Multilingual Poster “Solidarity”

Typography Project

Goal:
To practice typographic layout featuring multiple languages.
An exploration of diverse letterforms.

Materials:
• Sketch book
• Adobe Creative Suite
• High quality paper for printing
• White artboard
• Rubber cement or spray adhesive

Readings:
• https://thetricontinental.org/our-history/
• https://www.docspopuli.org/CubaWebCat/gallery-01.html
• Revolucion Cuban Poster Art by Lincoln Cushing

Process:
• Review the digital collection of OSPAAAL prints (can include class
discussion on points of inspiration).
• Individual journaling on the prompt: “what does international solidarity
mean to me?”
• Sketch your own poster concept featuring the word “Solidarity” in 4
different languages with at least one of those languages being in a
non-Roman script such as Arabic, Mandarin, Khmer, Tamil, etc. (in class
critiques).
• Complete your composition (11x17 inch format). You can select relevant
fonts or hand letter the words. (in class critiques).

Final submission
• Print your final composition on high quality paper and trim to 11x17
inches.
• Mount on artboard with a 2 inch border.
• Artist statement: write 1 paragraph describing your piece. Include your
full name and date.

“Solidarity” by Olivio Martinez, 1972, OSPAAAL 54x33cm offset. Note: a large
collection of OSPAAAL posters can be seen on the Docs Populi website created
by archivist Lincoln Cushing. Consider reviewing additional pieces with your
class and analyzing the content of the posters. For additional historical
context, reference Revolucion! Cuban Poster Art by Lincoln Cushing.

Note to instructors:
Depending on the experience of your students, and the amount
of time available, you can scale the scope of work up or down.
A simpler approach to this assignment can still include the
readings about OSPAAAL and the journaling activity, while focusing
simply on the form of the letters and words.

This assignment was developed by Sabiha Basrai in collaboration with the Letterform Archive