

Instructor material for in-class lectures and discussion:

HAAS AND HAHN

Often motivated by generosity- artists consider it a gift to the public, brought right to them. Dutch street artists Haas and Hahn saw the need for the neglected population of Rio de Janeiro to have a culture to be proud of. The video below shows how they provide the poor of the favelas with a means to demonstrate a richness of culture in the face of abject poverty.



Favela painting in Rio: <http://www.streetartutopia.com/?p=12900>
http://www.ted.com/talks/haas_hahn_how_painting_can_transform_communities

JR



French street artist, and TED Prize winner, JR similarly became aware of the systematic negligence, class disparity, and need to bring together people of diverse backgrounds for the sake of developing understanding. Upon learning of the living conditions imposed upon the population of Rio de

Janiero's favelas, he gathered his paper and wheat paste and went to Brazil. JR uses his artwork on a large public scale to draw attention to those who need it, and specifically notes in his talk the need people have for their own cultural identity- to be recognized for what makes them special.

I love to use JR as an example of what can be done using simple concepts and a lot of ambition (and as he says "just paper and glue"). There's nothing complicated about his ideas, but they perfectly represent the power of arbitration that art can have. He simply gets people to pause for a second and consider their relationship to what they're seeing. Powerful statements spoken in simple terms.

Use art to turn the world inside out | JR

<https://youtu.be/0PAy1zBtTbw>

One year of turning the world inside out | JR

https://youtu.be/Gn2W3X_pGh4

MALLIKA SARABHAI –

Dance to Change the World

https://www.ted.com/talks/mallika_sarabhai



Not a street artist, but a dancer, actor, and politician from India. Her TED talk is full of fantastic insights in regard to the type of change possible through creative expression in general. Extremely inspirational, and ties in extremely well with JR.

Berlin's Open Air Gallery (East Side Gallery): <http://www.euronews.com/2013/03/01/protesters-protect-berlin-wall-gallery-from-demolition/>



This was something that was very interesting to me when I visited Berlin. I had never heard of the Open Air Gallery, but was really interested in how the people of Berlin had taken a tangible symbol of oppression and converted it into a means of expressing their independence. It's a little less than a mile long on, and divided into 105 murals done by artists from all over the world. It was first painted in 1990, but has been renovated and restored in an ongoing process since 2000. One of the things that impressed me most about the Berliners was the way that they embraced their freedom. Not just artistic freedom of expression, but they had a genuine appreciation for simple liberties that I have learned to take for granted. Even though the majority of the wall has been down for 24 years, many lived through isolation and oppression generated by the German Democratic Republic and its wall. The city of Berlin is filled with massive public sculptures and murals the likes of which you'd never find in the US. Even as the city struggled financially, the attention to the public arts never wavered. Their ability to express themselves freely is a civil right that may still feel new to many and it's fairly evident when moving through the city.

Berlin- in the 80's graffiti artists saw themselves as record keepers, using the Berlin Wall at first as a sort of message board for lost and separated friends and loved ones, and the visual aesthetic grew slowly from that. The Open Air Gallery was developed on the East Side of the wall before the reunification-completed by 100 selected artists internationally.

BANKSY-



<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-story-behind-banksy-4310304/?no-ist>

Banksy is a Godfather among street artists. He was a true pioneer for several different reasons, and remains to be at the center of numerous controversies in the art world and beyond. He is presently a cultural powerhouse with biting commentary on all things Capitalism. Some of his most recent exploits have taken him to the Middle East, where he seems to have softened his typically cutting satire a bit in an attempt to create common ground between the Israelis and Palestinians, though he hasn't been able to stay away from demonstrating strong opinions there regarding the Trump presidency.

He is always a great topic to present whenever street art is mentioned. He's popular, he's mysterious, he's smart, and he's a master of stencils.

Shepard Fairey on Banksy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiVxOzMFxgw&feature=youtu.be>

The Barnstormers- <http://vimeo.com/channels/thebarnstormers>



David Ellis started an impromptu group of graffiti and mural artists in Cameron, NC. Initially they just went around painting the tobacco barns in the area, but the group grew larger and larger. Eventually the Barnstormers did international demonstrations- creating murals that evolve continuously throughout the working process. The unofficial group seems to have disbanded, and hasn't done anything in several years now. I really appreciate how so much effort was made to contribute to the rural areas that are typically culturally lacking. You don't have to be JR or Banksy to be able to make a contribution.

CURIOT-

<http://www.thisiscolossal.com/2013/11/the-mythical-beasts-of-painter-and-street-artist-curiot/>

Low Bros x Curiot:

<https://vimeo.com/70553294>



His work has an ambiguity that makes its content subtle but evocative at the same time- you become very interested in what's unfolding before you even though you can't nail down exactly what that is. His style is typical of what is quickly becoming characteristically Mexican-style street art with vibrant colors and intricate patterns created with spray cans.

