



Creators



GALLERY SHOWS

A Fed Up Former Teacher Curates a Show Fighting School Segregation



ANTWAUN SARGENT

Jul 15 2017, 8:00am



Nearly 60 years after 'Brown v. Board of Education,' American schools are still segregated.

SHARE



TWEET



Six decades after the US Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling, which ended de jure segregation in America, Kathryn Fuller found herself in a high school classroom in Bushwick, Brooklyn teaching Latino students literature with limited resources. "In tenth grade, we read *Bodega Dreams* but we

only had one set for my three tenth grade classes," recalls Fuller, "so the students couldn't take the books home to read, and we spent class time reading."

One student asked, "Why don't we get our own books?"

"I knew the answer to that question," she says, "but didn't know how to explain it." Becoming physically ill from the stresses of teaching in the environment, Fuller lasted just one semester at the school. The former teacher's experiences of trying to educate poor students, who in reality still attend segregated schools, has led to a series of art exhibitions, entitled *Race and Revolution*.

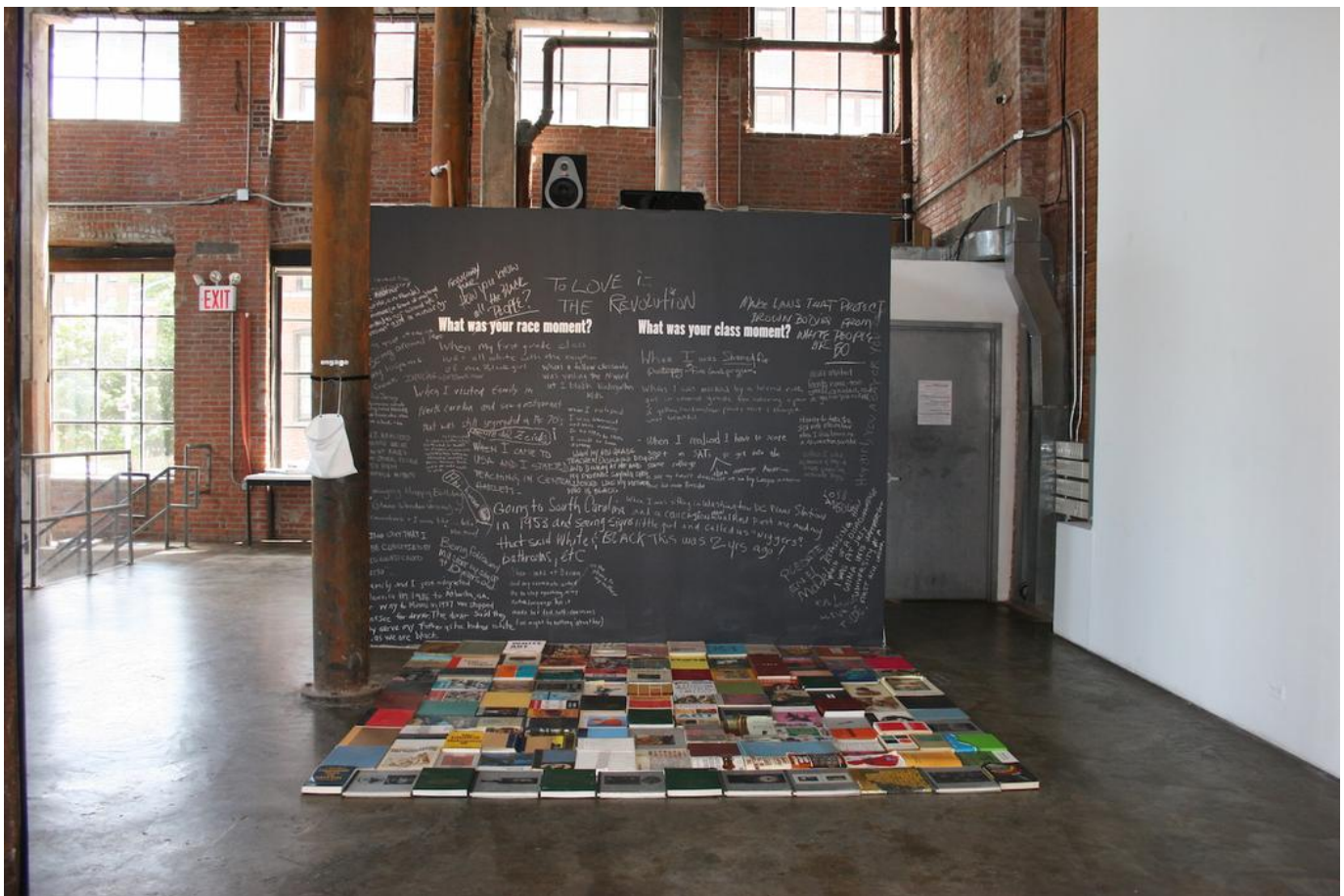


"Race and Revolution: Still Separate - Still Unequal" at Smack Mellon. Photo by Etienne Frossard.

