

PRESERVE PROTEST ART!

TIPS SHEETS FOR POSTERS

STORAGE TIPS

- Think about how long you want to save your poster art and where you will be able to store it.
- Store your art on paper (like flyers and posters) flat and in a cool, dry place like a closet away from the kitchen, bathroom, and direct sunlight.
- Do not store rolled if you have flat space available and want to preserve it long term. If it's too large and must be rolled, keep it as loose as possible. Tightly rolled paper is difficult to flatten when you want to use or display your art again.
- Avoid folding. If you have to, rolling is a better option in most cases. Folds can lead to tears a lot more easily than rolling.
- Avoid staples and paperclips; these can rust and degrade the paper material over time. If you must roll a poster, avoid rubber bands, as these can melt onto the paper over time.
- Most tapes and adhesives are not your friend. Avoid these when trying to organize and preserve artwork. If there is tape or stickiness left on your poster after use, put an extra sheet of blank paper on the back to protect it from sticking to anything else. If your protest poster has been damaged, contact BACC or your local art conservator for help.

ENVIRONMENT AND STORAGE RESOURCES

Print Council

<https://printcouncil.org/care-of-prints/>

American Institute of Conservation

https://www.culturalheritage.org/docs/default-source/resources/outreach/paper.pdf?sfvrsn=4d230a67_4

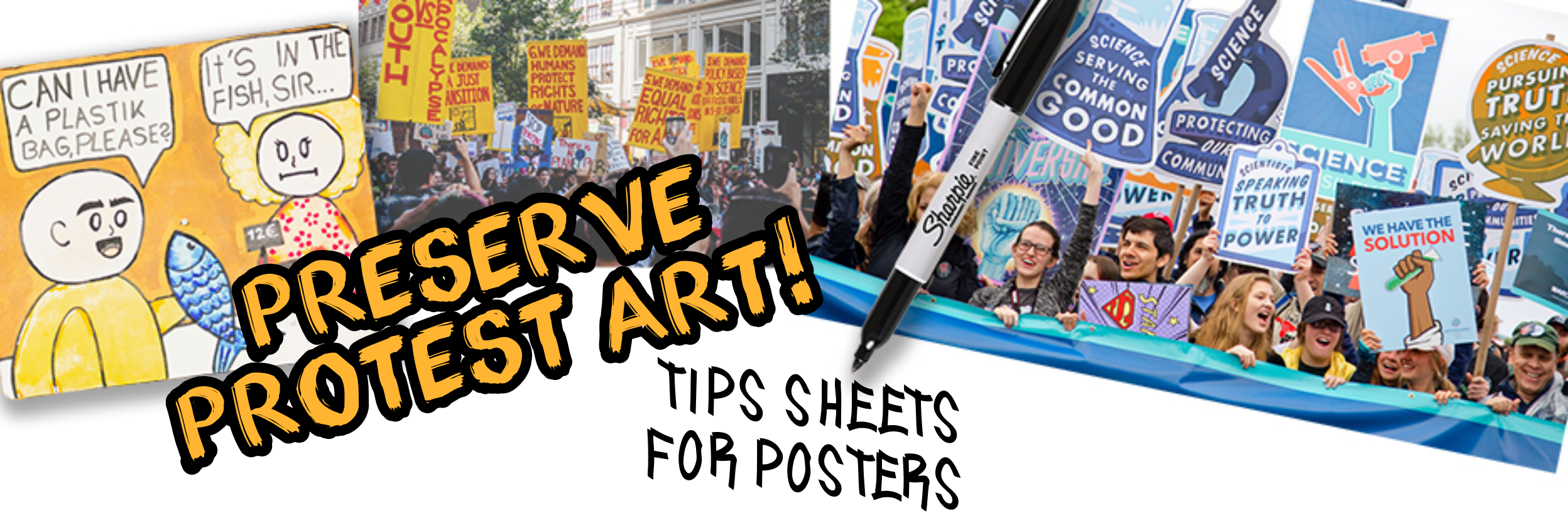
National Park Service

<http://npshistory.com/publications/curation/conserv-o-grams/19-15.pdf>



Photos courtesy of Unsplash and the following photographers: Logan Weaver, Jean Beller, Li An Lim, Vlad Tchompalov, and Rochelle Brown.





