

Lawrence Ferlinghetti at City Lights (after Harry Redl) © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

City Lights Books published Allen Ginsberg's poem "Howl," which revolutionized American poetry, and lead to publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti's 1956 arrest on obscenity charges. The "Howl" trial and its landmark verdict was a triumph for freedom of speech and brought San Francisco to national prominence as a hub of avant-garde culture.

"Poetry can change the world, just like any art can change the world, by changing consciousness." -Lawrence Ferlinghetti





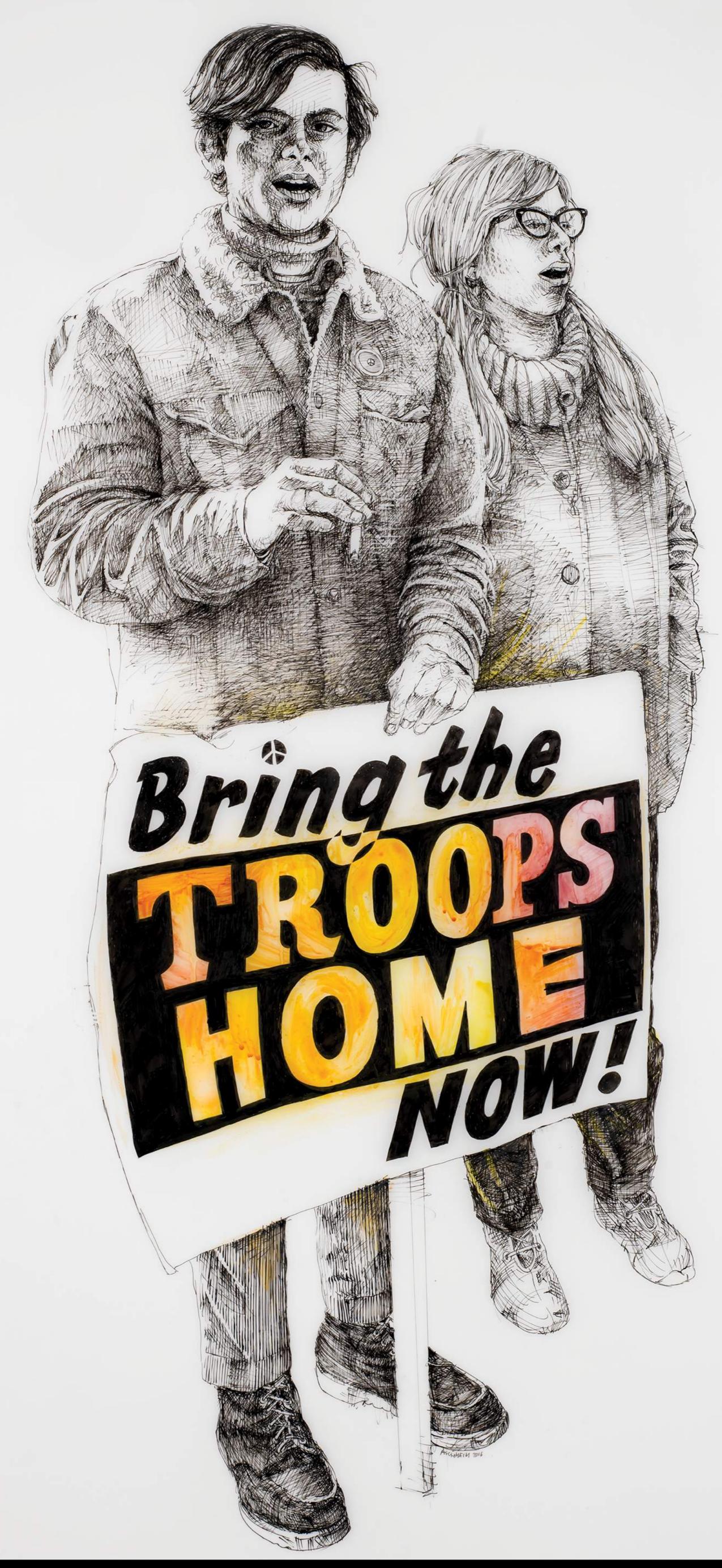
Vanguard Street Sweep © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

Gay and transgender youth in San Francisco's Tenderloin formed Vanguard to protest discrimination and to support an emerging LGBT community. Vanguard's 1966 cleanup of Market Street made tongue-in-cheek reference to "street sweeps" of homeless youth by police.

"People were beaten down by their environment, by being called names, by being told they were worthless, by families that threw them out.

I started Vanguard as an opportunity where people could stand their ground." —Vanguard Co-Founder Adrian Ravarour





San Francisco Peace March, April 15, 1967 (after Michelle Vignes) © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

The Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam was a coalition of peace and Civil Rights activist groups who joined forces in 1967 to organize simultaneous large-scale antiwar protests in New York and San Francisco. More than 70,000 people marched from Market Street to Golden Gate Park to protest U.S. involvement in Vietnam.





Digger © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

The Diggers were a radical community action group of activists and improvisational actors based in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco. They fed people for free in Golden Gate Park and other sites during the Summer of Love, created Free Stores where everything was free and presented street theater, grassroots publications and free concerts. The deeper motivations for their actions were to create a society that rejected capitalism and money in favor of freedom and more transcendent values.





Human Be-In, January 14, 1967 (after Eric Thiermann) © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

The Human Be-In at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park is widely regarded as the prelude to the Summer of Love. Billed as a "Gathering of the Tribes," the free event brought together as many as 30,000 people from diverse communities, including musicians, poets, activists, artists, intellectuals, counterculture luminaries and the "outlaw" motorcycle gangs.





Mother and Child, Free Huey Rally, De Fremery Park, Oakland (after Ruth-Marion Baruch) © 2017 Deborah Aschheim

The Black Panther Party formed in Oakland in 1966 demanding an end to oppression of African Americans, and calling for housing, education, jobs and justice.

"The party is known mostly for its confrontational stances; and that's a good thing - to be confrontational against evil and violence. The kind of problems that the black community suffers: unequal levels of imprisonment, unequal levels of access to resources, poor health. The Black Panther Party tried to model for the community some of the possible solutions that were not capitalist oriented." -Kathleen Cleaver, first Communications Secretary for the Black Panther Party

