## Solidarity Work Paintings

#### **Keith Christensen**

2023-24

The paintings are about history, organizing and most importantly, the work itself. Exhibited as a group in the exhibition **1934 & Now, Connections of the Minneapolis Truckers' Strike of 1934**. Cargill Gallery, Minneapolis Central Library, June-July, 2023.

This artwork was intended to show connections between history and union activism in different work environments inspired by the worker solidarity of the 1934 strike.

This document provides the painting images in color and a black and white version of each painting with descriptions and identification of key figures. The images were created with a collage technique using cold wax medium, photographs and original drawings.

KC Minneapolis April, 2024



Minneapolis Strike 1934 20 x30 in, oil on canvas, 2024

Upper left:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President

Leon Trotsky

Meridel Le Seur

Woody Guthrie

Worker with truck at the site of Bloody Friday Sherwin Wiliams Bldg 701 No. 3rd St. , Minneapolis

Upper center:

Farrell Dobbs

Marvel Scholl

**Emanuel Holstein** 

Center:

James Cannon

Womens Auxillary workers

Karl Skoglund

Vincent Dunne

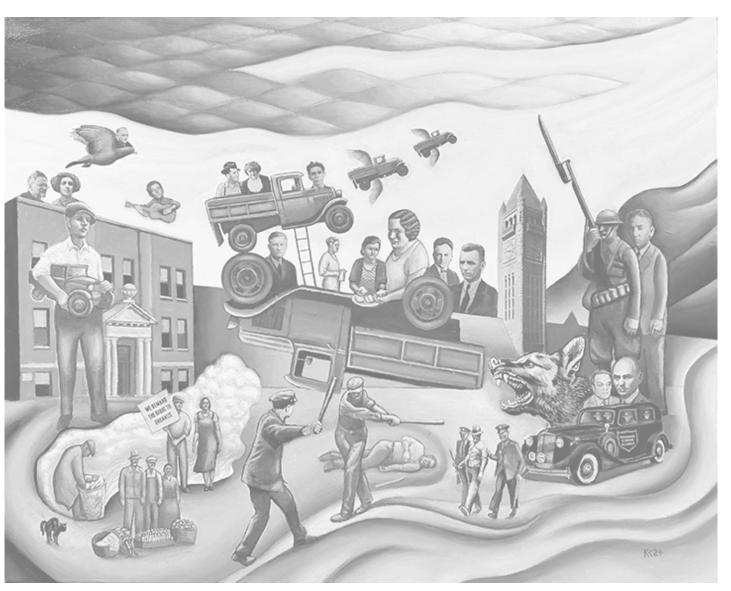
Lower left:

Sabo Tabby of the IWW

Poverty

Farmers

Strike pickets



Upper Right:

National Guard

Mn Gov. Floyd Olson

Right:

Michael Johannes Minneapolis Police Chief

A. W. Strong President of the Citizens Alliance

Lower center: Police and strikers



**Postal Work** 

16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2024

Upper figures in windows:

