

No Están Solos / You Are Not Alone
Public Art Installation

Mural-sized Portrait Poster Installation Brings Montreal Solidarity to 43 “Missing”
Students in Mexico

A group of Mexican students from all four universities in Montreal mounted a portrait installation on November 30th 2014. The installation is posted on a wall on St-Laurent Boulevard, south of the corner with Prince-Arthur.

The “No Están Solos” portrait project is a message of solidarity with the 43 students who went missing in Mexico after being detained by police.

On September 26th 2014, 43 students from the teachers training college “Raul Isidro Burgos” of Ayotzinapa went missing. The students were abducted in the city of Iguala (state of Guerrero), 80 miles south west of the capital. On that night, 6 people were killed, 3 of which were students, and municipal police detained the 43 students. Mexico is still searching for them; they are nowhere to be found.

These events have triggered a public outcry in the Mexican population, for they are not isolated. Our country is going through a social crisis, a crisis that calls for change

The college “Raul Isidro Burgos” located in the state of Guerrero is part of the rural teacher’s colleges, a cooperative-based education system, originated after the Mexican revolution in the 1920’s.

This system was initiated to provide access to education in some of the poorest areas of Mexico and to form critical citizens from rural populations to fight against social inequalities. The schools’ intentions are to train the students to become teachers and in doing so, transfer their knowledge to the greater population.

The 43 students who were abducted by the police were part of one of these schools. They are part of our young generation, which hold the key to a better world.

As Mexican citizens studying in Montreal, we think it is important to show solidarity with the families of the missing students. Repressing students who protest is not acceptable in Mexico, Canada or anywhere else. It is their democratic right. And students represent the future so their voices need to be heard. “The idea of forming the number 43 with the posters makes it obvious that we are expressing solidarity with our colleagues in Mexico”, says one of the students participating in this project. “We want to make a link between Mexicans studying in Montreal and the 43 missing students in Mexico.”

No Están Solos is created within the “Inside Out Project” that was launched in 2011 by the artist JR after he won the Ted Prize (Ted Talks Foundation).

It is a participatory art project that makes a statement in the form of artwork and shares messages with the rest of the world.

#Ayotzinapa
#InsideOutProject
#MTLxM43#TODOSxM43

