

We are listening and working on a format for dialogue with the community.

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785 likes

centerforbookarts We are listening and working on a format for dialogue with the community.

Center for Book Arts engaged with the artist behind "The Eagle and The Tortoise," to clarify no agreement to exhibit this work—formal or informal—was ever made. Center for Book Arts remains dedicated to empowering diverse artistic voices through the book arts. For over 50 years, Center for Book Arts has been a resource for people of all backgrounds and walks of life. We have supported and continue to make space for all artists voices. As an organization dedicated to providing access to the tools for publishing, we take a firm stance against censorship of any kind. Our doors remain open to all artists who share these values of empowering all voices through the book arts.

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4d · Pinned



This incident has been weighing on me since I read @sistersylvester 's post on Friday because @centerforbookarts is a space and a community I have been involved with for several years and feel a deep connection with and really believe in as an org and a community. I believe that as a community we have the capacity to make space to address uncomfortable subject matter and have thoughtful, meaningful conversation around these issues. When that possibility is denied, we are left to confront one another's deep disappointment here in the comments section, because there has been no adequate response to what looks like a clear act of censorship.

65 likes Reply

— View 11 more replies



4d



It is one thing to pass on a proposed event, but the reasoning given and words used matter. With those words, the center is taking a very clear position that prioritizes some people's comfort, presence, and speech in our space over others'. The way the response from CBA could affect the community is really sad. I don't think anyone is trying to cancel CBA here, I think this is the forum we have to communicate right now and right now the community is saying that what happened is a problem that needs to be addressed more adequately than

what was shared in this post.

36 likes Reply



4d

@ nothing was ever censored. This is the main point that needs to be cleared up. How do they censor an event without it being scheduled? The artist lied about the performance and is using CBA to promote herself . I personally witnessed the performance and she compared her performance to the current conflict in Gaza which was in poor taste.

This artist is problematic on many levels and there is much more to the story. CBA was baited and everyone jumped to conclusions.

1 like Reply



4d

@ dude Im making all of my statements based on what I read in the email from the center for books arts representative. They said what they said. They could have indicated they were passing on the event for many reasons however they chose to say the reason was because people would be reminded of what's happening in gaza right now. Why is that a problem? Of course people are going to find commonality between struggles. What is the danger in this?

Why give this as the reason? The person who wrote that email should have understood the weight of what they were saying at this time and that by giving that reason they were silencing discussion around this issue - this is why I see it as censorship.

31 likes Reply



4d



The right thing to do would be to apologize, admit that maybe there is a lack of understanding around the subject matter of the performance and current events and how the two may be related, if they are, and to clarify CBA's position on the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. This stance seriously affects our community and it needs to be addressed. It cannot be swept under the rug by claiming that the event was never scheduled. It doesn't matter at this point if it was scheduled or not. This response is not acceptable or up to CBA's standards for the type of community they hope to represent and create, not to mention the radical history of the book arts that CBA has been a part of.

40 likes Reply



@

4d

well said



7 likes Reply



4d

Also please do not blame the artist this was entirely brought on by whoever wrote that email. The email is out there. I think the respectable thing to do is to just own up to having made a mistake maybe? There is a CBA community written letter circulating that has some good suggestions for ways to rectify this.



16 likes Reply



3d

@ the fact is SHE LIED. Period. If words matter so much to you then it does matter that this person has misled the community.



Reply



3d

@ you are hurting the staff at cba by speaking for them as a whole without their consent. You are making everything worse



10 likes Reply



3d

@ you also... don't work there?



6 likes Reply



4h

@ he's apparently getting
boyfriend of the director so... 🤔 🤔



Reply



4h

@ sorry I meant he's the
boyfriend of the director* not sure
how that other word inserted itself.



Reply

Hide replies



5d

So sad that people who probably havent
sent the performance feel that they have
the knowledge to weigh in. Jumping to
conclusions is not something to be
righteous about



5 likes Reply

Hide replies



5d

@ meant seen not sent



Reply



4d

@ you don't have to have
seen the performance to read their
letter to the artists and understand
the machinations at play. That's all



laid out and very clear: they don't want to put on the performance because they don't want to make Zionists uncomfortable because of the parallels one could draw to the genocide in Gaza. They laid it out very clearly.

23 likes Reply



5d

You know... any time they say "Israel" first before saying Palestine - you know they don't actually care about Palestine.



187 likes Reply



5d

@

excellent point!



I've noticed that too.

13 likes Reply



4d

@



3 likes Reply



5d

Just reading up on the context here.. Four months of genocide and still a crushing silence in this community 🙄



107 likes Reply



5d

@

Yes and after Rafah and the 1 million displaced people are bombed also, what will they say then... 🙄



6 likes Reply



5d

@ maybe more like 75 years, not 4 months?

