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Art and Activism: What is the Role of Art During Times of Crisis?

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Art and Activism: What is the Role of Art During Times of Crisis?

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Professor, Art History

Why do we need art in times of crisis?

- Art allows us to examine what it means to be human, to voice and express, and to bring people and ideas together
- Art is an expression of what it means to be human
- Art fosters understanding between communities
- Art is good for our health
- Art can be a public health tool during a pandemic and other health crises
- Art helps us express gratitude during difficult times
- Art allows us to document and process events
- *Art can be an instrument of social and political change*



Austin Zucchini-Fowler, *Healthcare Hero*, 2020, Denver



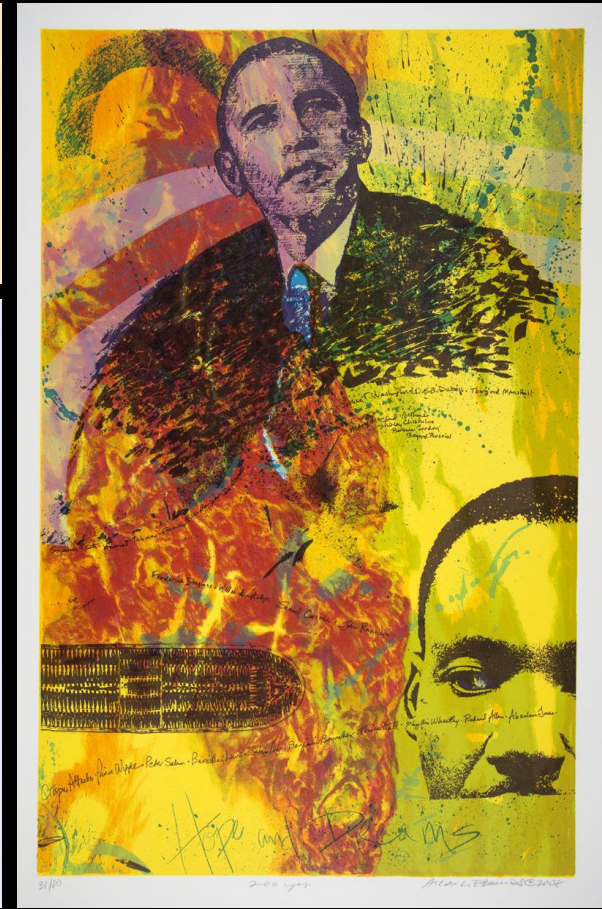
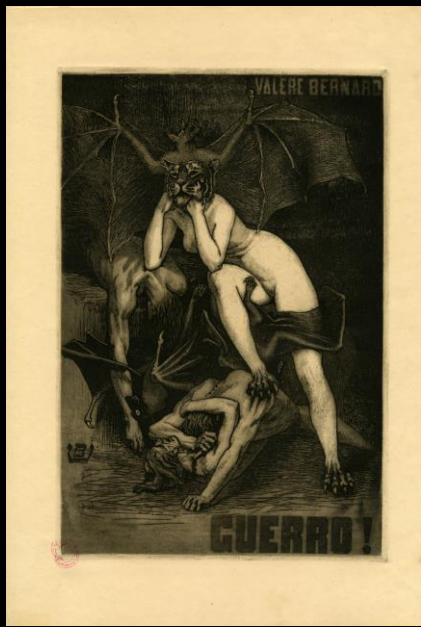
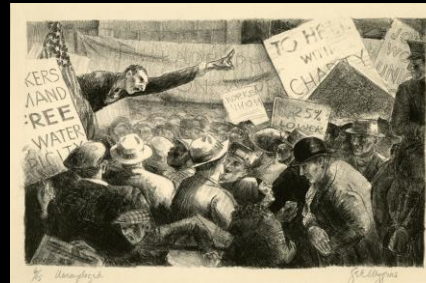
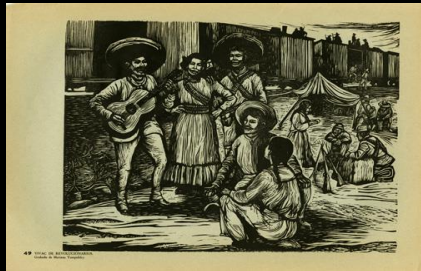
Historical Examples

How have artists of the past used art to raise awareness, advocate for change, and express a range of emotions, including grief, pain, anger, and frustration?



All Kathe Kollwitz from the La Salle University Art Museum

Examples from the La Salle University Art Museum



Other Examples: Pablo Picasso, José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, Salvador Dali





Historical Monuments: Why Do They Matter?

Breakout Discussion 1

In your Breakout Room, discuss the following questions. Assign a reporter to take notes and share out with the larger group.

1. What other artists/artworks come to mind when you think about art and activism?
2. What are some social and political issues that you think artists should address/advocate for?

