

“Against the Wall” speaking tour – additional details for US groups

Proposed dates: February 15-29th 2012

Nature of the talks

They are about 35-45 minutes long and I give a brief history of Banksy’s 2007 Santa’s Ghetto project (see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/artblog/2007/dec/03/banksyinbethlehem>), and how I came to do the book. I then talk the audience through the various styles and themes of graffiti that are on the wall and use these as ‘mirrors’ to tell the stories of people who are caught behind it. So, for example, a common theme is getting over/around the wall. I show some street art images related to this and then give stories of people trying to get across the wall for work, to reach their farm land, to holy sites in Jerusalem, etc (see images below). It’s a highly visual talk peppered with stories and facts about the wall, emphasizing the human stories – a format that countless attendees have said is a powerful and effective means of communicating the reality on the ground.

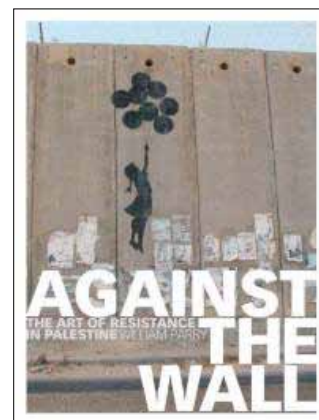
Most places hold a Q&A afterwards, which I’m happy to do, as well as any local media opportunities, should your groups want to send out press releases to generate publicity.



Reviews of the book, talks and media interviews by William Parry

For links, here are some for book reviews and interviews. I can ask the publisher to send groups review copies of the book, just forward your details/request to me.

- <http://dissidentvoice.org/2011/10/againsttheoccupation/>
- www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-56976-704-7
- <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article11497.shtml>
- <http://jffjp.com/?p=15865>
- www.newleftproject.org/index.php/site/article_comments/review_against_the_wall_by_william_parry/
- <http://zomobo.com/William-Parry-on-BBC-World-News-24082010>
- <http://vimeo.com/14299704>
- www.ukstreetart.co.uk/2010/08/03/review-against-the-wall-the-art-of-resistance-in-palestine-by-william-parry/
- <http://londonstreetartdesign.blogspot.com/2011/01/lsd-magazine-interviews-william-parry.html>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/artworks/against-the-wall/2950512> (radio interview with Australia’s national news organization)



A few endorsements for the book:

“William Parry’s *Against the Wall* is a singular achievement – both a stunning photographic essay of how Israel’s concrete wall has cut into Palestinian land and strangled whole communities and a powerful visual record of how local and international graffiti artists have battered it with their only weapons, paint and spray can. Thumbing through these pages, I could taste the occupation all over again.”

– **Joe Sacco, political cartoonist and writer**

"This book is very beautiful and very ugly. The Wall is very ugly, much of the art on it is very beautiful. This book helps to expose the ugly tyranny of oppression. There is beauty in the resistance of the Palestinian people. The annexation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank is ugly. That many Israelis are joining the resistance against their own government's policies is brave and beautiful. The ugliness of the Wall outweighs the beauty of the rest. This book seeks to redress the balance."

– Roger Waters, musician, Pink Floyd

"Documents Israel's monstrous wall both as a brute instrument of dispossession and as a bearer of resistance. The wall steals Palestinian land and threatens the viability of the lives lived in its shadow and – at the same moment – it blooms with messages of solidarity from every corner of the earth. This is the largest protest banner the world has ever known. By engaging with it practically and imaginatively William Parry has produced an outstanding example of cultural resistance."

– Ahdaf Soueif, Booker-nominated author (*The Map of Love*) and writer

Costs and accommodation options

I work with advocacy groups in the UK regularly and know that many don't have much funding. I am currently asking some individuals in the US with money to cover my daily, internal transportation, accommodation and flight costs. The publisher can contribute \$500 to my London-US airfare. Fingers crossed...

If that doesn't cover all basic expenses, I would be requesting a daily honorarium of \$250 (i.e. if I squeeze in two talks in a day, then \$125 each). I would be happy for groups to produce posters or postcards for sale of any of the images from the book to help off-set costs. You can also purchase discounted copies of the book from Lawrence Hill, the publisher, and sell them at the event to generate additional income. The organizers of my Canadian tour (CJPME) did this with the posters and books, selling out of 500 books before the 6 events had been completed. These are all modest income generators, but they all help.

As I've done with other groups in the UK and Ireland, I would be happy to accept accommodation in activists' homes if that's an option to reduce that expense – it's always a great way to make contacts, network and get to know people who are doing great grassroots work.

Side options – photo exhibitions and wall projections

My book launch in the UK was hosted by Amnesty International at their London HQ to an audience of 350 people. Amnesty also held an exhibition for a week of photos from the book. Amnesty subsequently recommended the talks to all of its UK branches and offices in Europe. London's Tottenham Palestine Literature Festival also had a photo exhibition of images in September here in north London, as did the LUSH Festival in the summer in Dorset. University student groups and advocacy groups have also organized photo exhibitions with my images, often during Israeli Apartheid Week. I am happy to provide the images as electronic files but groups interested would have to cover the printing and mounting costs (I use a 5mm foam board backing).

You can also see a side project that I organized last Christmas between Bethlehem and London:
<http://pulsemedia.org/2010/12/20/deck-london%E2%80%99s-walls-with-bethlehem%E2%80%99s-calls/>

If you are interested in this idea, you will need a sufficiently powerful projector, a generator to run it (or socket access), light-colored wall space with minimal ambient lighting – and to check the situation with local laws concerning public-space projections.

Again, thank you for your interest in *Against the Wall* and the US speaking tour!

William Parry
williamparry@yahoo.co.uk