"This show is a part of a series that look at the roots of systemic racism through the documentation of legislation and politics that has helped sustain systemic racism," Fuller explains to *Creators*. "As a former schoolteacher, school segregation was

something I really wanted to look at." The second show in the series, *Race and Revolution: Still Separate—Still Unequal*, curated by Fuller and Larry Ossei-Mensah, features works of photography, installation, video, and works on paper that explore many different aspects of education inequality in America.

"Post election, I was really thinking about how to respond," adds Ossei-Mensah. "I knew there would be a lot of art that confronted the moment, but what I wanted to do was really identify issues that have persisted in our society far longer than the 2016 election. Education affects all of us."



Unfinished Business: "What You Think Matters Too" Part III by jc lenochan. Photo courtesy Smack Mellon.

What emerged in American life after *Brown v. Board of Education* is what legal scholars call "de facto" segregation, or segregation by fact of a student's circumstances. The racial and economic grouping of American people into

homogeneous communities in cities and counties across the country produce in reality, if not by law, segregated and resource-poor and -rich schools. Public schools are primarily funded through property tax schemes, and a student's zip code determines the quality of their education. For Fuller's former school in Bushwick, because the students lived in a neighborhood with a high concentration of low income Latino families, the schools serving them, without breaking the law, are predominantly Latino and resource-poor, resulting in dramatically diminished learning opportunities.



US Citizenship Test Sampler (made by non-citizens living and working in the United States), 2012 - present by Aram Han Sifuentes. Photo courtesy Smack Mellon.

Race and Revolution: Still Separate—Still Unequal features mostly art made by teachers and a few students, offering searingly personal works. Carina D. Maye, an

adjunct professor at Georgia State University's Perimeter College, submitted artwork like *Literacy Test* and *Teaching from Test*, exploring the inequality embedded in standardized testing. JC Lenochoan, a high school art history teacher, created a wall installation posing two questions on a chalkboard: "What was your race moment?" and "What was your class moment?" The questions prompt viewers to seriously consider the implications of race and class on educational outcomes and write them on the gallery walls. Uraline Septembre Hager, a special education teacher in New York City, shows a work titled *Like Feeding a Dog His Own Tail*, depicting a school desk enclosed behind black fencing, alluding to a jail cell. It touches on the reality that students who drop out of segregated schools often end up in prison.



Teaching from Test, 2013 by Carina Maye. Photo courtesy Smack Mellon

Fuller says, "We are presenting an exhibition and inviting people to have challenging conversations about education in this gallery space, which is a safe space." Ossei-

Mensah says, "This exhibition for me represents a platform for dialogue and discourse around this issue. A lot of times, curators put together shows with the hope that people like them. I am interested in people feeling something. Hopefully it triggers a memory or illuminates something the viewer wasn't aware of so that they can go do something in their specific community."



(R-L) Aram Han Sifuentes, Damien Davies, Mona Kamal, Iviva Olenick. Photo by Etienne Frossard.



"Race and Revolution: Still Separate - Still Unequal" at Smack Mellon, installation view. Photo by Etienne Frossard.



"Race and Revolution: Still Separate - Still Unequal" at Smack Mellon. Photo by Etienne Frossard.

Race and Revolution: Still Separate—Still Unequal continues through August 6 at Smack Mellon. [Click here](#) for more information.

Related:

