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Art and Social Engagement in a Digital World

Arte y compromiso social en un mundo digital

Topic Editors

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Focus

The arrival of XXI century has brought some essential changes in social systems and their languages of communication. To the crisis of traditional political representative systems, and to the globalisation in Economics and Finances in the whole planet, we have to add a general awakening of political activity and participation in social life. In a polarised atmosphere, where political and social engagement is more and more necessary, we discover everywhere new forms of activism in creative performances and artistic works: the “artivism” is the creative expression focused on social action and integration, constituting a brand new social language. In all areas of the planet, the people with aspirations to development use artistic creations and creative works to affect the public sphere, to attract the attention, to empower themselves in the public spaces and to have a new social voice. Digital media, which constitute the material basis of these new phenomena in social life, are useful to detect, to study and to check these new experiences, in which the creative freedom of the art is a revulsive element for socio-cultural dynamism.

Artistic activism engages creative personalities in every culture, with political ideas, mobilizing their impulse of change and social equality, and attracting the youngsters, in a spirit which

breaks the professional or academic boundaries. Art is again a normal dimension of life as it was longtime ago in traditional societies, but now it comes with a new power of impact. To change, to reshape the spaces, the rituals, the social times using art ideas and performances, is a common practice for citizens of all cultures of the world that we can watch at digital media, but also in offline dimensions of social life. The interaction between both dimensions, online and offline, has given a new vitality to the new languages, related with economic, political and communicative life, the life which we must to and we wish to change.

Mapping the art performances and examples related with social activism in the cities of the world, and showing through the urban creations the new dynamics of the citizenship, is having access to the archive of new forms of understanding reality. We will have access to the changing, open and progressive identities of the new generations, and over all, we will show their voice demanding more integration, equity in rights and law, and direct participation about the emerging points of development.

This monographic issue aims at showing and opening to the curiosity of the researcher and the reader the new forms of social action with artistical languages, studying their presence and their success in different contexts, their innovations and their proposals. We want to document the new artistic phenomena, their ideas map, their exposures in social space, and to check their alphabetizing function, and to this end we will help us with the new digital tools.

Descriptors

- Arts creation as a new form of social engagement.
- Global cultures, engaged cultures.
- Archives, maps, localizations of activism in global society.
- New methodologies of action and mobilization in society.
- Alphabetization of citizens through artistical expression.
- New forms of participation for the youngsters through artistic expression.
- Art and media alphabetising as promotion of citizens' participation.
- Communication through the arts and the new technologies.
- Artistic participation in social networks: new forms of communication.
- Active art as a tool against academic, generational and political barriers to social integration.
- Educational programs of immersion in arts and social action.

Questions

Some questions and reflections settled by this issue related with their subject lines are:

- Is there a new social art? What functions does it have? Is it a new form of conceiving social life? Is it a new language?
- How can we study the phenomena of the citizen active art? What methods, what results, and what implications does the creative voice of social engaged art have?
- What relation exists between the political crisis and the emergence of activism and social engaged creativity?
- Is there a new planet culture rooted in the universal language of social art?
- Can we document the new political-artistic universe? Can we register its presence and its influence in the new global communication?

- Do the youngsters use social networks to disseminate citizens' participation through the art?
- From all these questions we want to bring an overview that shows suggestive ideas of the new languages and the new subjects mobilized by them.

About the Editors

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