

Why Manchester

Manchester is no stranger to political struggle. It was in Manchester that the fight for universal suffrage found its greatest support. It was here that the Suffragette movement first emerged, the Co-operative Movement was launched and Socialism arose. In Manchester, Karl Marx met Friedrich Engels; the city's slums were the inspiration behind the duo's revolutionary writings, which would eventually go on to be published as the Communist Manifesto. The people of Manchester also demonstrated solidarity with black American slaves, seeing in their struggle an echo of their own fight against the oppression of the working classes. The city supported the abolition of slavery and signed up to Abraham Lincoln's blockade of the southern American states, despite its reliance on cotton imports. The boycott led to the Lancashire 'cotton famine', which resulted in significant mill closures and the loss of over 300,000 jobs.

'I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working people of Manchester and in all Europe are called to endure in this crisis ... I cannot but regard your decisive utterances on the question as an instance of the sublime Christian heroism which has not been surpassed in any age or in any country. It is indeed an energetic and re-inspiring assurance of the inherent truth and of the ultimate and universal triumph of justice, humanity and freedom.'
Abraham Lincoln, 1862



Exhibition Curator: Pollyanna Clayton-Stamm

Curatorial Assistance: Helen Bradbury and Janine McGinnies

Exhibition Design: Axis Graphic Design Ltd

Text: Susie Stubbs and Sam Durant

Exhibition Lighting and Installation:

FACT, Nick Bowden and the Urbis Technical and Operations Team.

The exhibition would not have been possible without the invaluable and generous support of:
Alden & Mary Kimbrough, Billy X Jennings,

Stephen Shames, Pirkie Jones, Karen Gabay, Carol Wells from Centre for the Study of Political Graphics, Roz Payne, Ilka Hartmann, Steven Kasher Gallery, Lincoln Cushing, Sean Stewart, Ruth Ibegbuna, Amy Owen, Stephen Nuttall, Jon Chisnall, the Urbis Operations, Creative and Marketing teams and the RECLAIM project.

Special thanks to: Sam Durant for his book which has inspired the groundwork of this exhibition and Benedict Farr, the Urbis Shop Manager, who reintroduced us all to the prolific work of Emory Douglas.

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Photographs © 2006, Stephen Shames. Cover image from the book, *The Black Panthers* (Aperture). All other works © Emory Douglas. ARS NY/DACS London, 2008

BLACK PANTHER EMORY DOUGLAS & THE ART OF REVOLUTION

30 October 2008 - 19 April 2009

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