Legendary Sex Educators Staged a Free Sidewalk Sex Clinic in Athens

Björk Expands Her Biophilia Educational Programs In NYC

The Erotic Collages of a Sex Education Teacher

C

SHARE



TWEET



POLITICS

TEACHERS

ART

LAW

SEGREGATION

INSTALLATION

EDUCATION

LEARNING

GROUP SHOW

Watch This Next

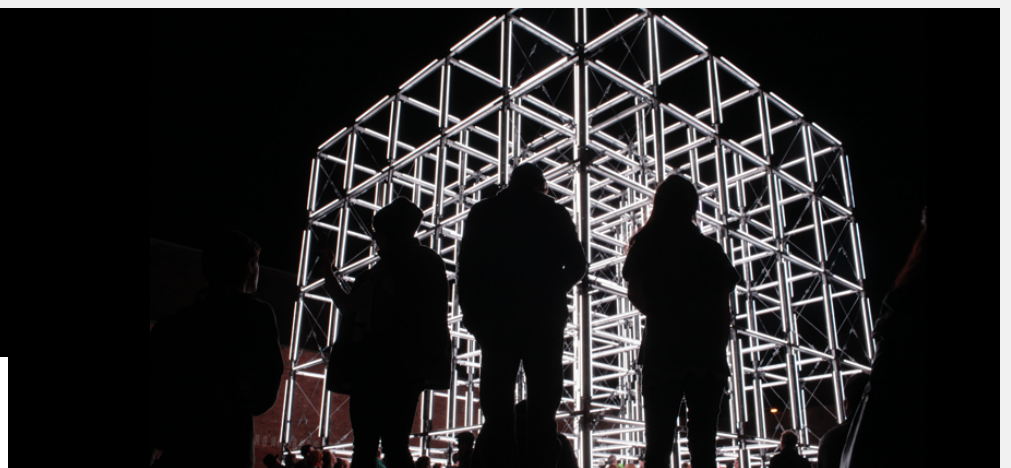


Ai Weiwei Takes On Public Surveillance

See more art.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW CREATORS



GRAFFITI

Dismantling the Street Art Boys Club at an All-Girls Graffiti Camp



SARAH BURKE

Aug 14 2017, 11:42am



Graffiti Camp student Lucia Fressola in action. Photo by Sarah Burke

Oakland artist Girl Mobb got sick of graffiti being a boys club. So she decided to do something about it.

SHARE



TWEET



Amid Oakland, CA's crowded street art scene, [Girl Mobb](#)'s work stands out. The artist — whose real name is Nina Wright — primarily paints badass women in a pink ski masks ([a la Pussy Riot](#)) with long eyelashes and pursed lips. As a professional muralist, her work expands on the theme of the urban girly grotesque. The figures

she paints have their hairy legs displayed as they lounge, doing their nails near trash cans. Beyond owning a gritty-yet-femme aesthetic, Girl Mobb's work is meant to stick it to the graffiti and street art scenes — two intersecting subcultures that are still overwhelmingly male and dripping with masculine ego.

This year, Girl Mobb has taken her advocacy for women in street art to the next level by starting a graffiti camp for girls with a sliding-scale tuition. The idea is to teach young women (ages 12-17) how to use aerosol paints in order to level the playing field in the street art game and encourage female youth to cultivate a painting community among themselves. Over the course of a week, the students learn basic techniques, then collaboratively imagine and execute a public mural on the side of a local gallery or business.



Girl Mobb (upper left) with volunteers and students during the fourth Graffiti Camp for Girls. Photo by Sarah Burke

Girl Mobb conjured the idea late last year, after being invited to participate in an all-

female street art show in San Francisco "for the twentieth time," with a group of women who she says she's shown with countless times before. "I love these people, but it's always the same five or six artists," she tells *Creators*. "I realized that there's just not a lot of us out there."

Soon after, Girl Mobb was commissioned to put together a list of all the murals painted by female artists in downtown Oakland. "There's hundreds of murals in this area and I could only find twenty done by females, which is just ridiculous," she says. "I just wanted to figure out what I could do about it."



GGirl Mobb with one of her murals in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Since launching the workshops in April with the help of a small Southern Exposure grant, Girl Mobbs's solution has successfully taken off. She expected at least a little

backlash about the content of the course; graffiti isn't exactly typical Girl Scouts curriculum. But so far she's only been met with support from grant committee members, parents, and even strangers on the street. "They didn't even bat an eye at it," she says. "It made me feel like I wasn't being controversial enough."

The first few sessions filled up almost immediately, and the fourth just finished. Although there are other aerosol mural classes in existence in the Bay Area and elsewhere, Girl Mobb says that hers is the only one specifically for girls, as far as she knows. Already, she's been asked to bring the camp to other cities around America, had students fly out just to attend, and been hit up by kids in other countries.





GGraffiti Camp student Lucia Fressola in action. Photo by Sarah Burke

During a recent sunny afternoon in North Oakland, Girl Mobb's latest cohort of students don gas masks and begin rendering their vision of a BART train filled with zoo animals. Seventeen-year-old Lucia Fressola, the oldest of the bunch, looks like a miniature version of Girl Mobb, with identical pink hair and similarly grungy style. She found out about the course from being a fan of Girl Mobb on Instagram, she says. "I'm all about female artists in male dominated fields, so Nina's been a huge inspiration."

Fressola says she was eager to enroll in the course, and aspires to start an all-female graffiti crew with her friends. She's sick of older men in the scene asking her to pose in front of their paintings instead of taking her seriously; or assuming that girls just aren't into graffiti. "We totally are," she says. "It's just scary going out there knowing that there's a bunch of dudes who aren't going to be nice to you — who are gonna

cover up your pieces and everything."





Girl Mobb and students painting during the fourth Graffiti Camp for Girls. Photo by Sarah Burke

Girl Mobb says she started out doing graffiti on her own as a teenager, practicing on barns in her rural Ohio hometown. It wasn't until moving to Oakland that she finally found some community — and even then, she was the only female painter in her crew. By building a volunteer base of emerging and established female street artists and connected them with mentees, she's hoping to shift that gender imbalance.

"That's what this is all about for me," she says, "finally I'm hanging out with my female peers and getting to make some more little female destroyers."



Girl Mobb and students during the fourth Graffiti Camp for Girls. Photo by Sarah Burke



Flyer courtesy Girl Mobb

To learn about future sessions of Graffiti Camp for Girls, follow Girl Mobb on [Instagram](#) and visit the [website](#).

Related:

[*Kabul's Female Graffiti Master on the Power of Art*](#)

[*Finally: A Documentary on Female Graffiti Artists*](#)

[*Meet the Female Street Artist Painting Larger-Than-Life Feminist Goddesses*](#)



SHARE



TWEET



FEMINISM

WOMEN

STREET ART

OAKLAND

EDUCATION

FEMALE ARTISTS

GIRL MOBB

Related Articles



STREET ART

45 Argentinian Artists Are Painting (and Selling!) Unpaid Bills





STREET ART

100 Street Artists Painted a Paris Dorm and the Results Were Mind-Blowing



STREET ART

A Dutch Street Artist Crowdsourced This Vibrant Mural

See more art.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW CREATORS



POSTERS

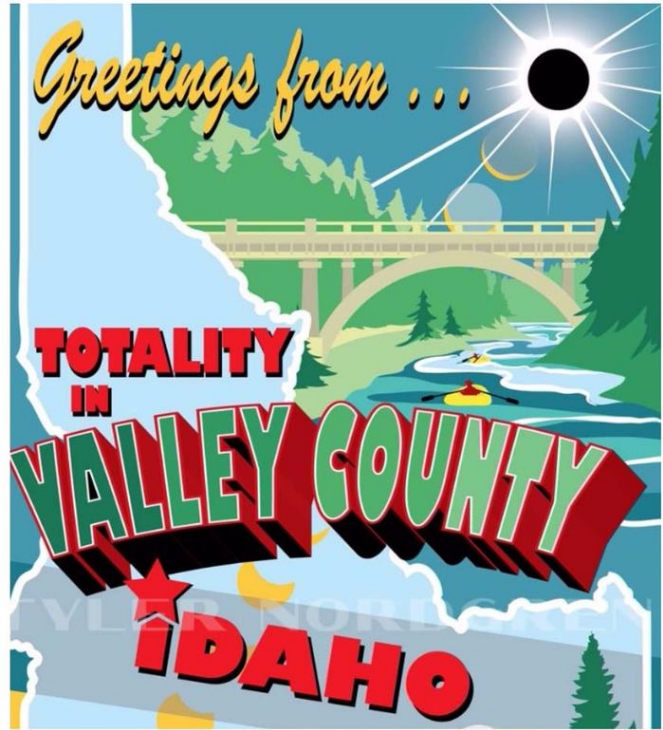
Vintage-Style Posters Celebrate the 2017 Great

American Eclipse

DF

DYLLAN FURNESS

Aug 14 2017, 10:34am



Images courtesy of the artist.

Astronomer and artist Tyler Nordgren celebrates the 2017 Great American Eclipse in a beautiful poster series.

SHARE



TWEET



On August 21, for the first time in nearly two decades, people on the mainland United States will have the chance to witness arguably the most impressive natural phenomenon found on Earth: a total solar eclipse.

Even more remarkable, the eclipse will sweep all the way across the continental US, tracing what's called the path of totality from Oregon to South Carolina. The last time an eclipse traversed the country from coast to coast was in 1918. It's a truly historic event.

