



Fall of Freedom 2026: Join American Artists Defending Democracy

by **Reese Alexander** | August 14, 2026



Last November, FF2 was proud to help spread the word about a new movement rallying America's artists: Fall of Freedom (FOF).

FOF is a grassroots campaign comprised of world-renowned artists and everyday citizens working together towards a common goal: the defense of democracy. Like many of us, the organization has had enough of the present administration's censorship and intimidation. In 2025, they put out their first call to action, and asked artists across the USA to "unite in defiance of authoritarian forces".

After Fall of Freedom reached out to FF2 last year, we published our own rallying cry, only to find that some of our favorite artists were already involved. This year, Fall of Freedom will return from October 2-4 for a weekend of artistic creation and political defiance. We hope that this October even more of you will lend your time and talent to support Fall of Freedom's vital mission!

What is 'Fall of Freedom'?

In its inaugural year, Fall of Freedom sponsored nearly 750 artistic events across the USA, Mexico, and Europe. These gatherings included exhibitions, variety shows, open mics, crafting, and much more. Anything an organizer would dream up could be registered and advertised on the Fall of Freedom website as an official event. By and large, these gatherings were put on by regular citizens for the benefit of their own neighbors. In a time of dark uncertainty, artists across genres, states, and walks of life came together to defy tyranny with simple acts of community and artistic creation.



Deborah Kass's Involvement

On their website, Fall of Freedom advertises a long list of their “friends”, all giants in the arts and entertainment industry. On this list, you will find many of the incredible women FF2 has platformed over the years, including filmmaker Geeta Gandbhir, playwright Sarah Ruhl, and visual artist Deborah Kass.

Deborah Kass is both an artist and an activist whose visual work draws on pop culture to comment searingly on American life. You may find Deborah's paintings and prints hanging in the Smithsonian in DC as well as MoMA, the Guggenheim, and the Whitney in Manhattan. Deborah's famous “OY/YO” sculpture is permanently placed outside the Brooklyn Museum.

In 2024, I had the opportunity to interview Deborah about another political movement she was a part of, People for the American Way's “Artists for Democracy” campaign. In that conversation, Deborah shared her own thoughts about the intersection of art and politics.

“Artists are compelled to participate in any way possible, and to contribute whatever talents we have to save democracy,” Deborah said. “What's unique about being an artist is the ability to harness the power of images—and the power of words and images—and deliver a message. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of our country.”

Register Your Own Event!

Like Deborah, Fall of Freedom believes that in this unprecedented time, immediate action is necessary. This year, they are seeking events that “channel the urgency of this moment”.

Fall of Freedom's reach truly does extend across the country. If you, like me, come from a rural state, you may think there is no way you will find an event near you. But I encourage you to check the event map on Fall of Freedom's website. And if there really is nothing planned in your town, then step up yourself! You can organize and register your own event through Fall of Freedom's website. This could be anything: mural painting, community theater, a poetry open mic night. Anything your creative mind can imagine can be registered as a Fall of Freedom event!

2026 has been difficult and terrifying for many of us (what with threats to voting rights in the USA, the demise of USAID abroad, etc) and there are still many long months ahead. But, come October, we have the opportunity to face those that threaten our democracy head on, through a resistance of creation.

As the Fall of Freedom website states: “Art matters. Courage is contagious.” So this October, choose art. Choose courage. And choose to come together in a community that exemplifies the best of both.

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LEARN MORE/DO MORE

Learn more about Fall of Freedom.

Respond to FOF's call!

Read my 2024 interview with Deborah Kass.

Find FF2's review of Deborah's Salon 94 exhibit here.

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS

Featured Photos: Downloaded from the Fall of Freedom 2026 EPK (electronic press kit).

Middle Photo: Deborah Kass's "Everybody Vote" banner (2026).

Bottom Photo: Deborah Kass Campaigning with Kamala Harris (6/20/24).

MP/BP: Downloaded from Deborah Kass's Facebook page.

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