

Title: Please I Can't Breathe

Photographer: Fritz Pingol

Description:

The photograph captures a moment in downtown Long Beach, California amidst the protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd in 2020. We see a student holding a sign bearing the words "Please I can't Breathe," echoing the final desperate pleas of George Floyd as he was mercilessly suffocated by a police officer. This haunting message serves as a rallying cry, symbolizing the suffocating grip of systemic racism and police brutality on Black lives. The image highlights the importance of bearing witness to the suffering and resilience of marginalized communities. By amplifying the voices and experiences of those most impacted by oppression, the photograph challenges viewers to confront their own complicity in perpetuating systems of inequality. "Please I can't Breathe" becomes a catalyst for critical reflection and action. It calls upon us to acknowledge the pervasive nature of racism and to actively work towards dismantling the structures that uphold it. Ultimately, the photograph serves as a testament to the power of protest and collective action in effecting social change. It is a reminder that the struggle for racial justice is ongoing and that it requires the active participation and solidarity of all who seek to create a more just and equitable society.



Biography:

Fritz Pingol is a multi-talented Filipino-American photographer with roots in Yonkers, New York, but a strong connection to Long Beach, California, where he spent his formative years. Immersed in the vibrant world of Hip-Hop culture and music from a young age, Pingol honed his skills as a DJ and producer, channeling his experiences into his photography. Growing up in an environment marked by urban challenges such as gang violence, Pingol's lens captures the raw essence of the streets. His photographs reflect the dynamic energy and cultural richness of his surroundings, offering a unique perspective shaped by his personal experiences. Pingol's portfolio extends beyond still images, as he has also documented live events and concerts across the United States. His ability to blend technical expertise with a deep understanding of community and culture enables him to capture the soul of his subjects, whether they're musicians on stage or scenes from the streets.