

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on *Art and Human Rights*

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, 20-21 May 2021

SHORT PRESENTATION

Within the scope of the current human rights challenges our world is facing, arts have been striving to be recognized as a fundamental place for debate and critical thinking, as well as a catalyst for collective awareness and empathy. Exploring topics that range from climate change to the refugee crisis, from discrimination to authoritarian regimes affirmation, several events are prompting artists, both individually and collectively, to rethink the role of art as an agent for social change. In the last decade, several projects were created in countries that continually suffered human rights violations, such as Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, and others, which enrich our current knowledge and challenge our perspectives on artistic practices and ways of working around freedom of expression. In the face of current circumstances and having in mind the increase of information shared globally, the relevance of artistic productions as a tool for debate and political intervention becomes more evident. Indeed, we can currently find numerous civic movements, collectives, activists and organizations collaborating with artists to enrich their projects and amplify their values and messages. Succeeding some influential manuals created by different collectives at the end of the 1980's and during the 1990's in the USA, new reflections have been emerging to systemize operating modes within the designated "guerrilla art" such as, per example, *Beautiful Trouble – Toolbox for Revolution* (2012) or *Truth is Concrete – A Handbook for Artistic Strategies in Realpolitics* (2014).

These artistic practices became known through different terms, such as "socially engaged art", "participatory art", "community art", "relational art", "political art", "artistic activism" or "artivism". While we can identify the singularities of each of these designations, they share and converge within a common space focusing on the call for human rights and, more widely, on human dignity. From a theoretical and academic perspective, these practices have been object of study by different authors – such as Nina Felshin (1995), Nicholas Bourriaud (1998), Miwon Kwon (2002), Grant Kester (2004, 2011), Claire Bishop (2006, 2012), Jacques Rancière (2009), Gregory Sholette (2011), Shannon Jackson (2011) or Tom Finkelpearl (2013) – who have contributed to their study and discussion through different approaches. With the drive to contribute and advance on the reflection of theories and practices on the field, this conference opens up as a meeting for researchers, artists, activists and other agents that are working on the intersections of art and human rights around the globe.

CONFERENCE GOALS

- Share academic research with the civil society and, in a participatory manner, contribute to the understanding of the impact of artistic processes on social change, both at a local and global scale, to raise awareness and inspire action for the protection of human rights;
- Reflect on the different concepts associated with the arts and activism, along with their effectiveness in the scope of artistic practices for human rights;
- Identify artists at risk for their artistic practices and understand their creative contexts, identifying limits to freedom of expression, as well as strategies used to overcome its limitation.
- Reflect on how art is expanding into other disciplinary fields and how the processes of interaction between them are contributing to open new avenues for the protection of human rights.

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- art and social change;
- socially engaged art, participatory art and community art for human rights;
- art and censorship;
- art and freedom of expression;
- art projects about human rights;
- art and activism strategies;
- artistic freedom in challenging contexts;
- art and conflict resolution;
- arts and culture as a human right.

The conference will include the participation of two invited keynote speakers, three panel sessions with selected speakers, one workshop and a closing cultural event.

The deadline for submissions is 18th December 2020.

Selected speakers will be notified until the 31st January 2021.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Authors should submit their proposal through an online form, available here:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=arthric2021>

Title: maximum 15 words

Abstract: maximum 350 words, in English or in English and Portuguese.

Keywords: a maximum of 5

Short biography of the author(s): (including Institutional affiliation and Email)

VENUE:

20th and 21th May 2021, 9 am – 6 pm

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Auditorium 3 and Room 2)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Bruno Marques, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Beatriz Wey, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro- UFRRJ

Cátia Rijo, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa – Escola Superior de Educação

Cláudia Madeira, ICNOVA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Cristina Pratas Cruzeiro, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Elsa Lechner, Universidade de Coimbra - Centro de Estudos Sociais

Helena Elias, FBAUL

Hugo Cruz, Universidade do Porto – CIIE - UP e CHAIA -UE

Inês Vieira, CICS.Nova – Centro Interdisciplinar de Ciências Sociais

Juan Albarran, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid – Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Kátia Sá, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa – Escola Superior de Educação

Margarida Brito Alves, IHA, DHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Miguel Falcão, Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa – Escola Superior de Educação

Paulo Fontes, UPorto Media Innovation Labs & Amnistia Internacional Portugal

Sérgio Vicente, FBAUL

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Alexandra do Carmo, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Catarina Pires, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Cristina Pratas Cruzeiro, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Margarida Brito Alves, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Paulo Fontes, UPorto Media Innovation Labs & Amnistia Internacional Portugal

Susana C. Gaspar, IHA, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa; ESELx/IPL

ORGANIZATION

Instituto de História da Arte, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Amnistia Internacional Portugal

Chão de Oliva – Centro de Difusão Cultural

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Amnesty International

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian