

KNITTY POLITTI

Artist Cat Mazza is crafting a revolution

SISTER, CAN YOU spare a square? A 4 x 4-inch knitted square, to be exact. Artist Cat Mazza needs your participation in her "symbolic gesture of awareness and intolerance" against corporate giant Nike's sweatshop abuses. Mazza and her collective microRevolt.org are stitching up a social protest made up of hundreds of orange knitted and crocheted petition squares to form a huge blanket, complete with familiar white swoosh, that she expects to deliver to the company by next holiday season. This may seem ephemeral at best, but [microRevolt's](http://microRevolt.org) strategy is based on French philosopher Felix Guattari's idea of "molecular revolutions" where, Mazza explains, "social change happens through small acts of resistance."

"[MicroRevolt](http://MicroRevolt.org) is using knitting as a way of talking about an economic crisis," states Mazza, speaking from Troy, New York, where she is completing her graduate degree in new media art at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. On her site, she teaches people how to knit and offers a free application called knitPro, which translates any high-resolution digital image into a custom knit or crochet pattern. She encourages people to use this program to engage in "logoknitting"—such as crafting the giant pink Barbie "B" onto legwarmers or the Gap logo onto a wristband, stitch by careful stitch. "Knitting can be considered a radical practice in a culture so used to buying things," she explains, "and knit hobbyists are a meaningful group to mobilize on the sweatshop issue because they understand the labor process that goes into making a garment." Knit yourself a place in the political revolution at www.microrevolt.org. [BETH ROSENBERG]



Cat Mazza sits in knits