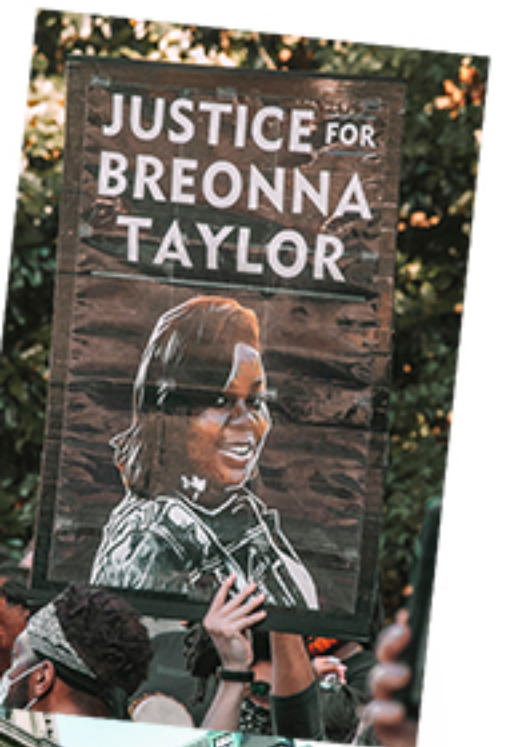
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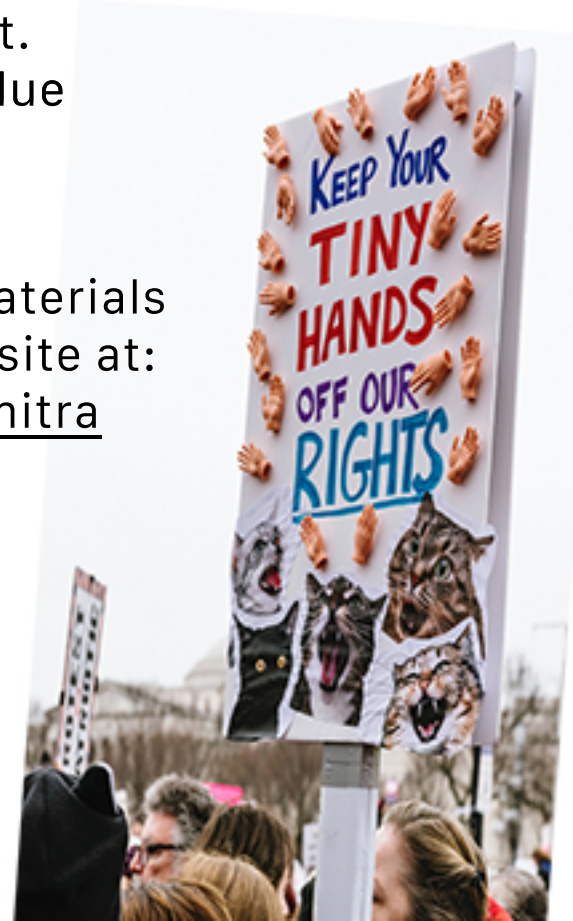
Protest art and ephemera aren't necessarily supposed to be made to last, and that's ok. They are made for a **purpose**. However, if you do want your protest art posters to last beyond the protest and even for years to come, here are some tips:

MATERIALS TIPS

- Test your markers or paints in advance to see if they bleed easily by drawing on another paper, letting it dry overnight and then wetting it the next day. Avoid materials that do bleed in case of rain on protest day.
- Materials that can generally withstand some weather include sharpies, acrylic paint made for outdoor use, colored pencils, and crayons.
- Acid-free poster paper or board will last longer than cardboard or regular poster materials, if that is something that matters to you.
- If you are creating a collage, use pH-neutral adhesives like Lineco Neutral pH Adhesive. Avoid Rubber cement, epoxies (like super glue), and most non-archival craft glues as they can deteriorate the poster paper.
- Most tapes degrade over time. Avoid putting them on the art/image side of your poster. Consider removing them (if possible) after the protest(s).
- Glitter will get everywhere, while you're using it and after it's on the artwork. Every time. Just know this going into it. Sometimes glitter is necessary. Products like glitter glue may help you avoid some of the mess.
- More questions about materials? Contact BACC at info@bacc.org, or visit University of Delaware's Materials Information and Technical Information for Artists site at: <https://www.artcons.udel.edu/mitra>



Photos courtesy of Unsplash and the following photographers: Ronan Furuta, Chris Boese, Markus Spiske, Vlad Tchompalov, Maria Oswald, and John Cameron.





