



Commission: T-Shirt Design for TUC Yorkshire and Humber in partnership with AUE Solidarity Fund.

Please note: This commission opportunity is for Artist Union England members only.

Who we are

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) is the voice of Britain at work. As the UK's national trade union centre, we exist to improve working life and promote equality for everyone.

The TUC brings together more than 5.5 million working people who belong to our 48 member unions. We support trade unions to grow and thrive, and we stand up for everyone who works for a living. Every day, we campaign for more and better jobs, and a more equal, more prosperous country.

Working people joining together can change things. For more than 150 years, unions have fought for safer workplaces and wages you can build a life on. And today we're needed more than ever to make sure every job is a decent job and everyone at work is treated with respect.

Yorkshire & the Humber TUC convenes our affiliated trade unions at a regional level, representing six hundred thousand working people. We work closely with our affiliated unions to make sure the voice of working people is heard by business, government, in local communities, and across civil society.

Artists Union England Solidarity Fund was launched in July 2020 to aid AUE members in crisis due to the Covid-19 crisis. For many artists, the reality of a career in the visual arts was already one of low income and precarious working conditions.

This was made more acute last year as the arts sector effectively shut down with contracts, projects and workshops cancelled and galleries closed, leaving AUE members facing extreme uncertainty. Following in the footsteps of trade union run benevolent funds providing aid to members in times of crisis AUE set up the Solidarity Fund on the back of donations and fundraising.

Anyone who has been an AUE member for at least three months and whose membership fees are paid is eligible to apply and each month the fund gives out five grants of £100 to AUE members in financial crisis. The Solidarity Fund Committee continues to fundraise in support of the Fund which will receive a donation from sales of T-shirts with the winning design.

Commission aims.

As the economic and public health crises deepen inequalities, the TUC want to strengthen our campaigning work, increase our visibility, and support inter-union solidarity. Through sales of the t-

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shirt commissioned here we will allow members of the trade union movement to express their shared sense of solidarity.

The TUC has a long history and rich heritage, but we would like to see designs that speak to the future of the trade union movement, expressing the contemporary relevance of trade unionism and a more diverse and inclusive future.

Monies raised by the sales of the t-shirts will support the Y&H TUC campaigning fund and the AUE Solidarity Fund.

Audience

The T-shirts will be on sale via the TUC online shop and the audience will be trade union members and those sympathetic to our values, wanting to express solidarity and a sense of belonging to the trade union movement.

We are not looking for logos or branding and do not want the design to be tied to a particular union or campaign. Instead, we are looking for an artistic design that evokes the power of trade unionism that all union members will be proud to wear - not just on the picket line or at a conference, but in any circumstance, morning, noon or night.

The commission idea is inspired by similar offers from union federations internationally, such as [VTHC's union shop](#).

There is very little opportunity for trade union members to buy 'union made' apparel in the UK. This trend is more popular in the US, Australia and elsewhere. We would like our offer to be 'union designed, union made' and to advertise that proudly as part of the design. This will be a significant draw for people wishing to purchase our design. We hope that this commission will encourage other trade unions to commission unionised artists for work, paying AUE recommended rates.

Design specifics

The design should be positive and evocative of the union movement's values, power and future struggle. There does not have to be specific text, but phrases from the movement that draw on these themes are welcome in the design.

The design should also incorporate an expression similar to 'union designed, union made' or 'union designed, ethically made' depending on where we are able to source garment production. This can be incorporated into the design body or as a separate mini design that is artistically consistent with the main body, but that can be placed and printed as small scale on a different area of the t shirt, such as near the hem or on the reverse side.

Technical specification

The final design of one colour must be easily replicable and printable on white t-shirts (this format has been chosen for environmental reasons). It should be a digitally created design or a design transferrable to a digital format, and the successful artist should be able to offer it in a variety of formats that suit the needs of garment production (i.e. vector files).

Timeframe

20th May – deadline for expressions of interest

25th May – AUE SF Trustees shortlist 3 artists

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1st June – Online interviews - AUE Trustees and TUC with 3 shortlisted artists. Shortlisted artists notified of outcome.

27th July – Successful artist presents work in progress.

16th August – Deadline for final artwork.

Artists' Fee

The TUC will offer the successful artist a day rate of £250 for three days work – totalling £750.

Usage

In the contract, the successful artist will agree to licence their work to the TUC for the T-Shirts and any related promotional materials. The artist will retain copyright of their work and any further uses of the artwork will need to be negotiated by the TUC with the artist.

Application and Selection Process

We invite AUE members to submit expressions of interest in the form of examples of existing work and 150 words outlining your interest in the commission via the google form [HERE](#).

Please note that this opportunity is for AUE members only. You will need to supply your AUE membership number as part of your expression of interest.

Please do not submit draft designs as we do not want to encourage a culture of unpaid work.

The deadline for expressions of interest is the 20th of May.

From these expressions of interest AUE Solidarity Fund Trustees Katriona Beales and Martin Gollan will shortlist 3 artists. These 3 artists will be asked to attend online interviews on the 1st of June with Gareth Forest (TUC), Katriona Beales and Martin Gollan to discuss their thoughts on the commission. The successful artist will be selected as a result.

Contact: solidarityfund@artistsunionengland.org.uk

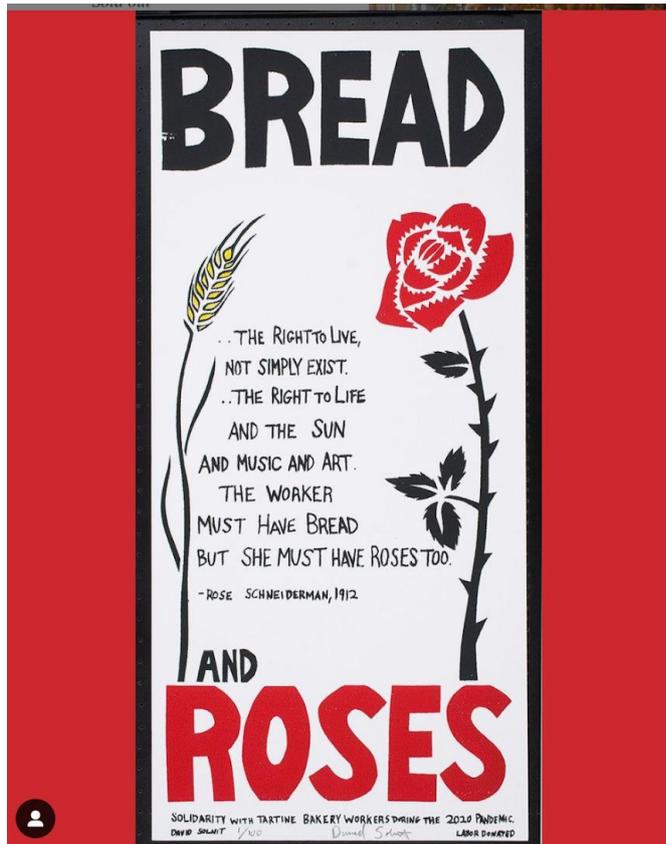
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Images sources in order:

1. LaborNotes <https://labornotes.org/blogs/2020/12/north-pole-elf-sickouts-score-masks-santa>
2. VTHC Union Shop <https://www.weareunion.org.au/shop>
3. The Strike Wave <https://www.thestrikewave.com/>
4. Theresa Easton [shop](#)
5. Tartine Union <https://www.instagram.com/p/B-xP3vmhymj/>