

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Event: The Art and Craft of Protest: Protest Signs and Peace Puppets Emerge from Factory Marking Third Anniversary of Iraq War.

Date: Sunday, March 12th, 2006

Time: 12:00 PM NOON to 4:00 PM

Place: Portland Mennonite Church, 1312 SE 35th Avenue (corner of SE Main & SE 35th).

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The Art and Craft of a Peace March: Signs and Puppets Emerge from Factory Marking Third Anniversary of Iraq War.

As the days count down to Portland's next big peace march on March 19th, the *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* artist in residence, Mikel Clayhold, is hosting the traditional peace sign factory to prepare for the big day. "Our friends at the Portland Mennonite Church are partners in this effort, providing a home for a factory that has sprung up in many different places over the last few years," explained Clayhold. The "sign factory", which has evolved from stencils and spray paint to the silk screening process preferred by most artists, has found its home in furniture workshops, artists' studios and, when the weather cooperates, a back yard or public park. "This is a pretty low-tech process, so we can set up almost anywhere," said Clayhold. "We encourage folks to bring their own unique signs to the peace march, of course, but we also want everybody who comes to have the opportunity to carry a message for peace, and to take home with them a colorful sign to carry on that message beyond the day of the peace march." Clayhold's signs can often be seen many months after a big rally on the front porches and in front windows of homes throughout Portland.

The peace sign and puppet factory will be up and running this Sunday, from 12:00 PM Noon to 4:00 PM, at the Portland Mennonite Church, 1312 SE 35th Avenue (corner of SE Main & SE 35th), in Portland. Folks who would like to volunteer for this and other work related to the March 19th mobilization against the war in Iraq can call (503) 344-5078 for more information.

A phone bank for the March 19th event will be held Sunday evening, March 12th, starting at 6:00PM. For information about the phone bank, please call (503) 344-5078.

For more information about the March 19th peace rally and march, please call (503) 344-5078 or (503) 236-3065.