro Square Ground/The City Limits
- 34 Keith Christensen-Lower Foley Square Draft Aid Trials
- 35 Stephanie Beach-Church St. between Leonard & Franklin St. United Telephone Society

Special thanks to the World Foundation, the NYC Department of Transportation, Art Matters, Inc., Ben Tang and The Adia Company, Community Board 1, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Reiss Foundation, Cultural Council Foundation/INYSICA, Public Foundation and Artlink Space  
 For information, including guided walking tours, contact REPOhistory at 338 Lafayette St., Room 201, NYC 10012 or (212) 625-2341  
 Printed by Reggae Edge Press NYC



# Art Signs Challenge 'History'

By Melissa Tarkington

At the corner of William and Fulton Streets next week, passersby will be greeted by a sign welcoming them to "Gotham City." Washington Irving, the sign reads, once gave New York City this nickname after an English village whose residents practiced tax evasion by running around acting demerol.

Is this history?

You decide, say artists who designed this sign and 30 others denoting infamous or little-known facts about city history as part of the Lower Manhattan Sign Project, which will be officially opened in Battery Park tomorrow. The 18-by-24-inch metal signs are being placed on lamp-posts primarily in the financial district along South Street Seaport, the World Trade Center, Battery Park and near the Liberty Island ferry landing in lower Manhattan.

This collection of artwork, which offers an alternative, multi-ethnic view of history, is the result of three years of research, permit-gathering and historical verification by about 60 artists, performers, writers and teachers.

"We wanted to examine and question the way history was written in a public art project," said Lisa Maya Krauser, a participating artist. "We wanted to see what kind of relationship Lower Manhattan had with history — its ties to the past and then offer our findings in an objective, scientific way."

Through words and pictures, the signs will broach such subjects as epidemics, racial and sexual equality, the slave trade, subway fires, international health care, the "inequality of the U.S. Senate," New York's Chinese community and exploitation in boxing, among others.

"Each sign has a series of questions that addresses the viewer and directly engages that person," said Alan Michelson, who researched John Jacob Astor and fur trade. "We want people to think of the place they are in — we hope everyone is going to see a different thing."

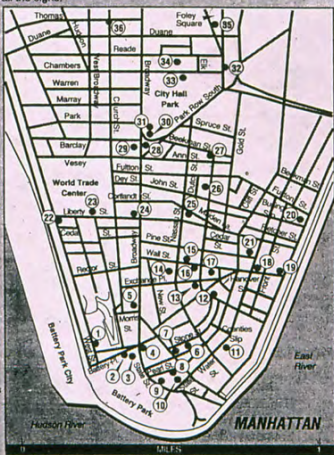


Artists Lisa Maya Krauser, Todd Ayoung, Alan Michelson and Tess Timony with a sign by Michelson entitled "John Jacob Astor and Native Americans."

## The Lower Manhattan Sign Project

The themes and locations of all the signs.

1. Peter's Fields/Ellis Island
2. Indian Giver or When Was America Discovered?
3. Great Negro Plot of 1741
4. Leisler's Rebellion
5. Bullet made from Statue of King George
6. Homelessness: Forgotten Histories
7. Whitehall Street Induction Center
8. Origin of Peck Street
9. Nelson Mandela's visit to NYC
10. Origin of the Word Indian
11. Indian Settlement Sites
12. Irish House
13. The Oben J.P. Morgan
14. Stock Market Crash
15. False Democracy: Inequality of the U.S. Senate
16. Subway Fire
17. Insurance and National Health Care
18. Mead Market/Slave Trade
19. Rosa Schneiderman: Union Activist
20. Chinese Community in NYC
21. Jacob Astor and Native Americans
22. The Story of the Waterfront
23. Madame Teneb and Anthony Comstock
24. Office Workers Eat Their Lunch
25. What's in a Name?
26. Gotham City
27. Epidemics
28. Frances Wright: Racial and Sexual Equality
29. The Mercantile Radical Congressman
30. Civil Defense Drill Arrests 1960s
31. Boxing and Exploitation
32. Fororn Hope/Debtors' Jail
33. The First Alarm House
34. Nepeans: Sexual Orientation/The City Limits
35. Smith Act Trials
36. United Tailorresses Society



Map by Richard Costantini

Tom Klem, who designated homelessness as forgotten history on his sign, said he hopes the project prompts analytical thinking. "Perhaps someone will just read the questions, stop and think. Everyone could

see completely different things. We've given a lot of thought to how the public will interpret this project."

Greg Sholste, who created a sign titled "The Other J.P. Morgan," said they expected mixed reactions for challenging conventional "correct" history. "Any questioning of history is seen as threatening to so many people that we are expecting to get some backlash," he said, "and if this is seen as a liberal attack, it won't be effective at all."