Artist and astronomer [Tyler Nordgren](#) has created a series of posters for the "[2017 Great American Eclipse](#)," celebrating the phenomenon, and [some of the nation's best viewing locations](#), with a vintage aesthetic. He's selling his work through "Space Art Travel Bureau."





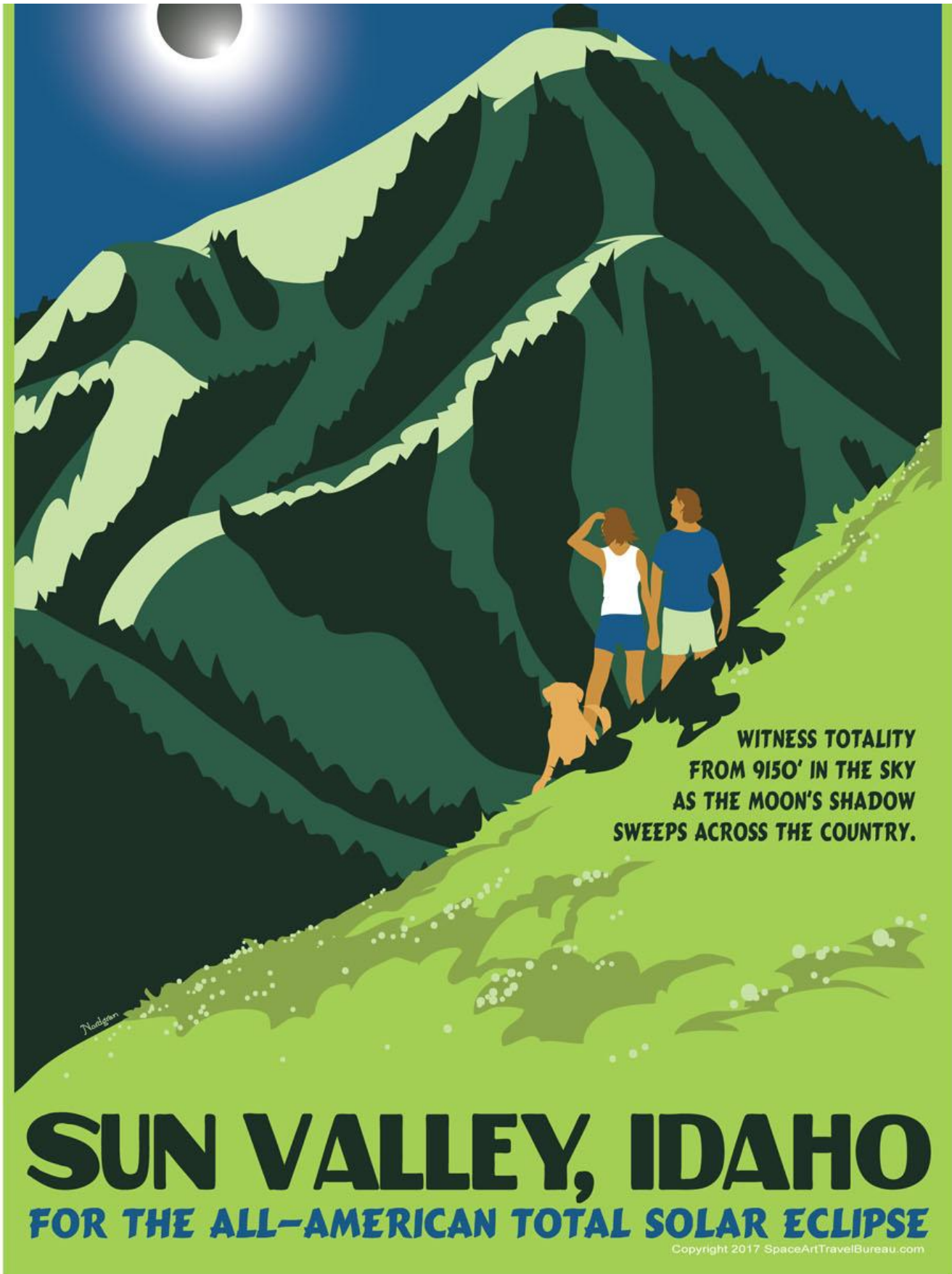
"I was inspired by the Works Progress Administration posters of the 1930s for their ability to use art to educate the public," Nordgren tells *Creators*. He hopes his posters can likewise inspire and teach today. "While I draw on vintage travel art, my goal is to use it to educate, first and foremost, and not just to give people a pretty memento of where they've been," he says.