Benjamin Franklin First United States postmaster general. 1705-1790

Vincent Sombrotto\* NACL President 1923 – 2013

> Tom Germano NALC activist

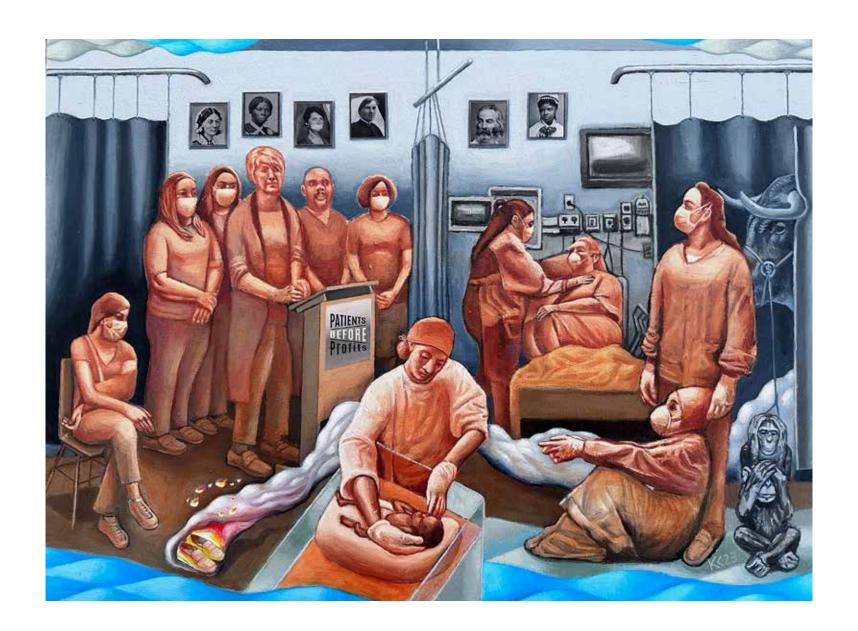
Historic letterman

Historic letterwoman

Strikers from Local Branch 36 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) who lead the wildcat strike of 1970 in NYC



\*Vincent Sombrotto
In 1970, New York City letter
carriers walked off their
federal jobs—risking arrest
in what was effectively
a strike against the U.S.
government—to protest
dismal working conditions
and poverty-level wages
that entitled some to federal
assistance programs. Within
hours, carriers and other
postal employees in one
city after another across the
country joined the strike.
President Richard Nixon
called in the troops to deliver
the mail, but they proved
unable to carry out the task
in an effective manner. The
walkout eventually resulted
in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 with full
collective-bargaining rights
for all postal employees. He
served as president of NALC,
National Assn of
Letter Carriers.