5 likes Reply



5d

@ yes of course! I was only speaking of the social media discourse

2 likes Reply



4d

As a member of the CBA community, I want to say that I was really sad and confused to read the screenshots of the email on [@sistersylvester](#)'s page. CBA has shown many politically challenging and moving works, I was shocked to see someone from CBA saying word for word that they didn't want to risk making someone from their community uncomfortable? There has to be room for that at CBA. This is a mistake. Please give us a better answer soon.

37 likes Reply



4d

@ As a Jew and democrat I was really uncomfortable when CBA exhibited the work of a Mussolini supporting unrepentant fascist Italian designer a few years ago, and I let the director know that, but I didn't demand the work be censored, folks wanna exhibit dead fascists, go for it, let people show their true colors so we don't waste time trying to reform them. Instead focus on organizing with org.s and people who share your



solidarity with Palestine! CBA will come around, the baby boomer Zionists who are probably causing this ruckus are in the minority. DON'T demonize CBA staff, the organization as a whole, and artists, that's ignorant and counter productive. If you are part of that community advocate for what you feel is right.

9 likes Reply



4d

@ Wonderful post; the expression of disappointment isn't an attack. I just never thought the book world would be so weak, but I know I'm the naive one and my privilege has insulated me.



Reply



4h

@ I hope my comment didn't come across as demonizing or somehow eager to judge. I care about CBA and the people I know who work there. Some things are too important to stay silent on, I think the community has a responsibility to speak out to their institutions when they see wrongdoing. ❤️



1 like Reply



4d



This is embarrassing nonsense. You are free to program whatever performances you want but when your reason for declining is that the piece (which isnt even about the genocide in gaza) may seem *similar* to the current genocide and you are afraid of possibly making the supporters of the genocide event slightly uncomfortable from the similarities—you are really showing what audience you align with and are programming for. A statement that you are a space for all voices is just doublespeak. You are catering to a Zionist and racist audience, with whom we must assume you share a sympathy. If that incorrect, then a new statement is in order—one that explicitly condemns Israel, demands an end to the occupation, and calls what's happening a genocide, not a "conflict".

46 likes Reply



5d




For anyone confused check [@sistersylvester](#)'s last post. This is utterly shameful.

267 likes Reply

— View 8 more replies

 5d
@ careful now, they might
hide your comment next lol
6 likes Reply



 5d
@ 😄😄😄
1 like Reply

 5d
@ I mean they're already
hiding comments that are rightfully
exposing them and calling them out,
just saying
8 likes Reply

 5d
@ I noticed lol emojis
directed at them
4 likes Reply

 5d
@ Thank you for sharing
where we could get the context!
11 likes Reply

 5d
@ thank you 
1 like Reply

 5d
@ thank you - I had no idea 

what they were talking about. Very shameful response indeed.

Reply



@

5d

thank you



Reply



5d

"we are [attempting to save face by making an incredibly vague post] and working on [actively censoring artists] within the community."

fixed it for u ❤️

192 likes Reply



— View 4 more replies



@

5d

Yes this post would have made sense on October 9th perhaps. This is gravely inappropriate now as 100,000 are dead or missing and 1,000,000 being starved. Countless hospitals schools and shelters bombed, with endless footage of complete sadism by the antisemitic nonJudaic zionist occupiers.

14 likes Reply



@

5d

non-Judaic?



1 like Reply



4d

@



1 like Reply



2d

@

Bingo. They just doubled down on their own disingenuous spinelessness, hiding behind hackneyed equivocation and empty phraseology. They've knotted themselves into a pretzel of contradictions and it's showing in a wishy-washy statement that might as well have been churned out by AI.



Reply



5d

So, because other wars remind us of a current war, we do not speak of them? If the history of genocide resonates with an ongoing situation, where double the number of people have already been deprived of their lives because of ethnic cleansing, you sit still and "listen" to the community so as to not make anyone uncomfortable? Silence is the strongest of actions.



86 likes Reply



2d

@

Powerfully said. And CBA has no response to a statement as pointedly profound as yours. They've backed themselves into a corner with the disingenuous illogic of their pseudo-position and are making it worse with empty platitudes.



Reply



5d

unfollowing. this is not an apology or even a clear statement of position. reflect and do better.



91 likes Reply



3d



13 likes Reply



4d

I don't think pissing off a legion of radical printmakers who feel implicated by your bullshit politics is ever a good idea.



30 likes Reply



5d

gross. real "all lives matter" bs. way to gloss over the power imbalance between those actively committing gen0cide and those being killed. i'm learning to expect nothing from art spaces i used to be excited about.



47 likes Reply



5d

@

2 likes Reply

100



4d

@

Reply

totally this





5d

ok now i see. Shame on you

29 likes Reply



4d

Just caught up on this mess.
[@centerforbookarts](#) what the entire fuck? If after 125 days of live-streamed genocide you're still wordvomitting "both sides" nonsense and prioritizing the discomfort of Zionists than this entire organization isn't worth a damn. There are no two sides to genocide and occupation. This spineless and cowardly behavior will not be forgotten.

30 likes Reply



4d

If no agreement to exhibit the work had been made, why was the rejection email necessary? What a weak statement. Very sad considering artists books history of radical activism.

9 likes Reply



5d

this is the most non-specific post i've ever seen, what is this even about

151 likes Reply



[brookemacbeth](#) 5d

@ they tried to silence an artist whose work parallels what's happening in Palestine. And this is the explanation for it, I guess.

20 likes Reply





5d

@sistersylvester check
@sistersylvester's last post



3 likes Reply



4d

Shame



5 likes Reply



4d

This is a ghastly response.



1 like Reply



4d

If you're listening, please hear me when I say that @sistersylvester 's post makes all of the salient points that this artist and @centerforbookarts patron needed to hear (not that I needed convincing). Pulling this performance from the schedule smacks of cowardice, the inability to skillfully contextualize work shown in the galleries, or both. Silence is not impartial and even when it is, impartiality isn't always a virtue. As an institution supposedly dedicated to showing and supporting the creation of one of the most radical, informational, dialogue-inducing art forms in all of history, one would hope you all would know better, be better, do better.



8 likes Reply



5d

disgraceful. these institutions won't outlast this moment. what exactly is the best format for discussing the genocide of Palestinians we're all watching every single



day? your community is talking back to you loud & clear. sorry to have participated in events here—shame on y'all 🇪🇬🇲🇦🇲🇦

104 likes Reply



4d

@

they dont deserve to.



Reply



5d

So many free spirit, intellectuals, social justice activists and so much biased. There are 136 kidnapped babies, young women and elderly who are being used as human shields for the Hamas terrorists and their accomplices.

A human thing to do is first to demand the release of all the kidnapped back to their home.

After that the IDF will stop looking for them in Gaza and a ceasefire might happen. But first is first, hostages back home. And you know the young women and men are being tortured and raped on a daily basis. It is testimony of the hostages who were released

7 likes Reply



5d

@

“looking for them”

means slaughtering innocent civilians including children. What mental gymnastics it takes to maintain such willful denial of the catastrophic destruction of Palestinians.



7 likes Reply



4d

@ no one on planet earth save for warmongers is buying "we have to kill more than 10000 people for 100 babies" anymore. ever. Stop embarrassing yourselves.



10 likes Reply



5d

What a weak argument grounded in racism and Islamophobia.



Will you sensor the work of an Ukrainian in fear of a Russian feeling uncomfortable? Will you sensor the work of indigenous individuals in fear of making a white people angry? This is censorship! Distancing yourself from the biggest cruelty happening today and siding with the establishment is pro Zionism is genocide enabling.

158 likes Reply



5d

Shame on y'all. Claiming to take a firm stance against censorship, while engaging in the very act of censorship—sounds a lot like the hypocrisy mainstream institutions have been touting since this conflict started. Enough is enough. People must not stop thinking about what's happening in Gaza right now, and any act to push people's gaze away from that genocide is not only heinous, but makes you complicit in a genocide (this is not a war, when only one side is being obliterated).



20 likes Reply



3d

this is so unbelievably disappointing.



1 like Reply



2d

Disingenuous, evasive rubbish. You don't need to "work on a format for dialogue." You just need to reverse course and allow @sistersylvester @ & Co. "The Eagle and The Tortoise" to proceed. The format is programming. That initiates the dialogue. I mean, duh.



The "dialogue" you claim to support *is* precisely the work, the art, the challenging of audience and community. It's not canceling it because you're afraid an amorphous "some" will be discomfited by... history? What everyone sees unfolding before their eyes? Their own shadows? (I also suspect the "some" are a straw-man invention.)

Instead, you've chosen to hide behind a greatest hits of meaningless platitudes. The sad thing is you know it, hence the glaring illogic of your non-statement and a weak-kneed stance in flagrant violation of your own purported mission, as pointed out by @unionizecba in their cogent letter seeking the clarification you are clearly unwilling and/or incapable of providing.

As the kids say: Do better.

p.s. Although you have succeeded in hoodwinking the 776 people currently liking this post, the majority of whom I assume fell for your mirage.

9 likes Reply



5d

Your letter to the artist in question sure sounds like censorship. Not to mention biased, against a certain group of oppressed people. And at a crucial moment in history when the world is witnessing a genocide of said people.

28 likes Reply



4d

This is not an explanation, an apology, or an invitation to dialog _ it is the standard institutional explanatory porridge that, ultimately, facilitates genocide.

15 likes Reply



5d

this is such a bad look for y'all 🤔🍷

30 likes Reply



5d

I'm so disappointed. What a shameful loss for our community for you to behave this way. Unfollowing.