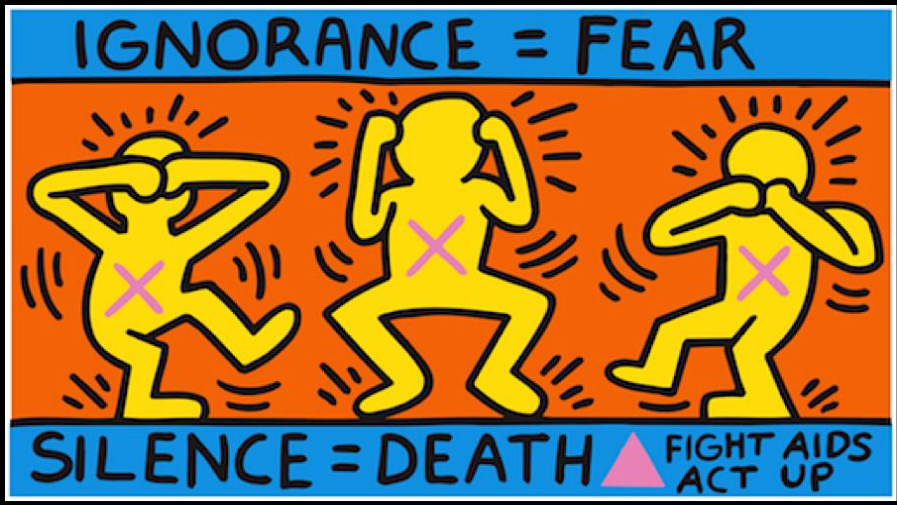
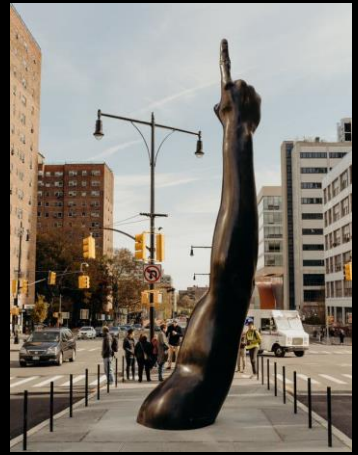


Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?

Less than **5%** of the **artists** in the Modern Art sections are women, but **85%** of the **nudes** are female

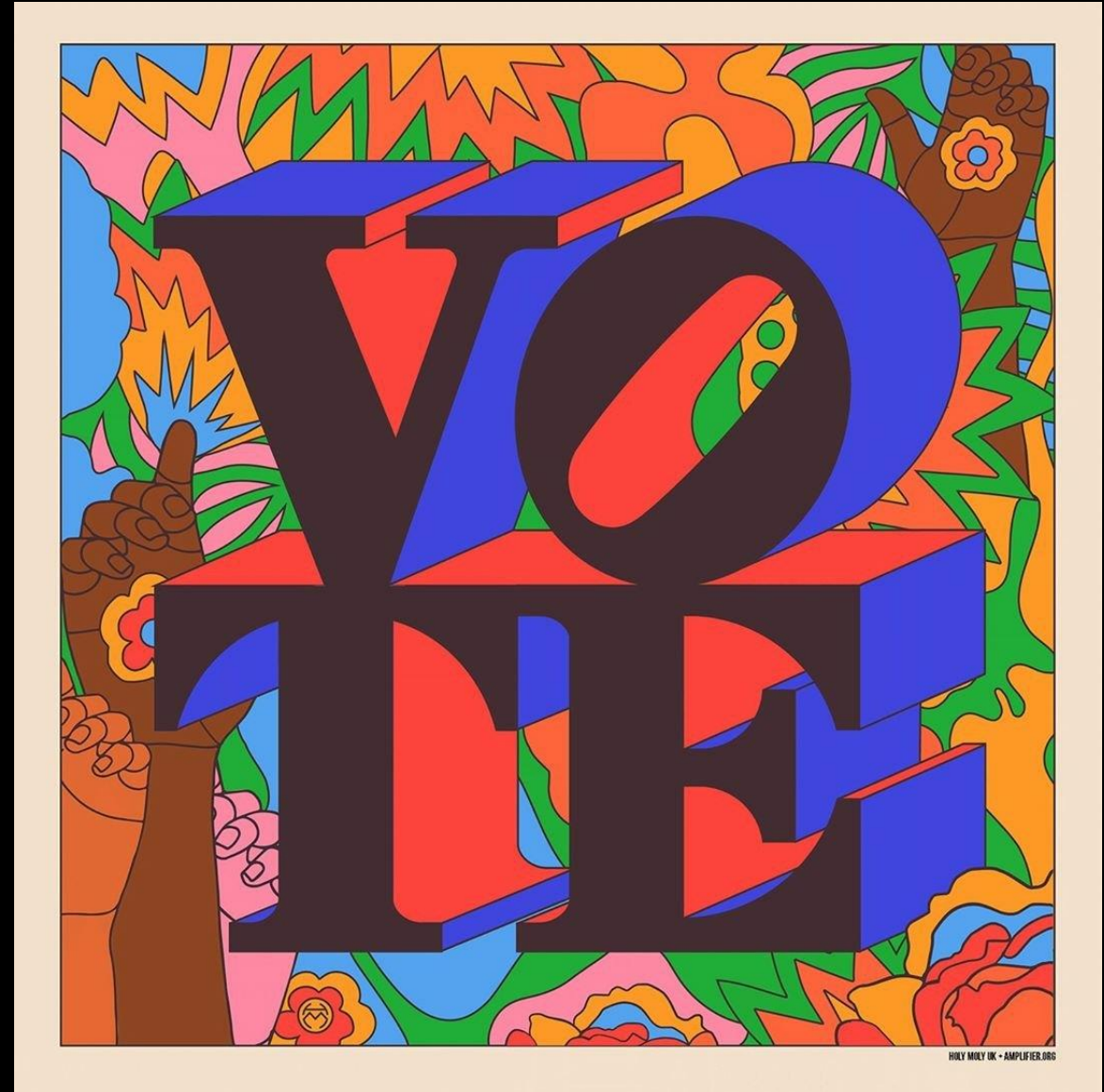
Statistics from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, 1989

GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD

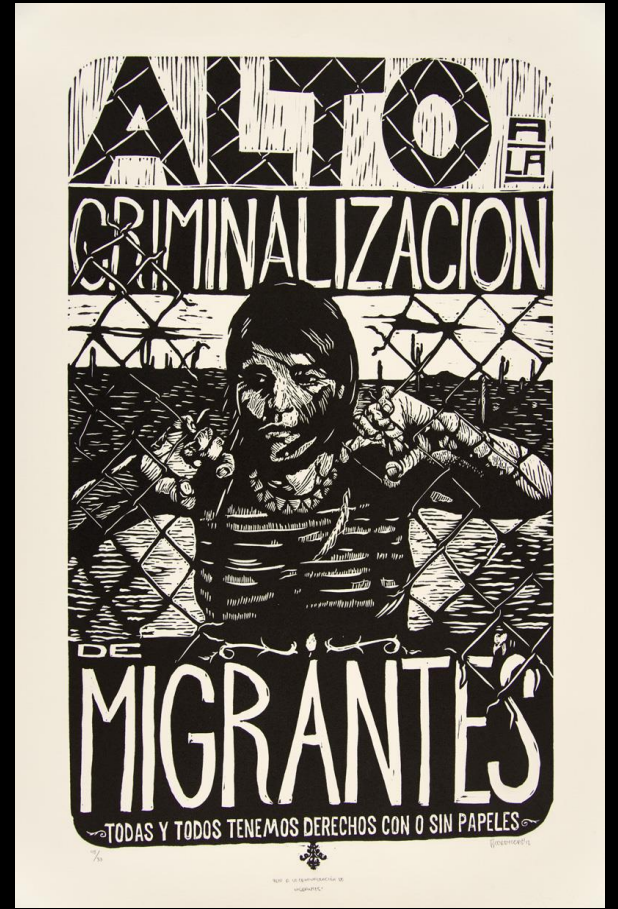
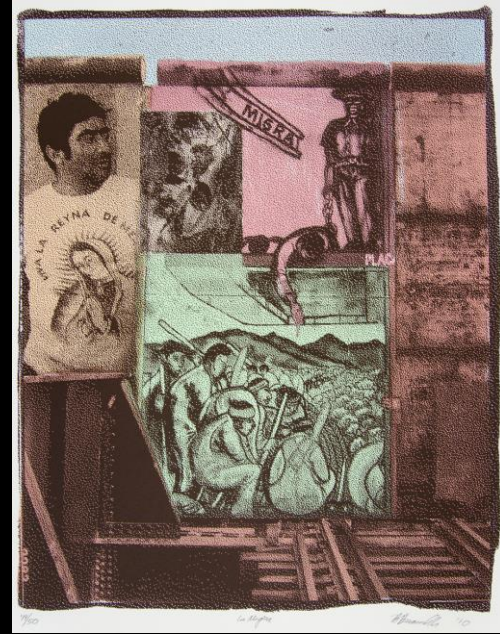


Art and Activist Issues

- Political Reform
- Immigration
- Human Rights Activism
- Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice
- Global Health
- Gender and Justice
- Environmental Justice and Climate Change
- Public History and Memory
- Indigenous Rights
- Decolonization
- And many more...



Immigration and Human Rights



Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice



Global Health Crisis





Gender and Justice



Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?

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Statistics from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, 1989

GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD



We don't need another hero





Breakout Discussion 2

In your Breakout Room, discuss the following questions. Assign a reporter to take notes and share out with the larger group.

1. What are the advantages of using art to address and advance social and political issues?
2. What are the disadvantages?

Advantages/Disadvantages of Activist Art

- Advantages

- Disadvantages



What Should Our Art of the Future Look Like?

Ways to get involved

- Amplifier Art: <https://amplifier.org/>
- Art and Feminism: <https://www.artandfeminism.org/>
- For Freedoms: <https://forfreedoms.org/>
- Monument Lab: <https://monumentlab.com/>
- The Black Monuments Project: <https://black-monuments.mic.com/>
- More info on Lib Guide!



Agenda

- Intro (historical images): 10 min
- Breakout Discussion 1: 10 min
- Group Discussion with Artworks: 10 min
- Breakout Discussion 2: 10 min
- Group Discussion: 10 min
- Conclusion: What Should Our Artworks of the Future Look Like?: 10 min