

## **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 Williams 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

## Minneapolis Strike 1934

20 x30 in, oil on canvas, 2024





**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\*  
NALC 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.

## Postal Work

16 x 20 in, oil on board, 2024





**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

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





**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  
1868-1963



Upper Right

Civil rights activists of the 1960s

Right:

Striker from Minneapolis  
Federation of Teachers and  
Educational Support  
Professionals

## Teaching Work

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 Sko-  
glund, 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)