

*ARTnews Presents 'The Deciders,' As Selected by  
Guest Editor Hank Willis Thomas*

By Anna Tuazon, December 8, 2021



Christine Sun Kim's Instagram profile image is a simple black-and-white icon: <0/. It's a clever rendering of the sign for "deaf power," representing a person covering an ear with one hand while the other forms a fist raised in the air. Inspired by the powerful simplicity of <0/, Kim and fellow deaf creative Ravi Vasavan (describing themselves as "passionate about Deafness and everything connected to it") launched an online project in 2020 to promote it as a symbol of unity among deaf communities, using a website and Instagram page—both under the mantles deafpower.me—to share resources and build solidarity with the Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate movements.

As Deaf Power has become a burgeoning movement of its own, Kim has served as one of its main faces. The Berlin-based sound artist has been featured on popular mainstream platforms like TED Talks and performed songs in American Sign Language at the 2020 Super Bowl, later publishing a New York Times op-ed criticizing Fox for omitting her performance from its broadcast. Kim doesn't accept big invitations for self-promotion, though—her activism, like her art, advances the idea that access is a collective project, and that differences in ability can be a rich source of knowledge and relational possibility.