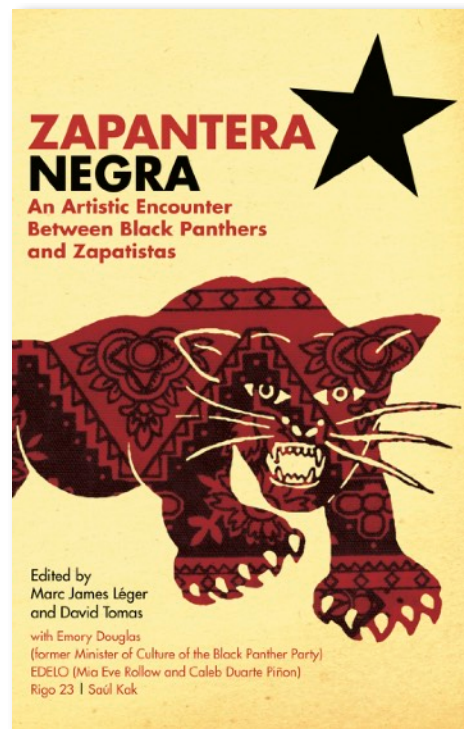


ZAPANTERA NEGRA

AN ARTISTIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN BLACK PANTHERS AND ZAPATISTAS

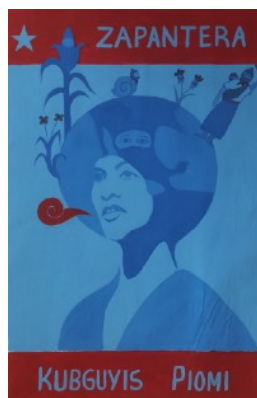
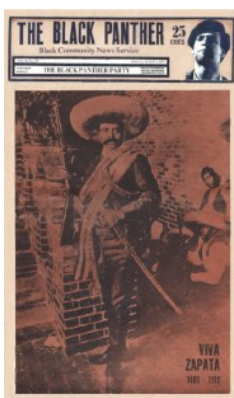
Edited by Marc James Léger and David
Tomas, with Emory Douglas, Edelo (Mia Eve
Rollow And Caleb Duarte Piñon), Rigo 23,
and Saúl Kak

"In opposition to ambient apathy as well as the 'high art' practices taught by leading institutions, Zapantero Negra is a project that demonstrates how contemporary art can sidestep conventional political and conceptual performance practices by working in communities of struggle from the ground up." — EDELO



What is the role of revolutionary art in times of distress? When Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party, accepted an invitation from the art collective EDELO and the Rigo 23 to meet with autonomous Indigenous and Zapatista communities in Chiapas, Mexico, they addressed just this question. *Zapantera Negra* is the result of their encounter. It unites the bold aesthetics, revolutionary dreams, and dignified declarations of two leading movements that redefine emancipatory politics in the twentieth and twenty-first century.

The artists of the Black Panthers and the Zapatistas were born into a centuries-long struggle against racial capitalism and colonialism, state repression and international war and plunder. Not only did these two movements offer the world an enduring image of freedom and dignified rebellion, they did so with rebellious style, putting culture and aesthetics at the forefront of political life. A powerful elixir of hope and determination, *Zapantera Negra* provides a galvanizing presentation of interviews, militant artwork, and original documents from these two movements' struggle for dignity and liberation.



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About the Editors and Contributors

Emory Douglas is former Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party, from February 1967 until its discontinuation in the early 1980s. Douglas' art and design concepts were always seen on the front and back pages of The Black Panther newspaper, reflecting the politics of the Black Panther Party and the concerns of the community. Joining forces with Black Panther cofounders Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton, Douglas was foundational in shaping the Party's visual and cultural power and sustaining one of its most ambitious and successful endeavors.

Marc James Léger is an independent scholar based in Montreal. His essays in art criticism and cultural theory have appeared in *Afterimage*, *Art Journal*, *C Magazine*, *Etc*, *FUSE*, *Inter*, *Parachute*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*, *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, *RACAR*, *Third Text*, and *Creative Industries Journal*. Léger has exhibited artwork in Canada, the US, and the UK.

David Tomas is an artist, anthropologist, and writer. His production in the visual arts has its roots in a post-1970s critique of conceptual art's disciplinary infrastructure. He is the author of several books, including *Escape Velocity: Alternative Instruction Prototype for Playing the Knowledge Game* (2012) and *Vertov, Snow, Farocki: Machine Vision and the Posthuman* (2013). Tomas is Professor in Visual Arts at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Mia Eve Rollow is a project-based artist who works with social sculpture, performance, installation, video, sound, drawing and cartoons. She is also an organizer and curator and has created both solo and community works for projects in Mexico, the United States,

Italy, Portugal, Canada and Hong Kong. In 2009 she moved to Chiapas, Mexico, where she cofounded EDELO with her collaborator Caleb Duarte. She is currently artistic codirector in rotation for the Red Poppy House in San Francisco, California.

Caleb Duarte Piñon lives and works between the San Francisco Bay Area and San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. He is cofounder and director of EDELO (Where the United Nations Used to Be), a house of art in movement and an intercommunal artist residency of diverse practices. Situated in Chiapas, Mexico, the space invites participants with diverse practices to live and create. He is curator of the Zapantera Negra project.

Rigo 23 (Ricardo Gouveia) is a visual artist and activist who works in diverse media, often in collaborative and public settings. He is particularly known for work that highlights the politics and political prisoners of the Black Panthers, from the Angola Three to Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the American Indian Movement's Leonard Peltier. He is one of the founding members of the Clarion Alley Mural Project and is an occasional professor at the San Francisco Art Institute.

Saúl Kak is an artist based in El Rayón, Chiapas. Born in 1985 in Guayabal, Rayón, he is of Indigenous descent and a representative of the Zoque communities in Chiapas. He studied painting at the School of Art and Science in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the state capital of Chiapas, and completed a B.A. in Arts at the University of Guanajuato. He has participated in numerous exhibitions, making performances, films, and community paintings with both Zapatista and immigrant communities throughout Mexico.

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