

## **Group 56 – When artists investigate, intervene, and critique – Artistic research since 1960s from global and local perspective**

Intention, freedom of expression & movement. Through our group work, we were confronted with different artistic works that aim to unveil current societal issues. The pieces personally impacted and inspired us to delve deeper into the art of activism. By analyzing the connection between art and science, human perception, and real-world situations, we chose to direct our vision toward a topic that is prevalent in our personal lives as students. Therefore we pose the question – Can we truly catalyze change through art? Our group believes that it is possible to activate action through visual representation.

First, it can be said that “Artivism” is a tool that reaches the masses. Regardless of the demographic, we see the images that are being presented to us and react to them – consciously or subconsciously. As a younger generation, we become more susceptible to being outcasted by political and societal sectors. It is a tendency that was able to be eliminated through social media and digital platforms. As seen in the 2020 Black Lives Matter movement after the murder of George Floyd, society bound together, with a shared agenda, to fight for an important, unresolved cause. The hashtag and black image spread across the entire internet in solidarity with a fellow human, who was suffering from social injustice.

This led us to our next point that the multitude of problems people face on a daily basis are so multifaceted, using art can only be a positive outlet of conveyance. Why would it not make sense, when activism can be integrated into every other sector & industry? Artistic work is subject to billions of interpretations but is linked through the natural process of internal reaction. Human psychology plays along with the latitude of subjective art.

Lastly, art is incredibly accessible. Creativity can be released through diverse channels. In this day in age Activism is interwoven in most of the things we see, whether online or on the street. An example of this is the politically driven street-artist Banksy. The graffiti art that is found at random public locations aims to dismantle authoritarian views across the world. It was an innovative concept that garnered an array of audiences. A normal citizen would simply walk past his work and see an image. They don't have to intensely deal with the topic at hand but at the end of the day, there was some form of impact. Love is in the Air (Flower Thrower), Napalm, and Girl Frisking Soldier represent a movement that was ignited through meaningful, performance art.

Considering these arguments, we chose a topic that affects us all: inflation. This was represented by a composed poem and video production, which we deem as Artivism.

The group investigation concludes with the mere fact that we were all personally affected by intentional, activist art. As much as it is not easy to prove its validity, we have deduced that the timelessness and freedom that accompanies art is an effective method of creating knowledge and manifests a link between us all.

### References

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-6-iconic-works-banksy> (Namen der Kunstwerke)