3 likes Reply



5d

I personally know the staff at Center for Book Arts and they are all good human beings. They care deeply for the Artistic expression and did not censor anything. It can be proven that this event was never "planned" as the artist Kathryn Hamilton has led everyone to believe.



This is a flat out lie. You all have rushed to judgment without context.

How can they censor an event that has not been scheduled?

You all have been lied to by a performance artist trying to elevate herself. Think about it.

FACT.

10 likes Reply

— View 2 previous replies



5d

@ thank you for speaking truth. So many quick to hate without knowledge of both sides



3 likes Reply



5d

@ thanks mediocre white guy abstract painter, go tell Clement Greenberg your opinion



12 likes Reply



4d

@ people are literally responding to a screenshot very clearly naming the issues you say don't exist. You're purposely glossing over the fact that they:



Attended the performance -> decided it was too political -> rescinded their consideration citing Gaza

THOSE are the facts, from their own email. No one mentioned dates. You're confusing your own feelings with what has been written and sent out by a

group of people who all sat down to review and edit messages like this before it goes out.

32 likes Reply



4d

not a single positive comment here. i hope you're seeing that. i hope influencers who affiliate with cba are seeing that. smfh! boooooo.



1 like Reply



5d

a space that caters to genocide supporters is not a space worth our time, you are on the wrong side of history 🇪🇬🇪🇬🇪🇬🇪🇬



56 likes Reply



5d

@¹⁰⁰ yes, artforum & cba can be in the dustbin of the 20th century



3 likes Reply



4d

Lame. To acknowledge the act of genocide in Gaza is not "taking sides" or exclusionary of anybody _ your silencing of @sistersylvester enables the perpetrators of this horror. Shameful.



3 likes Reply



4d

A space for Israeli voices? What exactly are they contending against? please remind us! Are they undergoing genocide? Are they being bombed? Children murdered?



Snipers shooting at them while they search for refuge? Are they being starved? Are they being lined up with their hands tied behind their backs to be executed? Are their homes being pillaged? Are they facing ANY imminent death? We would love to know What TF the Israeli voices would like to say...

8 likes Reply



@

4d

100



Reply



3d

This is why people should be supporting [@wendysubway](#) instead. Yall are old and wasted and completely disconnected from the radical history of book arts. Hope your funders comfortably line your pockets as you stand on empty words & support fascism.



3 likes Reply



4d

This is entirely embarrassing, further callous, and the opposite of the accountability that CBA staff and community have been demanding.



46 likes Reply



4d

You're not listening 😏 You're acting cowardly and supporting the censorship of the persecuted. The fact that you're censoring the story of persecution of Kurds by Turkey because it parallels what is happening in Gaza shows because of



institutions like you that history will continue to repeat itself. Shameful and cowardly.

1 like Reply



5d

There should be no space for Israeli voices because Israel is not a state—it is a zone of mercenaries massmurdering 100,000 in a season; it has been this since 1948 when the British & US & German backed invasion began. The entire US media—every paper, every channel—and every politician is the space for “Israeli voices.” We are completely tired of the lies during an active genocide. We are completely sick of seeing mad violent Evangelicals & Zionist occupiers try to stain the name of our beloved Jewish siblings.



6 likes Reply



3d

The world is watching a horrific, televised genocide and you're worried about offending the people who support the country that's carrying out that genocide



3 likes Reply



5d

Atrocious and shameful



25 likes Reply



4d

What a useless word salad of a statement.
SHAME



3 likes Reply



4d

So disappointed. Genocide is being live streamed and you are this lacking in moral courage?



1 like Reply



4d

Hi all. Lots of comments here but for those involved at CBA there is a letter you can sign demanding further discussion and a statement: <http://bit.ly/CBACommunityLetter> (you can take a screenshot and open the link in your camera roll). Please also read [@unionizecba](#) link in bio for a statement from CBA's unionized staff.



22 likes Reply



3d

what a pathetic nothing post.



1 like Reply



5d

Take a listen to this. <https://x.com/Israellycool/status/1755614311190601850?s=20>



Reply



5d

This is extremely badly written!! Like wtf is wrong with you. Way too much passive voice.



6 likes Reply



5d

@centerforbookarts shameful censorship, very weak and lame response. In the face of a real live-streamed genocide where we are witnessing the slaughter of thousands of civilians and their culture by Israel, you decide to censor a work that 'could' remind some of your audience of said genocide and make them feel uncomfortable? Disgusting beyond belief. Silence is complicity and as someone has said above you clearly chose to be with the oppressor and on the wrong side of history.



14 likes Reply



5d

Very disappointing. Shame on you @centerforbookarts



2 likes Reply



5d

Cowardly and shameful statement. Beyond disappointed.



2 likes Reply



5d

Woowwww this is so vague and weak



5 likes Reply



5d

I gotta admit, this feels like vanilla: flavorless. But hey, good work for being neutral.