Krauser said the project was initially planned as guerrilla art because they expected strong opposition and censorship. "We thought we would be going out in the dead of night to do it," she said. "We thought we would be prevented from doing it directly."

The project, however, has received approval from The New York Historical Society and funding from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Andy Warhol Foundation, among others. None of the organizations attempted to censor their work, Krauser said. "We believe in a full range of voices being heard — so much about history has not been shared," said Erica Sanger, coordinator of pub-

lic programs at the New York Historical Society. However, Sanger said the historical society at first was skeptical about the project's authenticity.

"There were actually some historical questions," Sanger said. "I had my doubts, but I went through and researched questions with one of the artists and the artist proved me wrong."

The artists view themselves as creators of an original project.

"What makes our project different," Michelson said, "is that we have gone out and done a market project and also that we are focusing on social history. There is almost nothing marking social history in this city."

## CLOSEUP

The project is a combination walking tour and public art viewing and will run through December 27, 1992. The opening begins at 2 p.m. at Castle Clinton in Battery Park tomorrow. The artists are scheduled to lead the first walking tour from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Maps of the walking tour are free and may be picked up at the visitors information booth at the World Trade Center.



*"...prior  
to quickening..."*

*"...suffer  
imprisonment..."*

*"...right  
to privacy..."*



REPOhistory/ Choice Histories: Framing Abortion, Artists' Space, 1992

# CHOICE HISTORIES:

## Framing Abortion

An installation by REPOhistory  
at Artists Space, 223 West Broadway  
June 11 - July 11

A series of tableaux focusing on the history of reproductive rights in America, addressing the pertinent issues of law and morality, medicine, sexuality, and race and class. A video program also explores these issues.



A NEW  
WORLD  
ORDER:  
Part I  
A series of  
projects  
emphasizing  
cultural  
activism and  
empowerment  
through  
collaboration.  
Guest curated by  
Connie Butler

OPENING THURSDAY JUNE 11TH FROM 6 - 8PM

**REPOhistory** is a collective of artists, writers, performers and educators of diverse backgrounds working to challenge fixed notions of history by 'repossessing' lost or forgotten narratives of the historically marginalized and disenfranchised.

*"Whatever is unnamed, undepicted in images, whatever is omitted from biography, censored in collections of letters, whatever is mis-named as something, made difficult-to-come-by, whatever is buried in the memory by the collapse of meaning under an inadequate or lying language-this will become, not merely unspoken, but unspeakable."*

**Adrienne Rich**



REPOhistory march to the African Burial Ground Vigil 1993



REPOhistory Queer Spaces with Storefront for Art and Architecture, 1994

# Queer PLACES OF STRUGGLE

# SPACES

## PLACES OF STRENGTH

June 18–August 31, 1994

REPOhistory has created a series of temporary historical markers designating nine sites in Manhattan as **QUEER SPACES**. The signs—pink tempered-masonite triangles, measuring 24" on each side—are installed on lampposts under permit of the Department of Transportation. Each marks a significant place, person, movement or event in the recent history of New York's lesbian and gay communities.

**1. NYC'S FIRST GAY RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION**

at the U.S. Army Induction Center (1964) *Whitehall near Pearl St.*

**2. FIRST ACT UP DEMONSTRATION**

targeting drug company profits on the AIDS epidemic (1987) *Broadway at Wall St.*

**3. PASSAGE OF THE GAY CIVIL RIGHTS BILL**

after 15 years of political and legal struggle (1986) *Lower tip of City Hall Park*

**4. GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE "FIREHOUSE"**

a center of post-Stonewall activism (1970's) *99 Wooster St.*

**5. DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS**

an early lesbian rights group headquartered here (1963) *30 Charlton St.*

**6. BONNIE & CLYDE'S**

popular lesbian bar (1970's) *82 West 3rd St.*

**7. MARSHA P. JOHNSON (1945–1992)**

legendary transvestite, who drowned near this site (1992) *West and Christopher Sts.*

**8. JULIUS' BAR**

which won a precedent-setting legal victory over 'decency' issues (1967) *159 West 10th St.*

**9. EVERARD BATHS**

one of NYC's earliest and most enduring gay bath houses (c.1915-1985) *28 West 28th St.*

REPOhistory is an artist collective that works to "repossess" the past and represent it as a multilayering living narrative that includes the untold stories of those whose history has been marginalized because of their class, race, gender or sexuality.



The Queer Spaces sign project is part of Queer Space, an exhibition organized by the Storefront for Art and Architecture, 97 Kenmare St. NYC 10012



For further information contact:  
REPOhistory, 339 Lafayette Street,  
Room 301, NYC 10012  
(212) 925-2241



Adhesive postcard distributed around NYC for REPOhistory's CIRCULATION project.



