List Projects: Civil Disobedience

Bakalar Gallery

July 18–October 29, 2017

(June 15, 2017) Cambridge, MA—In the streets and on college campuses, in town halls, churches and prisons, in public parks and reservations, civil disobedience has long been a tool of activism. Whether taking the form of mass occupation or individual statement, carried out in public and communal spaces or articulated in writing and on film, political protest is ingrained in American culture. Recently, acts of police violence and executive policies singling out particular demographic groups have produced a groundswell of opposition. The exhibition List Projects: Civil Disobedience presents an ongoing film and video program that features a selection of documentaries, news footage, newsreels, and artist’s films and videos focusing on moments of political resistance and public demonstration.

This exhibition aims to provide context for resistance movements that have shaped the history of the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries and highlights the various ways in which artists, filmmakers, writers, scholars, and activists have employed artistic strategies in the interest of social change. Ranging from Great Depression-era hunger marches and the historic Civil Rights movement to recent Women’s Marches and Black Lives Matter, the exhibition provides a look at the history of civil disobedience and considers the role that contemporary artists and documentarians play in chronicling and confronting abuses of power and social injustice.

The program screened daily in the List Center’s Bakalar Gallery features 26 films and videos organized into eight thematic programs: The Film and Photo League; 1960s Civil Rights Movement; 1960s Social Unrest and Anti-War Protest; Protest Actions at MIT; Women’s Liberation, Gay and Gender Rights, AIDS Activism; Economic Disparity and Political Polarization; Black Lives Matter; and Women’s Marches and Other Recent Protests. In addition to the daily programming, the exhibition will be accompanied by weekly Thursday night documentary film screenings, also shown in the Bakalar Gallery.
List Projects: Civil Disobedience includes the work of filmmakers Madeline Anderson, Gregg Bordowitz, Jem Cohen, Storm de Hirsch, Ja’Tovia Gary, Kevin Jerome Everson and Claudrena N. Harold, Barbara Hammer, Leonard M. Henny, Richard Leacock, Tara Mateik, and Patricia Silva; collaborative work by video collectives Meerkat Media Collective, Paper Tiger Television, the Workers Film and Photo League, and Videofreex; content from long-running television series *Firing Line*, and media outlets such as the Associated Press, C-SPAN, and Democracy Now!, PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), and Third World Newsreel.


For full schedule and listing of public programs see attached schedule.


Please note that there are no screenings during the week of August 22-27 as the Bakalar Gallery is temporarily closed in conjunction with the installation of the upcoming Student Loan Art Program Exhibition. Daily program resumes on August 29.

List Projects: Civil Disobedience is organized by Henriette Huldisch, Curator, and Yuri Stone, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center

Exhibitions at the List Center are made possible with the support of Fotene Demoulas & Tom Coté, James & Audrey Foster, Jane & Neil Pappalardo, Cynthia & John Reed and Terry & Rick Stone.

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The List Visual Arts Center is the contemporary art museum at MIT. The galleries are located at 20 Ames Street in Kendall Square, Cambridge, Ma. Regular hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 12-6 PM; Thurs 12-8 PM. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Always free of admission. http://listart.mit.edu

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Public Programs Schedule

Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making (a three-part series of art-making workshops)

Join artist Kate Gilbert for Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making a three-part participatory series of workshops infusing tools of meditation with media imagery to create an accumulative work of art or artifact that represents a personal, balanced response to violent imagery.
This workshop series will lead participants through the acceptance of violent imagery in media as a necessary catalyst for change, defining one’s response to violence and will culminate in a civically-engaged creative action. Participants are encouraged to attend each consecutive workshop to deepen their practice of defining self and activism in a media-saturated world.

Kate Gilbert is an artist deeply committed to developing catalytic artistic practices for transformation — of our cities, our relationships, and ourselves. In her artwork, curatorial projects and public art organization Now + There she strives to facilitate joy, spontaneity and an intersectional approach to creating shared cultural experiences.

This series of workshops is free and open to the general public. Lunch is served every session. RSVP required. To RSVP visit https://listart.mit.edu/events-programs

Workshop dates

August 18, 2017
12:00–2:00 PM
Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 1: Making a Statement

September 15, 2017
12:00–2:00 PM
Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 2: Building an Understanding

October 20, 2017
12:00-2:00 PM
Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 3: Creative Action

THURSDAY NIGHT SCREENING PROGRAM

Each Thursday during the run of List Projects: Civil Disobedience, a feature documentary film will be screened at 6:00 PM in the Bakalar Gallery. All screenings are free and open to the general public. RSVPs are required. To RSVP visit https://listart.mit.edu/events-programs

July 20, 27; August 3
I Am Not Your Negro. 2016. Directed by Raoul Peck
95 min.

Raoul Peck’s 2016 film envisions James Baldwin’s unfinished project “Remember This House,” a proposal to his literary agent that was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin’s death in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript.
Stonewall Uprising documents the police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Greenwich Village of New York City, in 1969. Sparking six days of violent protests, the Stonewall rebellion was a turning point in the gay liberation movement and modern fight of LGBTQ rights in the United States.

Let the Fire Burn presents, via television proceedings and news footage, the events leading up to and surrounding an underreported 1985 stand-off between the black liberation group MOVE and the Philadelphia Police Department.

Laura Poitras’s 2014 documentary takes its point of departure in the filmmaker receiving encrypted emails from someone with information on the government’s massive covert-spying programs. Poitras and reporter Glenn Greenwald meet the informant in Hong Kong to learn the alias “CITIZENFOUR” belongs to Edward Snowden, a high-level former CIA analyst. What unfolds is the handing over of classified documents providing evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the National Security Agency (NSA) and eventually, Snowden’s current asylum in Russia.

Richard Leacock was a prolific filmmaker who pioneered documentary styles known as Cinéma Vérité and Direct Camera by using small, mobile, hand-held cameras to capture moments of immediacy and spontaneity. He was a seminal figure in developing innovative approaches to nonfictional filmmaking, co-founding and teaching at MIT’s film school from 1968 through 1989. November Actions features four sequences from his unfinished documentary that focused on the Anti-Vietnam War actions on campus in 1969.

For more information on these public programs contact Emily Garner, eagarnersmit@gmail.com