2 likes Reply



5d

I recommend learning how to sit with discomfort before any dialoguing. 🇪🇬 🇮🇪 🇮🇪



10 likes Reply



5d

If you lack the skill to curate a performance piece in a complex climate, then that's on your organization ... like if you expect the public to react a certain way, you gotta get better at how you are describing and interpreting work. So sad and pathetic that you just want to present work that is non-threatening, to "protect free speech"?



6 likes Reply



5d

You took a firm stand against censorship by censoring artists and then claiming that they're the ones against free speech. Shameful and ridiculous.



4 likes Reply



5d

You do realize that this is literally a format for dialogue with the community right?



11 likes Reply



4d

You take a firm stance against censorship, even though you literally censored an artist because their work made you uncomfortable? Do better.



2 likes Reply



4d

Very weak statement. You might not have officially offered a show to @sistersylvester but that is beside the point. Your email to Sister Sylvester was shameful. You must know this because you are hiding behind such a weak statement.



2 likes Reply



4d

Incredibly shameful and glad your institution was called out on it. Publishing a vague, wishy washy statement about listening to your community where you claim to take in account both the oppressors and the oppressed just because you've been exposed doesn't count as making amends. Immediately unfollowing



2 likes Reply



5d

The format should be a Performance by an artist leaving space for reflection, but you took that away because it may be too relevant?



34 likes Reply



5d

this post is evidence you are not listening. you are trying to attempt to control the consequences of your hypocritical decision.



20 likes Reply



5d

I was a fan from afar, in a Midwest state. My list of galleries and art places to visit on a NY trip is really whittling itself down. Shame on you.



8 likes Reply



fowilson 4d

we need institutions to be brave and take a stand, and support artists who are! not a time to be wussy 🤔



6 likes Reply



4d

I don't know how to tell you this ... But if you're still stuck in the "listening and dialogue" phase (which is predicated on inaction and the false belief that there's still more to learn before doing anything concrete), then maybe you should read... books? Bc the info is out there already. ldk



2 likes Reply



5d

I have no idea what you are attempting to accomplish with this mealy-mouthed nonsense, which does nothing but condescend to people with a real grievance. I'll be unfollowing.



14 likes Reply



5d

Reconsider this statement. Reconsider what it means to place comfort (whose? yours?) over artistic confrontations of violence and complicity

15 likes Reply



5d

we've read the emails @centerforbookarts you cannot hide from genocide.

4 likes Reply



5d

Listen, learn, change

12 likes Reply



4d

Love this y'all! It's awesome that a component of your "format for dialogue" is to delete the comments sections on your previous posts, where we witnessed many folks posting thoughtful critical takes on the issue 🥰

4 likes Reply



5d

If anyone knows any art spaces that support Palestine please let me know!!!
And comment below 🙏

6 likes Reply



5d

@ @

5 likes Reply





5d

I saw this performance and it blew me away. I approached the artists afterwards with interest in purchasing a copy of the book because it moved me so deeply. You may never have made a formal agreement to work with the artists but the reason you gave to @sistersylvester is cowardly and infuriating and unjust on so many levels. I hope more people will get access to their project elsewhere— it's a huge loss for @centerforbookarts



77 likes Reply



5d

This is so painfully disappointing. This IS censorship, and a support for genocide.



21 likes Reply



4d

A format? To make y'all feel less guilty for supporting a genocide? Geez.



5 likes Reply



4d

In the cowardice to censor this work, you stand on the side of genocide. So deeply disappointed.



3 likes Reply



4d

What even bother posting this as a response - this is an absolutely embarrassing and hollow response because it's not even a response! It's a fake and performative platitude "to the community"



7 likes Reply



5d

Unfollowed. Disappointed with your cowardice @centerforbookarts



19 likes Reply



4d

You chose to hide all our comments tho. Hello dialogue!



11 likes Reply



4d

@ you better not hide these. 🙄



2 likes Reply



5d

That email is proof of an extreme act of censorship on your part. Own up to it. Be uncomfortable. Realize that there is a hierarchy that exists in your Center that prioritizes the "comfort" of one group over another. And that you ACTED on that by censoring work.



21 likes Reply



5d

Unfollowed. Hard to believe you take any stand against censorship when you announce in the same post what you will NOT publish.



12 likes Reply



3d

As someone who has taken classes and interned and visited the CBA at various times over the past 15 years or so, it's



disappointing to dig into this story and see CBA falling short and saying some questionable things. If this is based on policies for CBA content, it would be good to review and clarify (and possibly rethink) so that artists know what your stance is. If this based on what a particular donor or funder feels about this topic, maybe consider changing that relationship so they can't dictate what the center chooses to present. I hope CBA chooses to engage in some honest discussions about this and not double down like so many institutions do when faced with a complicated situation of their own making.