Nordgren was commissioned by cities, counties, states, and national parks to create the posters and promote their particular location for viewing the eclipse. Among the destinations are Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Sun Valley, Idaho, and the San Francisco Exploratorium, which will feature a livestream from the path of totality.





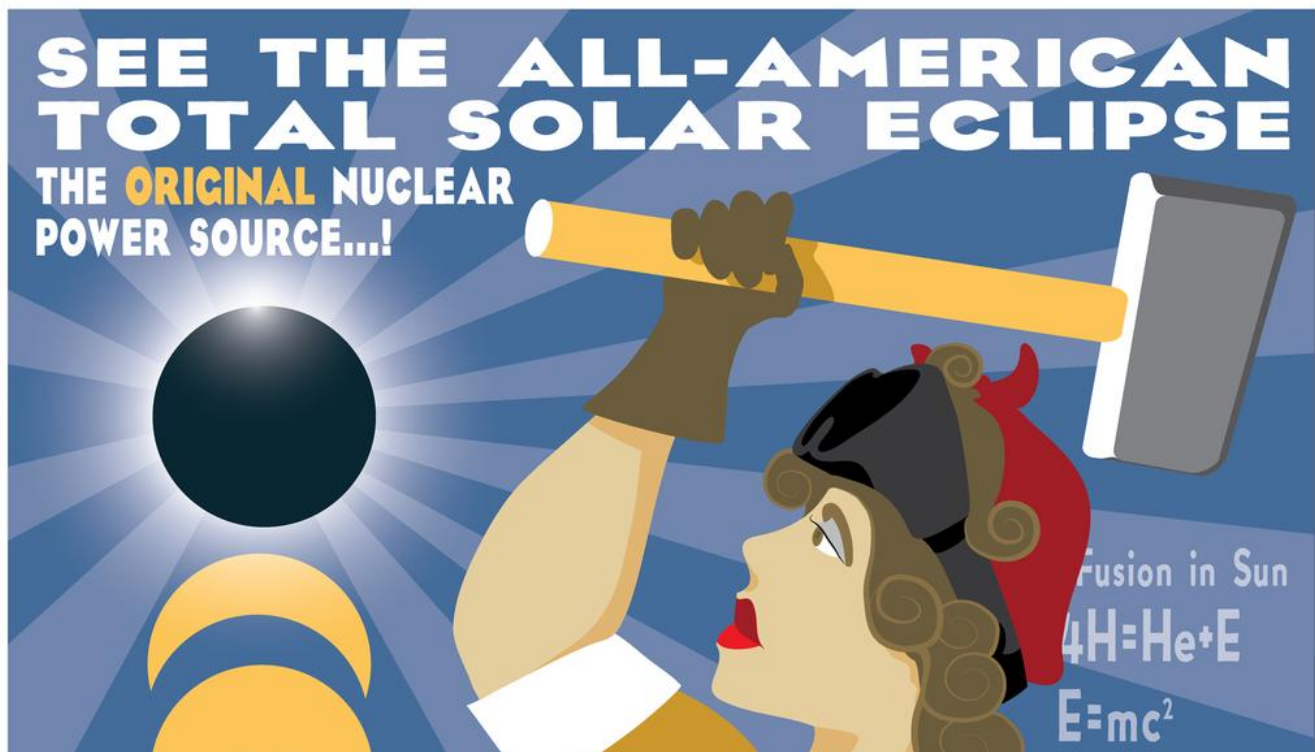




Like many of other Americans, Nordgren has a plan for viewing the eclipse. He also has some suggestions for those who haven't yet made reservations. "I'll be in Eastern Oregon where the odds of clear skies are at their greatest," he says. "My recommendation at this point is, if you don't have reservations anywhere in the path, drive to whatever part of totality is closest to you."

And Nordgren insists viewers either go big or go home. "99% total is not good enough," he says. "It is literally the difference between night and day whether you are at 100% total or only 99%."









You can purchase your own Great American Eclipse poster or other "Space Art Travel

Bureau" posters on Nordgren's [website](#).

Related:

[*Astronauts, Artists, and Architects Designed a Temple on the Moon*](#)

[*A US Satellite Took These Beautiful Black-and-White Photographs of Mars*](#)

[*From Dusk to Dawn, These Solar Panels Bend to the Light Like Supplicants*](#)



SHARE



TWEET



ECLIPSE

SPACE ART

SOLAR ECLIPSE

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

VINTAGE POSTERS

GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE

Watch This Next





David Henry Nobody Jr. at Spring Break Art Show

See more art.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW CREATORS



VICE