

## BUILD THE (GALLERY) WALL

The new Center for Contemporary Political Art says it isn't partisan, but its first exhibit is packed with provocative anti-Trump work



**LOOKING FOR DONALD TRUMP? YOU'LL HAVE** better luck on a golf course than in an art museum. Unless you go to the right one: DC's new Center for Contemporary Political Art—or CCPArt—recently opened its doors with a large exhibit inspired by the current administration, “Defining the Art of Change in the Age of Trump.” The idea is to offer a space for controversial work that might not find a home elsewhere. (One piece on display involves dildos, condoms, and images of various Trump officials.) “We’re not afraid,” says Robin Strongin, who cofounded the museum with Charles Krause. “We are more afraid to stay silent and *not* show the work.”

Krause and Strongin met through a mutual friend before the 2016 election. A longtime foreign correspondent for the *Washington Post*, among others, Krause covered wars and revolutions in Eastern

Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America (he actually got shot in Guyana in 1978). He had become interested in the way local artists responded to political events, particularly in places under military rule, and began collecting art as he traveled. In 2011, after retiring from journalism, he started a small gallery out of his Shaw house.

Strongin, meanwhile, had recently sold her public-affairs firm and was looking to get involved with the arts. After they met, they hatched the idea for CCPArt quickly, with a plan to launch before the midterm elections.

This past July, Krause and Strongin put out a national call for the center’s first exhibit. As submissions started to trickle in, so did donations. They’ve now raised more than \$100,000, much of it for upgrading their space, across the street from the

National Portrait Gallery.

Is the exhibit—which includes 105 works by 99 artists—a sign that Trump has kick-started a wave of activist creativity? “There’s always been political art,” says GW Corcoran art-history professor Lisa Lipinski, “but I think it’s a greater response now, especially as rights seem to be in peril.”

Krause and Strongin say they’re not looking just for lefty art—they’re open to anything with a political bent (though they didn’t get any pro-Trump submissions for the current show). The gallery is definitely a response to this political moment, however. “The timing is not coincidental—this is another way to speak to people, to voters,” says Strongin. “I just think we tapped into something that has been crying out.”

—ROSA CARTAGENA



## FIELDING OFFERS

The key players in the coming fight over the area’s next NFL stadium

**WITH FEDEX FIELD’S** lease ending in 2027, Washington’s NFL team is shopping for a new home. Will the Skins stay in the burbs (Virginia in particular is expect-

ed to make a strong pitch), or could they come back to DC? Here are some key players in what’s sure to be a contentious process.

### DAN SNYDER

Snyder seems enthusiastic about returning to the District, but a lot depends on what incentives Maryland and Virginia can cough up. He says he has fond memories of seeing games at RFK as a kid, so maybe his nostalgia will win out over his wallet.

### MURIEL BOWSER

DC’s mayor is pushing for a new stadium on the site of RFK, apparently favoring a deal that wouldn’t involve taxpayer dollars. In August, she pitched the idea at a team luncheon.

### DAVID GROSSO

The at-large DC Council member is one of the leading opponents of a stadium in the District. In a recent statement, he described

NFL stadiums as “a waste of land and public resources.” He also criticized the team name for being a racial slur.

### LARRY HOGAN

A spot near MGM National Harbor seems like a top contender—a far more bustling area than Landover. Maryland’s governor has said he’ll do “whatever it takes” to keep the team.

### RALPH NORTHAM

The Virginia governor hopes to bring the stadium to a location near Dulles Airport, even farther from DC than Landover. Helping his cause: Two-thirds of season-ticket holders live in Virginia, and the team’s headquarters is in Ashburn.

—ELLIOT WILLIAMS

## RANDOM STAT



## 1.1 MILLION

That’s how many tickets were issued to drivers caught by DC speed cameras in 2017, resulting in fines of \$104 million. Slow down!