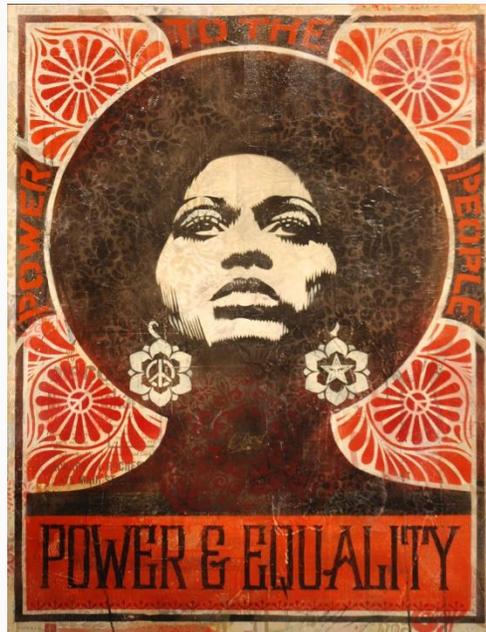
From a show review:

With the heavy influence of Mexican art evident in the work of the artist Curiot, it's surprising to know that he grew up in the States and only began to experience art "south of the border" a decade ago. Now his works are filled with Day of the Dead references, tribal symbols, geometric designs and figures eluding to myth and legend. The now Mexico City based painter and street artist recently sold out his first US based solo show at FFDG in San Francisco's Mission district, where he displayed 11 new works in his captivating style.

"Growing up in the States sort of gave me a diluted Mexican culture, I had no clue what I was missing out on until I moved back 10 years ago", says Curiot. "The bright colors, folklore, ancient cultures and the beautiful handcrafts are some of the things that I embraced and which influence my work deeply"

The show, Age of Omuktians, tells “the story of man’s distance from his natural path as he focuses his energy on satisfying his material pleasures and the dystopia this creates.” Curiot’s small scale paintings portray larger than life figures, often being worshiped or clung to by diminutive human figures. While these figures are plain in appearance, the mythical beasts or gods they worship are colored in brilliant displays of pattern.

SHEPARD FAIREY-



Shepard Fairey is a true cultural influence, and has become a fixture in many pop culture circles (he's even been on the Simpsons). He's a really interesting guy with a very strong design aesthetic and a pedigree in the field of street art that can't be rivaled by many. He has somehow managed to find the line between huge commercial success and people's champion. He was the artistic mind behind the iconic Obama Hope campaign, among many other cultural threads that most people don't realize he's behind. Quick to provide harsh political commentary adorned with an amazingly balanced aesthetic. Great with stencils and wheat pasting, as well.

Shepard Fairey: Obey This Film

<https://youtu.be/rcSBr4ZKmrQ>

HENRIQUE OLIVEIRA –

Henrique Oliveira

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajLfU6Hjwow>



Henrique is a fascinating Brazilian installation artist who uses discarded construction materials to create structures that reflect the very culture that discarded it. He creates amazing large-scale work that he discusses very poignantly both in terms of its physical construction and its broader metaphors.



Shirin Neshat



Shirin Neshat , *Rebellious Silence* (1994)

An absolute powerhouse artist and director, who has been the voice of millions of silenced women for decades now. Truly inspirational, insightful, and fascinating.

Artist Statement:

In 1993-97, I produced my first body of work, a series of stark black-and-white photographs entitled *Women of Allah*, conceptual narratives on the subject of female warriors during the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979. On each photograph, I inscribed calligraphic Farsi text on the female body (eyes, face, hands, feet, and chest); the text is poetry by contemporary Iranian women poets who had written on the subject of martyrdom and the role of women in the Revolution. As the artist, I took on the role of performer, posing for the photographs. These photographs became iconic portraits of willfully armed Muslim women. Yet every image, every women's submissive gaze, suggests a far more complex and paradoxical reality behind the surface.

TED Talks- Shirin Neshat: Art in Exile

http://www.ted.com/talks/shirin_neshat_art_in_exile

<http://techartwiki.wikispaces.com/Shirin+Neshat%2C+Women+of+Allah+Series>

AI WEIWEI –

Ai Weiwei's Human Flow - Trailer official (English) from Venice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNAozydyD_o



He belongs in any conversation regarding art and social commentary. Constantly finding himself at odds with the Chinese government, he is absolutely fearless in his approach to creating necessary dialogue about topics that are difficult to approach. He deserves an entire class on social discourse. His will certainly be one of the greatest creative legacies of our generation, and it's exciting to see the impact he's having on developing artists for the near future.