3 likes Reply

3d



An agreement, or lack there of, is irrelevant. The rationale given is simply not acceptable. It is cowardice. Someone saw the work, understood it and loved it. They recognized the message of the piece and that it is being echoed in the current conflict in Gaza. They are just too scared that others will recognize the same thread. They do not want to make those that support genocide "uncomfortable." That is too controversial.



3 likes Reply



"we hadn't actually booked them" is the line you're choosing to run with? We've all read the email. The Eagle and The Tortoise was rejected because - as a work inspired by ethnic cleansing - it might make some people "uncomfortable" given that there's ethnic cleansing and genocide happening as we speak. A position best described as a shiver in search of a spine to run up.



3 likes Reply



5d

Rather than being fearful in your decision making, take strength from fostering critical thinking through the arts. No one supports genocide except genocidal maniacs. Doesn't matter if we are talking about Somalia, Turkey, Gaza, or the USA.



9 likes Reply



3d

You say you are listening then write a load of fluff that completely ignores, and talks over, the points raised.



2 likes Reply



5d

What you are doing by refusing to acknowledge violent oppression and genocide of any kind is absolutely terrifying. How can you possibly believe that what you are trying to achieve here is acceptable? I am absolutely appalled by your choice to side with genocidal erasure



10 likes Reply



4d

Wtf does it matter if it was formally agreed on or not. You spelled out, and we've all read it, that you wouldn't have it because it could put the idea that ethnic cleansing is bad, actually, on some viewer's minds. I personally can't believe someone wrote that immoral bullshit and hit send.



11 likes Reply



5d

Your "defense" is that there was no informal or formal agreement? You wrote to the artist to say that you would not exhibit work that you'd previously expressed interest in, and your reasons amount to censorship.

35 likes Reply



4d

We stand with @sistersylvester Shame on you @centerforbookarts Let's stop the Israeli Genocide in Gaza now!

4 likes Reply



5d

yikes on 30,000+ bikes. if you can't stand with the oppressed, yer standing with the oppressor.

28 likes Reply



5d

What an absolute lie they are spewing. @sistersylvester deserves better than this. This is a pathetic statement meant to divert accountability by throwing it back at the artist. Disgraceful.

14 likes Reply



5d

i read the actual context of this and you are absolutely censoring lol you do know it's okay for people to be uncomfortable, right? art does that. and it invites conversation. why stop that?

83 likes Reply





5d

And your second sentence doesn't even make sense. Learn some punctuation and grammar while you're busy censoring why don't you



11 likes Reply



4d

@ That passive voice coupled with moral contortion, really tests the composition skills.



2 likes Reply



3d

One of the most creative pieces involving an extraordinarily designed book I have ever seen. How @centerforbookarts can deny presenting this piece is beyond me and hugely degrades the organization. Wow.



2 likes Reply



5d

this is really disappointing and feels like censorship in itself. goodbye, center for book arts.



59 likes Reply



5d

@

100



1 like Reply



5d

better to not post at all than to post such a sad non-statement



37 likes Reply



4d

In light of the appalling censorship practiced by the Center for Book Arts (not to mention the post), I wish to withdraw my participation to the members exhibition now on view.

Will not renew my membership.



24 likes Reply



4d

@

well done!



1 like Reply



3d

why are you referring to an artist and their work without naming them at all?



2 likes Reply



3d

@

don't you think omitting any mention of their name alongside with the title of the work they produced is a form a censorship? why aren't you giving the public knowledge or connection of who's work this is?



3 likes Reply



4d

It doesn't matter if you had no formal agreement to show the art because you explicitly turned down the work because of the subject matter being too close to the genocide in Gaza. We saw your own words. It's censorship. Save the horseshit for someone else.



88 likes Reply



4d

@

100 exactly this!



2 likes Reply



4d

@

YES



2 likes Reply



2d

@

Thank you for no-nonsense eviscerating the disingenuous illogic of their non-statement.



1 like Reply



5d

Free speech but not for anyone you deem 'controversial.' A piece about the Turkish war against the Kurds isn't about Gaza, but if you know the audience would draw connections, then you are aware of the absolute devastation being wrecked in Palestine, and are still choosing political comfort. Dialogue doesn't include deleting and turning off comments in your other posts either.



52 likes Reply



5d

It's outrageous that a performance about Turkey's persecution of the Kurds, which has been ongoing for decades, should be censored bc it compares to Gaza. This sets a precedent to censor anything that has content about genocide. As an Armenian American and a writer participating in your programs, I am disappointed and appalled.



168 likes Reply



4d

@ it's almost like their stance on genocide is being made so perfectly clear while they avoid making one.



8 likes Reply



3d

No, it's pretty clear where they are on this one at least



Reply



2d

@ exactly



Reply



4d

"Israeli and Palestinian voices"



16 likes Reply



4d

@ right, like wtf does that even mean?



3 likes Reply



4d

@ "We want to hear from both the murderer and the victim."



