Firebrands: Portraits from the Americas
by the Justseeds Artists Cooperative, edited by Bec Young and Shaun Slifer

Curated by the Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative, Firebrands is 169 pages of art, American history, and dangerous information. These beautifully illustrated mini-poster pages showcase radicals, dissidents, folk singers, and rabble-rousers, from Emma Goldman to Tupac, Pablo Neruda to Fred Hampton.

As say editors Shaun Slifer and Bec Young in their introduction, the book "is especially made for anyone who has sat, trembling with frustration and disappointment in history class, or reading a textbook heavily edited of anything interesting or useful. It's for all our ancestors, especially for the ones left out of or misrepresented in said textbook, because they were too brown, too female, too poor, too queer, too uneducated, too disabled, or because they felt or thought too much."

This is a real people's history, a book packed with dynamite, desire, and, above all, courage.

Press quotes: "A beautiful idea in the great tradition of artists’ collectives that activate for social change... I'm glad to see that they are still going strong." - Daniel Drennan, Inquisitor

ABOUT THE ARTISTS: Says the group's website manifesto, "Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative is a decentralized community of artists who have banded together to both sell their work online in a central location and to collaborate with and support each other and social movements ... We believe in the power of personal expression in concert with collective action to transform society. Justseeds was started in 1998 by artist Josh MacPhee as a way to distribute his art and the Celebrate People's History poster series. He slowly expanded Justseeds to include the work of like-minded artists. In 2006, MacPhee reached out to a dozen like-minded artists and previous collaborators as well as the political street art blog Visual Resistance in order to re-envision Justseeds as a cooperative effort. Justseeds was transformed into Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, an artist/worker owned and run cooperative and blog, that launched in the summer of 2007."

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Microcosm Publishing is an independent publisher and distributor based in Portland, OR and Bloomington, IN. Our titles attempt to teach self-empowerment to disenfranchised people and to nurture their creative side.