

Scottish Society for Art History

Acts of Defiance: Exploring Protest Art Webinar: 15 May 2021

Call for Papers

The Scottish Society for Art History will host a webinar on 15 May 2021 on the theme of Protest Art. Art has a long history of supporting and helping to implement historical and contemporary socio-political change. It has also been used as a powerful tool to challenge dominant structures of power and visualise alternative futures.

The term 'protest art' is defined in the broadest sense, embracing all artistic expressions with subversive intent, including but not limited to illustrated printed materials (signs, banners, posters, caricatures, pamphlets etc.), performance, installations, sculpture, graffiti and street art, needlework and textile art, and digital media. The event will explore the relationship between art and protest, and the role of protest art in confronting political, social, cultural and environmental issues in society, in both contemporary and historic contexts. Proposals exploring art's oppositional roles will be considered; themes from all periods and papers taking global perspectives are welcome.

The webinar will share and engage with current research and critical debate in the field. We aim to attract a range of multi-disciplinary papers from a variety of speakers including artists, activists, academics, curators, archivists, and independent researchers.

Topics include (but are not limited to):

- Responses to political events or movements
- Responses to social and political upheaval or change
- Protest art and the media
- Artworks occupying spaces as forms of protest
- Digital art as a response
- Curation of protest art
- Forms of everyday activism through practice e.g. 'craftivism'
- Responses to recognition, representation and equality
- Art creating change

We welcome proposals for 10-minute online presentations for the webinar. Speakers will be expected to provide images to accompany their presentation. They will be provided with support for delivery on a digital platform. Proposals should be in the form of 300-500 word abstracts, accompanied by a supporting image. The deadline for proposals is 26 February 2021.

If you would like to discuss the CFP in greater detail or submit an abstract, please contact Claire Robinson, cr67@st-andrews.ac.uk

SSAH: www.ssah.org.uk

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