15 likes Reply



4d

@ yeah and this artist is not even Israeli or Palestinian. She lied and misled the community and is using CBA to promote herself on the current global situation.



1 like Reply



4d

@ Rubbish. You really need not to defame people as a political strategy.



5 likes Reply



3d

@ the art is about the Kurdish genocide. CBA thought it might REMIND PEOPLE of the current genocide Palestinians are experiencing. That might explain why the artist isn't Palestinian buddy.



3 likes Reply



5d

Big yikes



6 likes Reply



5d

Wtf!



2 likes Reply



3d

Good that you're prioritizing "both sides", last time there was a holocaust for some reason no one wanted to hear the perpetrator's side of the story. It must be as difficult to commit a genocide as to experience one. Ethnic cleansing is a hard job.

(Hopefully the sarcasm is excruciatingly obvious).

1 like Reply



4d

I can tell by your wording that you care more for Israeli lives than Palestinians, genocide apologists.

2 likes Reply



5d

shameful

3 likes Reply



5d

whuuuuuuut. are turks and kurds code for israelis and palestinians, cowboys and injuns, jocks and freaks, humans and nature, man and woman? is lysistrata a playbook for the general strike? is center for book arts funded by the usual suspects?

Reply



@
the Board.

Reply

4d

exactly _ check out





4d

a format? we got your format, no worries.



3 likes Reply



4d

This ain't it.



2 likes Reply



5d

Come on guys. Really? Very disappointed.



19 likes Reply



5d

sistersylvester wrote on their account this -
"The Eagle and The Tortoise is a work I wrote in



2016-19, about the war by the Turkish state against the Kurdish population, the attempt to destroy a people by destroying their lives, their culture, their language, their homes, the landscape they live in; and the US's shameful complicity in that war.

I agree, there are many parallels between the story we tell and the genocide that is happening in Gaza.

In your email you explain that you can no longer present this work, not because of statements calling for a ceasefire and a free Palestine, but because of the parallels between the war and the story we tell in our performance. "

sistersylvester are making a statement that compares between the two wars. They use the misleading bias term Genocide to describe the war between IDF and Hamas terrorists. It's not a free speech when you

use your platform to mislead. Terrorists are not freedom fighters.

2 likes Reply



3h

@ you are really, really not helping anyone, learn your crowd at least and how to engage in a meaningful discourse.



Reply



5d

What the FUCK?



3 likes Reply



5d

feel like ulises carrion would not fuck with this. he'd probably lionize the writers, editors, & assemblers, & smugglers of The Trinity of Fundamentals out now with @



15 likes Reply



4d

Free speech in retrograde



1 like Reply



5d

grow up, y'all



3 likes Reply



5d

Disappointing.



4 likes Reply



5d

you cater to the comforts of those complicit in genocide. if your institution cannot stand with those suffering under imperialism then you don't deserve to exist at all. Freedom to Gaza 🇲🇪🇲🇪🇲🇪🇲🇪



17 likes Reply



5d

Extremely disappointing and didn't expect this from you guys



15 likes Reply



5d

Shameful and disappointing. 🙄



3 likes Reply



5d

Shame on you.



4 likes Reply



5d

really lame



1 like Reply



5d

Lmao okay. Unfollowed and unsubscribed.



2 likes Reply



5d

shameful



2 likes Reply



5d



1 like Reply



5d

Booooooo so disappointing



1 like Reply



5d



Bye!

1 like Reply



5d



Do better

2 likes Reply



5d



Shut up!!!!

3 likes Reply



5d



Yikes

4 likes Reply



5d



Schizophrenic stance of censorship, shame

3 likes Reply




5d



What does it mean

1 like Reply

 5d
@ they censored an artist by canceling their performance because it dealt in issues of suffering and oppression, and *could be* interpreted as support for Gaza even though the artists were making work about a completely different 'war' aka genocide. Really cowardly business, frankly.
3 likes Reply

 ??? 5d
1 like Reply

 **offday_goth** 5d
@ refer to
@sistersylvester 's post!
7 likes Reply

 5d
@ got it. gross
2 likes Reply

 5d
@
Reply

 5d
Disappointed 😞
Reply



5d

Shame!



Reply



5d

disgusting shameful and despicable



Reply



5d

Shameful censorship



Reply



4d

Extremely disgraceful



Reply



4d

Lame.



Reply



This is weak



Reply



4d

@

I am with the Israeli



ppl who want the current Israeli government to step down. But, don't be confused and do not mislead, the IDF is fighting terrorists in Gaza, terrorists who invaded Israel on Oct 7th.

There are Palestinians in Israel prison, they aren't innocent, they held knives and guns

against civilians. Yes, it's a tragedy that hostages were killed by the IDF. Again, I didn't hear a demand from you to release innocent kidnapped ppl. You hide your conscience behind popular propaganda that the Palestinians life is more valuable than the Israelis

Reply



4d

This is even worse than a noted app apology 😂



Reply



4d

"We have supported and continue to make space for both Israeli and Palestinian voices" is a very odd framing.