Nursing Work
16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2023

Upper row

Florence Nightengale 1820-1910

Harriet Tubman 1822-1913

Margaret Sanger 1879- 1966

Elizabeth Kenny 1880 –1952

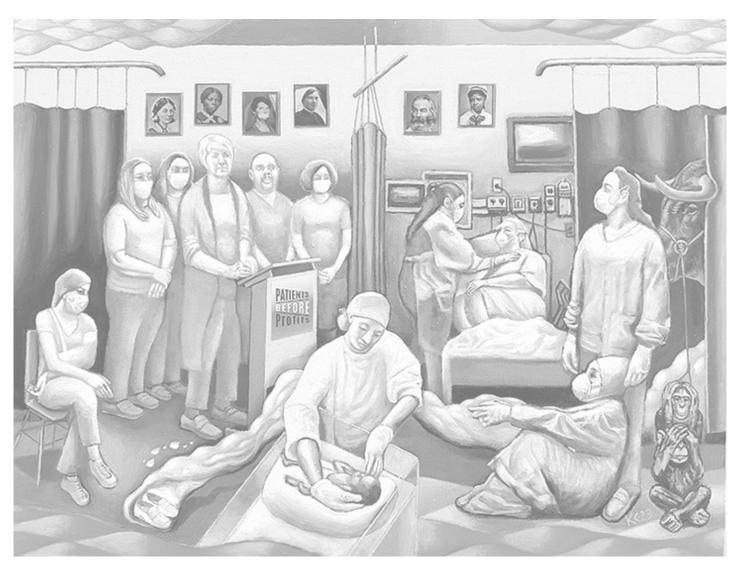
Walt Whitman 1819-1892

Mary Eliza Mahoney 1845-1926

Left

Mary Turner

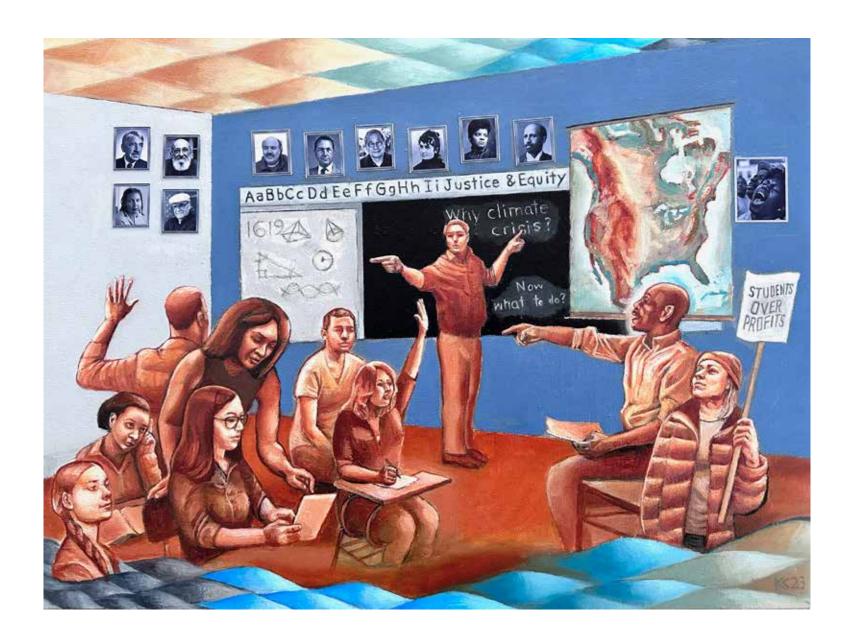
Minnesota Nurses Association workers



Right

Bull market system overseeing the nursing world

See no evil monkeys: Representing those avoiding reality, ignoring the evils



# **Teaching Work** 16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2023

Upper left

John Dewey 1859-1952

Paulo Friere 192-1997

Bell Hooks 1952-2021

Jaime Escalante 1930- 2010

Upper center

Peter Rachleff Labor Historian Educator

> Myles Horton 1905-1990

Kinji Akagawa Artist Educator

Maria Montessori 1870-1952

> Ida B. Wells 1862-1931

W. E. B. Du Bois 18681963



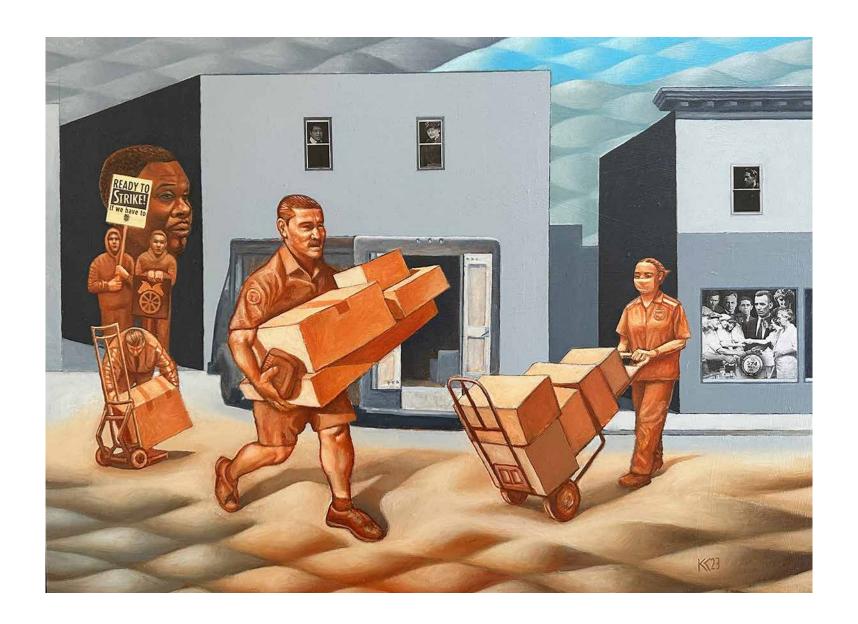
Upper Right

CivI rights activists of the 1960s

Right:

Striker from Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Educational Support Professionals

16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2023



**Teaching Work** 16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2023



Windows top

Cesar Chavez of UFW

Mother Mary Jones IWW

> Joe Hill IWW

> > Left

Richard Hooker Jr. Teamsters, Local 623 (PA)

UPS worker Ernie Figeroa Costa Mesa, CA

anonymous UPS workers

#### Right

Participants of the great Minneapolis Truckers' Strike of 1934 including James P. Cannon, Karl Skoglund, Emanuel Holstein, V.R. Dunne, Marvel Scholl and the Women's Auxiliary feeding the striking workers

### **Teaching Work**

16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2023 (lent by Bruce Peterson for the exhibition)