

Logo for RISE•ROSA•RAGE
Socio-Political Graphics Collection

Please see Instagram account [rise.rosa.rage](https://www.instagram.com/rise.rosa.rage) to see some images from the collection.

Please note, not all images there are from the collection, but all are on the same theme and it is usually clear if they are not from the collection, e.g. photos of stickers/ graffiti/ flyers outside or pieces that are behind glass in a museum or gallery.

Keywords/ Feelings

- What the collection represents
- what the website will highlight as the role of socio-political graphics
- what the logo might convey

call to arms

the downtrodden to 'rise'

stand up tall

planting seeds that will grow

nobody can truly be free until we are all free

spreading and sharing ideas

words that morph into actions

conviction

stand tall and strong

unity and collective action

fight for what is right and against injustice

make oneself heard

anger

passion

frenzy

storming the scene

solidarity

revolution

change

educational

history remembered, repeated, leading up to now

past, present, future

cycles of time

(re-) action

dynamism

the power of visuals, art and symbolism

energy

raw emotion

Iconography and Symbolism of Left and Radical Graphics

This list is not necessarily exhaustive, but certainly includes many key features of left-wing graphics:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • rose | • boots/ feet marching |
| • clenched fist | • star |
| • pen/pencil | • sun |
| • rifle | • rays of light |
| • book | • tools |
| • broken chains | • mechanical symbols (e.g. cogs, wheels) |
| • lightning bolts / flashes | • agriculture (usually wheat or corn) |
| • radio waves | • megaphone |
| • printing materials (machinery, by hand) | • fire |
| • flag | • blood |
| • bars (prison) | • torch with flame |
| • gender symbols | • barbed wire |
| • spray paint can | • banner / ribbon |
| • traditional pattern | • shouting mouth |
| • traditional clothing | • dove |

The Name

Rise •Rosa •Rage begins with a call to arms, for the downtrodden to 'rise'; to stand up surrounded by all those who recognise that nobody can truly be free until we are all free. It might also be all the trees (or roses) growing up from the seeds that have been planted, a metaphor for spreading and

sharing ideas and words that morph into actions and if followed through with conviction, will stand tall and strong.

The next word is a reference to a common symbol in the iconography of the Left, the rose, as well as being the name of a key proponent of revolutionary socialism (Rosa Luxembourg), of the so-called 'Mother of the freedom movement' (Rosa Parks) and of a prominent trade union leader famed for the phrase "Bread and Roses" highlighting a worker's right to something higher than subsistence living (Rose Schneiderman). Although these women themselves are not a focal point represented in the collection, their names and actions are synonymous with some of its themes.*

When these ideas and words are taken up by collective action, it is the moment to 'rage', to fight for what is right and against injustice; to make oneself heard. This is not rage in terms of anger, but instead passion, frenzy and storming the scene.

* The list goes on, such as the radical left Greek political party ROZA, a key political figure in Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution Roza Otunbayeva, the Gay Liberation activist and psychotherapist Freda Rosen...

Themes in the Collection

The collection consists of socio-political materials predominantly dating from the 1960s- 80s, with the key themes being solidarity, rights claims and the struggle for autonomy.

The materials come from various countries, communities and regions (not all officially or currently recognised), and include many different languages, predominantly English, Spanish, French, Italian and Arabic, but also many in Danish, German, Polish, Portuguese, Greek and more.

Around 60 countries/states/territories are represented, but the collection is growing. They include recognised political nation states, identity-based groups, communities fighting for autonomy, recognition or statehood, unrecognised self-declared independent republics, countries/ blocs no longer in existence.

A selection of the themes that are well-represented include:

- Cuban Revolution and Castro regime
- Kurdistan struggle for independence (French and Greek posters)
- Portuguese Carnation Revolution
- Polisario Front: Independence for Western Sahara
- Cyprus conflict (Greek Cypriot, Greek and Canadian posters)
- Lebanese Civil War
- Basque Independence
- Chilean coup d'état and Pinochet regime (UK, Italian, German, Danish posters)
- Literacy campaigns in Latin America
- Anti-Apartheid in South Africa
- May Day, Trade Unions and Workers' Rights
- Protest against the Vietnam War
- Counterculture and Alternative Communities
- Political Cinema and Film-Making
- Political Music
- Racial Equality, Civil Rights Movement, Black Power
- Environmentalism
- Women's Rights
- Student Movements
- Chicanx, Asian American, Native American Movement and Rights
- LGBTQ+ Liberation