A non-profit community art center
formerly The Gallery School of Pottstown/
Gallery on High

254 E. High St. * Pottstown, PA 19464
610-326-2506 * www.artfusion19464.org
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm

ArtFusion offers fun and engaging classes for kids, teens and adults.
Please check our website for a complete listing.

We hope you have enjoyed this exhibit and will encourage others to come and see for themselves. This show would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Thank you!

Sponsored by: H. F. (Gerry) Lenfest

Creative Health Services * Main Line Financial Advisors

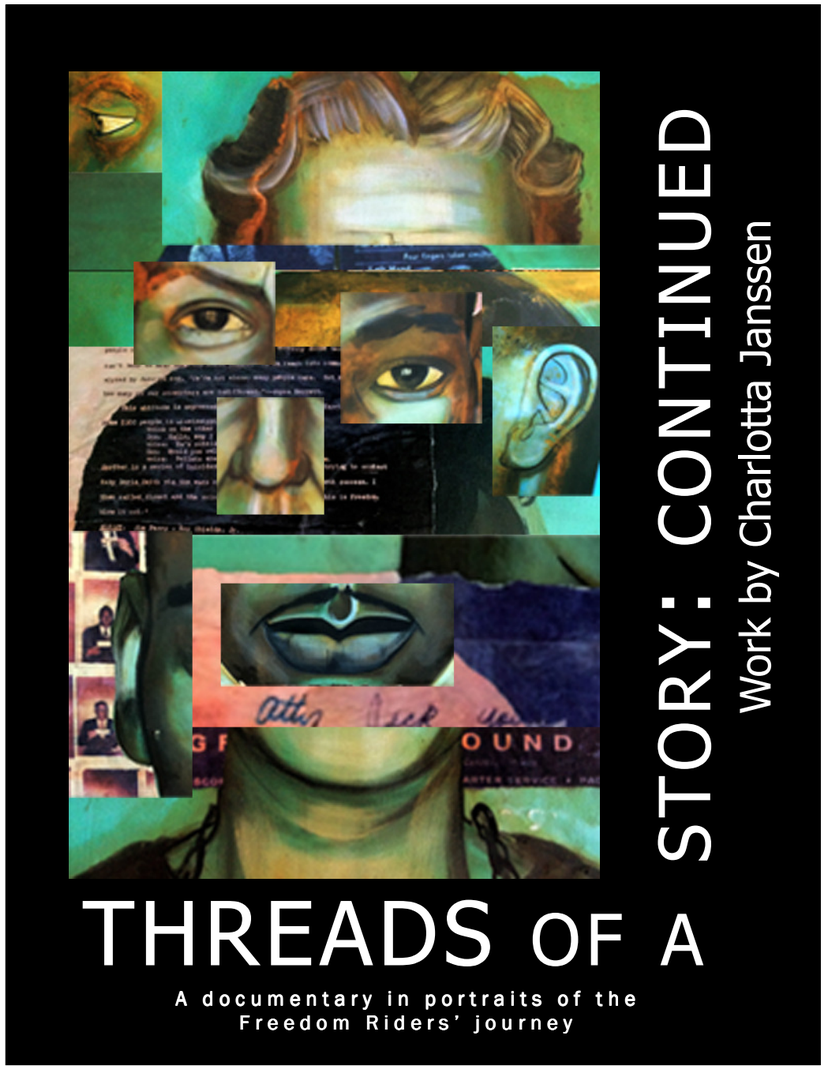
David Garner, Esquire * RICOH USA, Inc.

Montgomery County Community College * Heartland Abstract

J. H. White Financial Services * Fulton Bank

Your Claim To Frame * WBZH Radio

We would also like to thank The Party Redux and Fresh and So Clean Enterprises.



SEPTEMBER 8-OCTOBER 20, 2012

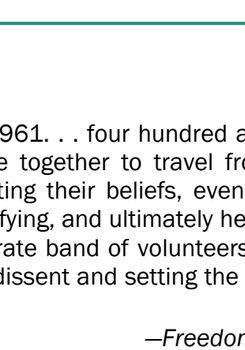
FREEDOM RIDERS

“In the spring and summer of 1961. . . four hundred and fifty people – old and young, black and white, Northern and Southern – came together to travel from Washington, D. C., through the Deep South, defying Jim Crow laws and putting their beliefs, even their very lives, on the line in defense of racial justice. . . . their harrowing, horrifying, and ultimately heroic story – [is] a tale of sacrifice, high drama, and unexpected triumph. . . a disparate band of volunteers expanded the realm of the possible in American politics, redefining the limits of dissent and setting the stage for the civil rights movement: all by taking a ride on a bus.”

—Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle For Racial Justice
Raymond Arsenault

ARTIST BIO

Charlotta Janssen was born in Maine to German parents living in America under the Marshall plan. In 1973, her family moved to Iran, which they fled during the revolution in 1979. Janssen studied painting at the University of Arts in Berlin from 1986-1989, dropping out to travel the world as a street musician and performance artist. To make sense of all of these experiences, she returned to painting in 1991 with a clear voice that was no longer searching but finding. She currently lives and paints augmented portraiture in Brooklyn, NY.



INSPIRATION

The swearing in of the first black president of the United States in 2009 was a catalyst for artist Charlotta Janssen. *Threads* evolved as a way to visually thank participants of the civil rights movement for their work and dedication that made the moment possible. Janssen specifically honors Bus Boycotters from 1956 and Freedom Riders from 1961. The artist’s goals are to transport the viewer back to this moment in time, to create a living history and bring awareness to a collective consciousness where segregation seemed normal and fighting it was a daunting task. To realize these goals, Janssen re-imagines the mug shots of her subjects using oil, acrylic, rust and collage. Mug shots are normally portraits of shame, but in those belonging to the Bus Boycotters and Freedom Riders, she sees their heroism, determination and courage.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Each question will ask you to find a word or image in one of the framed prints on display. Each print is represented in miniature below. When you think you have the correct Freedom Rider, write the letter of the portrait by the question and the name in the blank provided. An answer key can be found at the checkout counter, or online at our website. Underlined terms can be used for further discussion.

1. Can you locate the “Magic City”? _____ was among the first group of Freedom Riders. Like all of them he signed his last will and went on the ride. He was beaten really badly by a member of the *KKK*, but he refused to press charges: "I'm fighting the system, not this man".

2. Which painting reminds you of a patchwork quilt? _____was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi at age 15.

3. Where can you find a past U.S. president’s name? _____is known for as one of two women in the original 13 Freedom Riders. Once her Greyhound bus was set on fire by angry mobs. In fall of 1960 she took the position as the *Congress for Racial Equality’s* field secretary .

4. Where can you find an image of a greyhound dog? _____was one of the original Freedom Riders. He left on Mother’s Day, May 14th, 1961 and was arrested on the 24th. They met with much violence, including *mob beatings* and firebombing, and wound up in Mississippi's infamous Parchman Prison.

5. Which Freedom Rider was arrested on May 25, 1961 in Montgomery, Alabama? _____ was Birmingham's leading civil rights *activist* at the time of the Freedom Rides. A co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he welcomed the Riders who showed up on his doorstep on May 14, 1961, bleeding and battered after the riot at the Trailways bus terminal and the Anniston bombing.

6. Where can you find an image of a man in a hat pointing his finger? Bull Conner drove _____ and fellow freedom riders over the Alabama State border to Tennessee, dropped them off in middle of nowhere in the dark and smirked “Now you can catch the bus home. “ She answered, “I’ll see you back at Birmingham at High Noon”.

7. Where can you find $200? _____ remembers: when taken to the cells, they were made sure to be kept as uncomfortable as possible. They were given clothing that did not fit and were not allowed items such as pencils and paper.

8. .Where can you find the word “CORE”? _____was the founder of *CORE (Congress for Racial Equality)*. The words in the background are lyrics he had written while he was in Hinds County Jail. Can you imagine the *mood* he was in when he wrote this?

9. Where can you find “Freedom” rising? _____ joined the Freedom Riders to Mississippi in 1961 and spent 40 days in jail for *breach of the peace*, the act of going into a train station waiting room as an integrated group.

10. Who is keeping the “Score Box”? Of all the Freedom Riders, white or black, _____ served the longest sentence.

11. Can you find “Beloved Community”? In an interview, _____ said she got up one morning in May and told her family, ‘I won't be back today because I am a Freedom Rider. It was like a wave or a wind, and you didn't know where it was coming from but you knew you were supposed to be there."

12. Where can you find “No Colored Served”? _____

13. Where can you find the word “CLOCK”? _____ vividly remembers CORE wanted the white freedom riders there to bear witness. We were there to get arrested, serve, and get out alive. We were not there to *protest* the prison conditions that were considered terrible.

14. Where can you find May 26, 1961? _____ believed that their efforts (as Freedom Rider) would in the long run bring about “change of attitude” among Southerners towards integration.