John Quigley
Spectral Q
Biography

John Quigley is an award-winning Artist, Producer, and Activist.

As founder of Spectral Q his unique mix of human installation and aerial photography brings together communities to create large-scale messages for the common good. Focusing on themes of health, human rights, social justice, ecological balance, democracy, and freedom, his work strives to liberate the spirit and inspire unity through creative participation.

He has created more than 200 Aerial Art images involving over 200,000 people on 7 continents. Locations have ranged from the Amazon Rainforest, Antarctica, the Arctic, Ireland, Portugal, Mexico, Peru, Australia, Java, Bali, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, Belize, London, Hong Kong, Bethlehem, Jericho, Rio de Janeiro, Durban, Geneva, Athens, Delhi, Johannesburg, Copenhagen, Bonn, Victoria, Toronto, Vancouver, Alaska, Los Angeles, the United Nations in New York, and cities across the United States.

In December 2015 he created the ‘100% Renewable Eiffel Tower Peace Symbol’ image in the aftermath of the Paris terror attacks. The event was produced in conjunction with Dancing without Borders, the City of Paris, and a wide range of International NGOs during the UN Climate Talks. The resulting images and video went viral on social media and landed on front pages around the world.

In September 2015 he and his work were featured in Good Morning America’s ‘Above and Beyond’ series on ABC.

On the eve of the World Cup in June 2014 he created the Human Red Card in Rio de Janeiro to call for the end of child labor in conjunction with the International Labour Organization.

In April 2014 he created the world’s largest crop art on the Tanderup Family Farm along the proposed Keystone Pipeline route near Neligh, Nebraska. The 80-acre image generated hundreds of news articles and became the symbol for the unprecedented Cowboy and Indian Alliance of farmers, ranchers, and tribes working to stop the pipeline.

In 2012 his ‘Love All Picasso Peace Dove’ in Jericho, Palestine was chosen as one of the 49 most iconic images in the history of the United Nations (out of 800,000+ photos). The Smithsonian recently requested rights for one of his Kids Ocean Day images to be on permanent display in the Ocean Hall of the Natural History Museum. In 2011 his creation of Da Vinci’s “Melting Vitruvian Man” near the North Pole generated widespread global media attention and was recently featured in the Phaidon book ‘Wild Art’.

In 2008, as co-creator of Circle Up Now, he began his Icon Series with aerial portraits of Nelson Mandela (as part of the 90th Birthday celebrations in South Africa) and Martin Luther King Jr. on behalf of Amnesty International, The Elders, and Action Aid. Future Icons will include John Lennon, Mahatma Gandhi, Cesar Chavez, the Dalai Lama, and Aung San Suu Kyi.

In 2007 his work in the Amazon was featured on the Live Earth Global Broadcast as part of a short film narrated by Martin Sheen and his ‘Arctic Warning’ was seen in Leo DiCaprio’s feature length documentary “The 11th Hour”. His work is featured in several award-winning books including Sebastian Copeland’s “Antarctica-The Global Warning” and Bill McKibben’s “Stop Global Warming”. His ‘Human Whale SOS’ project was chosen as Coastal Living Magazine’s 2008 Sea & Shore conservation award winner.

His recent human creations of Picasso's 'Face of Peace', 'Motherhood' and ‘Amnistia’ have garnered international acclaim. His ‘Honor Vets Now’ image was the subject of Discovery Channel’s NO OPPORTUNITY WASTED reality program.
April 22nd, 2005 he introduced extreme aerial art with ‘Arctic Wisdom’ an image with Inuit on the sea ice off Baffin Island. This event generated coverage by media outlets around the world about global warming. A year later he followed with the “Antarctic SOS” from an iceberg off the Antarctic Peninsula.

In November 1999, thousands of union members and others formed five images that were broadcast to the world, including 5,000 people spelling out DEMOCRACY on the final day of the WTO deliberations in Seattle.


As an activist he was the subject of the documentary “Viaje Gloria” about his 71 day tree-sit to save the 400 year old ‘Old Glory’ oak tree that was featured at the prestigious Whitney Biennial 2004 in New York and he appeared in the Oscar nominated documentary “The Garden” about the struggle to save the South Central Farm in 2006.


At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, he worked with Earth Day International to produce the largest public event at the Summit, the World Walk in Copacabana.


In 2014 he produced the ‘Harvest the Hope’ concert with Willie Nelson and Neil Young on a farm along the proposed Keystone Pipeline route to oppose the project.

In response to the BP oil spill he co-founded Counterspill.org in 2010 with documentary filmmaker Chris Paine. Counterspill.org won 3 Webby’s in 2012 (for Activism and Environment from the judges and the Peoples Choice Award for activism).

Working in collaboration with the Global Call for Climate Action (TckTckTck.org) he has developed projects and partnerships with a range of producers, directors, and celebrity talent. These include the Prince Charles film ‘Harmony’, Writer/Director Marshall Herskovitz, and the global ‘Date With History’ contest celebrity jury involving Leo DiCaprio, Don Cheadle, Hayden Panettiere, Linkin Park, and others.

He has worked with virtually every major environmental organization in the US, including having served on the national and international boards for Earth Day. He currently serves as an Amazon Watch Ambassador, as well as a board member of the Environmental Media Association (EMA) and the Whaleman Foundation.

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