Richard Kamler: A Retrospective (www.richardkamler.org) includes early sketches, installation works, drawings and photographic documentation that trace his career using art as a catalyst for social change.

Beginning in 1981, Kamler spent two years as Artist-in-Residence in San Quentin Prison. Through his close-examination of the penal system, he created the central works of his career: the "Table of Voices," a sound installation giving voice to both victims and perpetrators that was instrumental in developing a victim/offender reconciliation program at the San Francisco County Jail and the "Waiting Room" in Huntsville, Texas. Human rights continue to be a central theme of his work.

Kamler's art has been exhibited in a range of venues, from Alcatraz Island to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, from the East Jerusalem Cultural Center to the United Nations. He has collaborated with individuals and groups as far reaching as death row inmates, interfaith communities and international artists. His projects have been sponsored "The Desert Project" in the United Arab Emirates, the "Lac de Juarez" (2000s), "Seeing Peace" and "Las Mujeres de Juarez" (2000s). To create these works, Richard Kamler has maintained his strong belief that "art can make the world a better place...art is an agent for social change...our fuel and our glue."

About Four Decades of Art Activism

How can art be a catalyst for social change? Join Bay Area artists in a fiftieth anniversary panel "Four Decades of Art Activism" on Friday, January 27, 7-9 p.m., Interaction for the Arts, 925 Mission, San Francisco. Free and open to the public.

Five Bay Area artists, scholars and activists whose careers cross several generations, disciplines and social concerns will present their projects and strategies for engaging the community. The conversation will then open to the audience. Moderated by artist and human rights activist, Richard Kamler, this fiftieth event, "Four Decades of Art Activism," will include:

- Tom Furwani (Photographer, Founder, Sixth Street Photography Workshop)
- Judith Selby Lang Eco-artist, Beach Plastic project
- Scott Tsuchitani (Interdisciplinary artist, SF Asian Art Museum interventions)
- Richard Kamler, moderator, is best known for his art addressing the US penal system, including "Table of Voices," a sound installation giving voice to both victims and perpetrators, that was instrumental in developing a victim/offender reconciliation program at the San Francisco County Jail. Recently, he collaborated with international artists and the United Nations to create "Seeing Peace."
- Tom Furwani founded Sixth Street Photography Workshop in 1990, an innovative program that shares the art and skills of photography with adults living in poverty. Through the Plastic Project, multidisciplinary artist Judith Selby Lang, explores the global impact of detritus and the unfathomable depths of the ocean to raise a deeper concern with the problem of plastic pollution in our sea.
- Judith Selby Lang, explorer, is best known for her art addressing the ocean. Her "Plastic Project" and "Sea of Rubbish" (2005) call attention to an ecocide crisis.
- Scott Tsuchitani is an interdisciplinary visual artist and documentary filmmaker whose controversial interventions of the Asian Art Museum’s publicity have questioned the ways in which cultural stereotypes are used to draw audiences to exhibitions. Moderated by artist and human rights activist, Richard Kamler, this conversation titled "Four Decades of Art Activism" on Friday, January 27, 7-9 p.m., Interaction for the Arts, 925 Mission, San Francisco. Free and open to the public.

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