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TIPS SHEET FOR SAVING PHOTOS

Photographing protests and protest art allows us to document history as it's happening. Whether it's a digital photo (on a phone or camera) or a physical print, these tips will help you preserve protest photos for future generations to see.

PHYSICAL ARCHIVING

- Store photos in a dry, cool, dark place (closets are great). Avoid spaces that can become damp, wet, or hot.
- Store in metal filing cabinets, archival boxes and folders, or plastic tubs. Avoid cardboard boxes if possible.
- Store photos flat. Avoid rolling, folding, or bending.
- Inventory your photographs. Label photographs with people, dates, locations, and stories. When writing more than a few details, it's preferable to label on archiving material (like folders or scrapbook pages) instead of the actual photograph. If you do write on the back of the photo, try to keep it minimal, use pencil, a light touch, and keep writing along an edge and not in the middle.
- Avoid staples, paperclips, and tapes. If mounting photos into an archival scrapbook, use Mylar or poly photo corners instead (you can find them online, in stores like Target and Walmart, or in craft stores).

Digital Archiving

- Scan or photograph physical copies of photographs that are important to you in case of fire, flood, etc. that could destroy physical copies.
- Download digital photographs from devices (camera, phone, etc.) in order to store them in multiple places as above.
- Organize and label digital files so that you can easily find them. Include metadata like dates, locations, etc., if possible.
- Store in multiple places (hard-drives, the cloud, etc.) Back up your photos on a regular basis. Use universal file formats such as .jpg, .tif, .pdf, and .dng.

[CLICK FOR MORE RESOURCES ON PHOTO CARE](#)

1. American Institute for Conservation
<https://learning.culturalheritage.org/caring-treasures>
2. Library of Congress
<https://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/photo.html>
3. Northeast Document Conservation Center
<https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/5.-photographs/5.3-care-of-photographs>

Photos courtesy of Unsplash and the following photographers: Kyle Cleveland, Gabriel McCallin, Kevin Yudhistira, Fred Kearney, and Will Reyes.





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TIPS SHEET FOR CREATING MURALS ON BOARD

MATERIAL SUGGESTIONS FOR A DURABLE OUTDOOR MURAL

- Painting protest art on board is a good option because it's a stronger, more stable, and more weather-resistant support than canvas or paper, it can be purchased in large sizes for a big visual impact, it can be moved in the future (for storage or display elsewhere), and it's fairly inexpensive.
- Choose a board material that can hold up to weather. Plywood manufactured for exterior use is a good option. MDO plywood will produce fewer checks in the wood when painted than rough ply. Avoid indoor materials such as drywall (drywall is brittle and can also become moldy if left in a wet or moist outdoor environment). Fiberboards, waferboards, and particleboards vary in their manufacture, so just make sure you choose one that is designed for outdoor use.
- For large, thin board supports, we recommend bracing the board on the back to prevent it from bending. A wooden brace should be glued to the main board with outdoor-appropriate wood glue. Avoid nails or screws because they can poke through the front of the mural and also rust over time. Check out YouTube or this Golden Paints article about how to brace your plywood support: www.justpaint.org/plywood-as-a-substrate-for-painting/
- In most cases, your board will need to be sealed on all sides to protect it from moisture. Clean off any wood surface that is dirty, then apply a minimum of two coats of alkyd-based **exterior** wood primer to all sides. For added protection, seal the edges with an aluminum leaf paint; most major paint manufacturers makes this for marine or metal applications.
- Apply an even coat of high-quality exterior latex primer to the board for added durability. You can find this at most hardware and home improvement stores (like Lowe's or Home Depot).
- If you want your mural to last, choose high-quality paints that are specifically made for outdoor use. When painting on a wood or board support, usually latex (acrylic) paints are the most durable, lightfast, and weather-resistant. House paint manufacturers create a surprising array of colors in both brushable and aerosol forms, but there are also fine art paint companies that make paint specifically for outdoor murals.
 - If you want to apply a protective coat to your mural, be sure to wait until it is completely dry. Do not apply any old coating from the store, as there are only a few specifically designed for protecting art. A few brands include Golden MSA Varnish, This Stuff Works!, and Muralshield. Outdoor mural varnishes and coatings for art is actually a bit of a tricky topic, so feel free to reach out to us at info@bacc.org!



Photos courtesy of Unsplash and the following photographers: Carly Mackler, Benjamin Moral, Obi Onyeador, and Jean Beller.

