The University of New Mexico | Spring 2007

Honors 222 | Another (Art) World is Possible: Art + Social Justice in the Américas

instructor  dylan miner
class time  W 10:00-12:30
office hours MF 10:45-11:45
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description
Through this course, we will discuss how the histories of art and visual culture are held in dialectic tension between the perceived autonomy of art and its reliance on and critique of economic and political systems. By focusing on the cultures of the Américas, we will address issues of race, gender, class, nationhood, liberation, and human rights and how art functions to transform the inequities of the various societies of this hemisphere. By looking at the work of artists and activists, as well as radical collectives, we will begin to see how and why culture plays such an important role in creating social justice movements. In the end, we will begin to formulate a theory for how and why art is needed to create “another world.”

note | Each week is structured around a certain theme. In turn, the course does not take a traditional linear perspective, but rather presents multiple “fragments” at the intersection between art and the struggle for social justice.

texts
>> TV Reed. *The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2005).
>> E-reserves.

class requirements
participation  50%
project 1  20%
project 2  20%
final paper  10%
syllabus

January 17 | Introduction

January 24 | Colonialism, Anti-Colonialism, and Revolution

January 31 | Resistance and Acquiescence: Native and African Responses to Colonialism

February 07 | Defining Modernism, Modernization, and Modernity
Nikos Papastergiadis. “Modernism and Contemporary Art.” Theory, Culture & Society 23 (2–3); 466-469.

February 14 | La revolución mexicana and Imagining an Equitable State

Handout: Assignment 1

February 21 | Posada + the Taller de Gráfica Popular

**February 28** | **Project Presentations**
None.

**March 07** | **Yours for the One Big Union: Wobbly Art and Culture**


**March 14** | **SPRING BREAK**

**March 21** | **¡Hasta la Victoria siempre!: Nicaragua + Cuba**


**March 28** | **¡Viva la Raza!: the Chicana/o Movement**


Reed. “Revolutionary Walls.” 103-128.

**April 04** | **Black Power, Black Artists, and Democracy**


April 11  |  Red Power: Indigenous Resistance in the US + Canada


April 18  |  Graffiti Art and the Revisualization of Social Space


Selections from graffiti magazines.

**Handout: Assignment 2**

April 25  |  Anarchism and Anti-Globalization in the 1990s-2000s


May 02  |  Project Presentations | Conclusion
None.

May 09  |  Final Exam Week
No class.