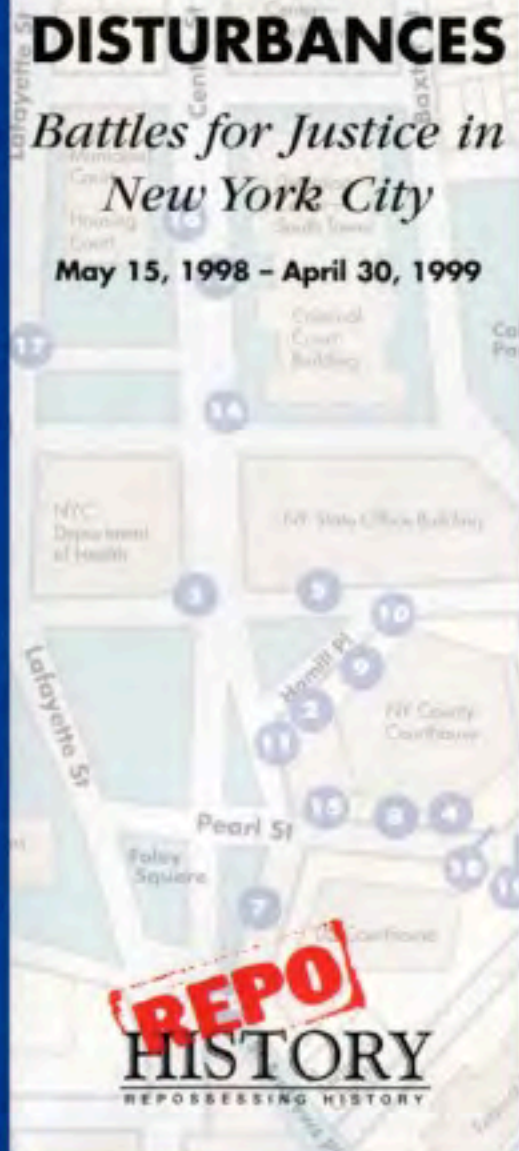
*The Other J.P. Morgan* for REPOhistory street sign project, 1992, New York City



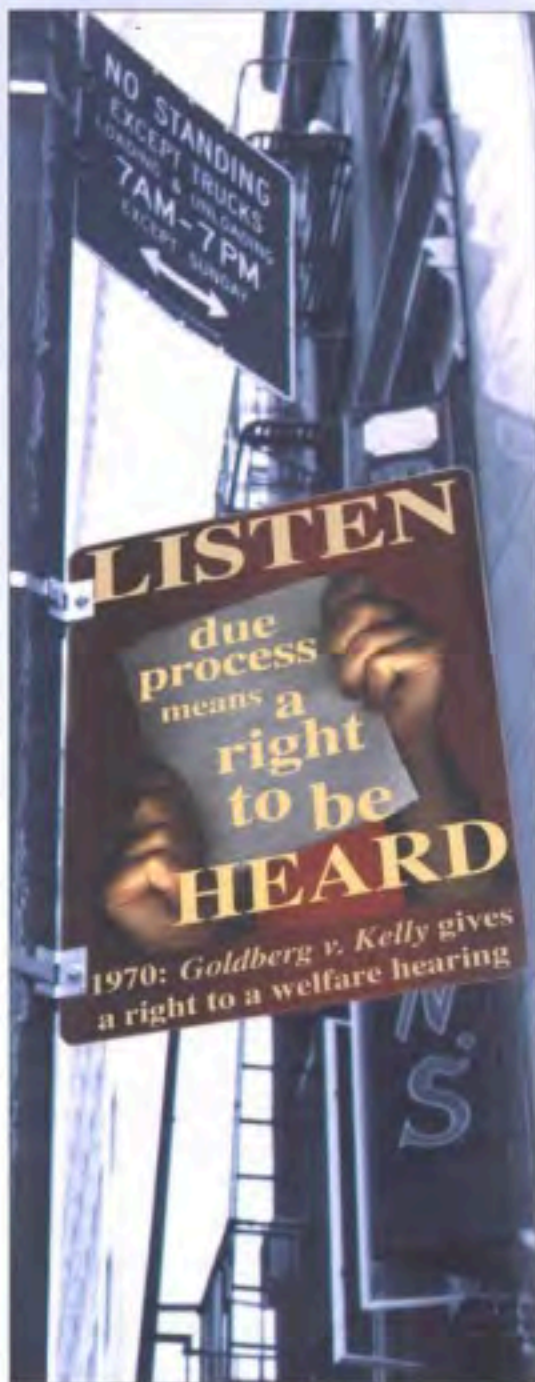
# CIVIL DISTURBANCES

*Battles for Justice in  
New York City*

May 15, 1998 - April 30, 1999



**REPO**  
**HISTORY**  
REPOSSESSING HISTORY



**LISTEN**  
due  
process  
means a  
right  
to be  
**HEARD**  
1970: *Goldberg v. Kelly* gives  
a right to a welfare hearing

Artwork: Maria Jimenez