Reply



4d

You guys should probably just shut down. What kind of arts space does this?



Reply



4d

wE'rE LiStEnInG aNd lEaRnInG



Reply



4d



Reply



3d

@

I am not happy with this war. Why do you assume that i'm a psychopath or that I don't stop each moment to think about the price both Palestinians and Israelis are paying?! Unfortunately we are all victims of Hamas-Isis. A terror organization who received billions of dollars over the years. These funds could have made Gaza a beautiful and prosperous place. But guess what? These funds were used for weapons, a crazy underground city and sponsoring the wealthy lives of Hamas leaders. I wish they had beautiful lives. I wish we could live in peace with our neighbors. Unfortunately this is not as simple as writing a comment on instagram. Visit us and maybe you'll see the whole picture. There are no winners at wars.



Reply



3d

#freepalestine 🇵🇸



Reply



@

of Afghanistan war is far from being a model. So is every war. How do you fight terror? What is your suggestion? As I said wrote before - war is terrible. There are no winners at wars. I dream of living in peace. No one here is blood thirsty. But again, what you would do if your child was held hostage? Your partner? Your father? Living in the middle east is not as simple as people are writing here. I wish the war will stop. I cannot



watch people dying from both sides. I dream of having all hostages home today. I think that if you would've visited here you would understand things differently.

Reply



2d

An agreement being made with the artist or not ceased to matter when your representative stated that they saw the exhibition and would pass on presenting it because of their personal perception of how it could impact business operations due to its nature, due to a wholly different conflict happening today. There seems to have been little consideration for what that statement implied to the artist or the community who would surely see it in the end.



Reply



Center for Book Arts Except for the Ones that Make Me Uncomfortable 🤔



Reply



16h

i love that their next post has comments disabled



Reply



12h

Israel is Kampuchea now. Cut all ties with the ruthless executioner state!



Reply

 See hidden comments

These comments were hidden because they may be offensive or spam. People can still tap to view them.

Hidden by Instagram



5d

This smacks of cow ardice



1 like Reply



5d

What a terrifyingly bland response to the question of whether or not Palestinians and their experience of war deserve to be recognized by bastions of culture. Sounds like your answer to that question is no. And, seriously, f*ck you. Unfollowing.



3 likes Reply



5d

You support genocide. I don't support you anymore.



4 likes Reply



4d

It's also convenient that you did not mention or tag [@sistersylvester](#). I was unaware of the situation and had to Google the show name and then visit Sister Sylvester's Instagram account to research what had unfolded. Most people seeing your vague statement wouldn't do this, and you are counting on that. Shameful. Unfollowing.



4 likes Reply



3d

Center for Book Arts yall are pathetic, you should be ashamed of yourselves for your self absorbed fear and normalizing during the most visible genocide in our lifetime. Print is supposed to be a brave and radical tradition, your organization is the perfect example of how it's being coopted and watered down by elitist institutions.

2 likes Reply



5d

Hey for anyone lost, refer to @sistersylvester 's post for context. Shame on you, @centerforbookarts 🍅🍅🍅

39 likes Reply



5d

@ thank you for this comment bc I was so confused

4 likes Reply



5d

@ oh wow this is a bad look for @centerforbookarts

4 likes Reply



5d

work a little harder

2 likes Reply





5d

YOUR NEUTRALITY SPEAKS VOLUMES.
this is islamophobic and racist bye bye bye
you do not care

2 likes Reply



5d

This is not a good look

1 like Reply



5d

shameless losers.

6 likes Reply



5d

Would love to join in

Reply



Israeli voices lmao fuck off

Reply



6h

Looking forward to the format in which you
decide to communicate with your
community. The email sucked. The
rejection as opportunity to claim a space of
"too polarizing" in the art world is
pessimistic as hell.

Reply





1h

I saw @sistersylvester "The Eagle and the Tortoise" and it made my heart sing. This beautifully crafted multilayered urgent work would have graced @centerforbookarts precisely because it addresses all the core values stated in their mission statement (above). I am withdrawing my class on Persian poetry motifs planned with Dr Gazerani later in Spring. This class was going to be an introduction to Persian classical poetry taught half from New York and half from Tehran. If The Center For Book Arts can't center their audience before some members of their board then it's bleak times for all of us community members... SHAME and really looking forward to sustainable repair efforts from CBA.



1



Have you finished figuring out the format? We are waiting. It's great to hear you don't believe in censorship. You're not the only venue that bends its value system only when it's come to Palestine (or anything geographically or spiritually close). Progressive Except Palestine (PEP) is no longer ok. Please do better.



Reply

This post was deleted
Saturday, 2 / 17 / 2024

