

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:

- [The Meaning of the Tricontinental](#)
- [OSPAAAL Archiv - Docs Populi](#)
- [Revolucion!: Cuban Poster Art](#) by Lincoln Cushing
- [“Black Lives Matter” has become a global rallying cry against racism and police brutality](#)

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 a poster concept that will feature the word “Solidarity” in 4 different languages with at least two of those languages being in a non-Roman script such as Arabic, Mandarin, Khmer, Tamil, etc.
- Move to the computer and utilize Adobe Fonts, [Google Noto](#), or any other font provider that has the proper language support (*NOTE: for projects with a short timeline, instructors might provide the word “Solidarity” already translated in 4 different languages in a Word Doc. For projects with a longer time-line, ask students to seek out help on their own to acquire the correct translations.*)
- Conduct as many in-class critiques that time permits. With a longer timeline require students to have their work reviewed multiple times by different native speakers of the languages that are featured on their poster.

Final submission

- Print your final composition on high quality paper and trim to 11x17 inches (or whatever custom dimensions specified)
- Optional finishing: Mount on artboard with a 2 inch border
- Artist statement: write 1 paragraph describing your piece and what came up for you during the process of the project. 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.