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List Projects: Civil Disobedience

Bakalar Gallery

July 18–October 29, 2017

(June 15, 2017) Cambridge, MA—In the streets and on college campuses, in town halls, churches and prisons, in public parks and reservations, civil disobedience has long been a tool of activism. Whether taking the form of mass occupation or individual statement, carried out in public and communal spaces or articulated in writing and on film, political protest is ingrained in American culture. Recently, acts of police violence and executive policies singling out particular demographic groups have produced a groundswell of opposition. The exhibition *List Projects: Civil Disobedience* presents an ongoing film and video program that features a selection of documentaries, news footage, newsreels, and artist's films and videos focusing on moments of political resistance and public demonstration.

This exhibition aims to provide context for resistance movements that have shaped the history of the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries and highlights the various ways in which artists, filmmakers, writers, scholars, and activists have employed artistic strategies in the interest of social change. Ranging from Great Depression-era hunger marches and the historic Civil Rights movement to recent Women's Marches and Black Lives Matter, the exhibition provides a look at the history of civil disobedience and considers the role that contemporary artists and documentarians play in chronicling and confronting abuses of power and social injustice.

The program screened daily in the List Center's Bakalar Gallery features 26 films and videos organized into eight thematic programs: The Film and Photo League; 1960s Civil Rights Movement; 1960s Social Unrest and Anti-War Protest; Protest Actions at MIT; Women's Liberation, Gay and Gender Rights, AIDS Activism; Economic Disparity and Political Polarization; Black Lives Matter; and Women's Marches and Other Recent Protests. In addition to the daily programming, the exhibition will be accompanied by weekly Thursday night documentary film screenings, also shown in the Bakalar Gallery.

List Projects: Civil Disobedience includes the work of filmmakers Madeline Anderson, Gregg Bordowitz, Jem Cohen, Storm de Hirsch, Ja'Tovia Gary, Kevin Jerome Everson and Claudrena N. Harold, Barbara Hammer, Leonard M. Henny, Richard Leacock, Tara Mateik, and Patricia Silva; collaborative work by video collectives Meerkat Media Collective, Paper Tiger Television, the Workers Film and Photo League, and Videofreex; content from long-running television series *Firing Line*, and media outlets such as the Associated Press, C-SPAN, and Democracy Now!, PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), and Third World Newsreel.



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Thursday Night Screenings include *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016, dir. Raoul Peck) on July 20, 27 and August 3; *Stonewall Uprising* (2010, dir. David Heilbroner and Kate Davis) on August 10, 17, and 31; *Let the Fire Burn* (2013, dir. Jason Osder) on September 7, 14, 21; *Citizenfour* (2014, dir. Laura Poitras) on September 28; October 5, 12, and *November Actions* (1970/2016, dir. Richard Leacock) on Oct 19, 26.

For full schedule and listing of public programs see attached schedule.

The List Center also presents a selection of MIT student protest posters from 1968–1973, displayed in the atrium of the Wiesner Building outside of the Bakalar Gallery. Courtesy MIT Museum.

Please note that there are no screenings during the week of August 22-27 as the Bakalar Gallery is temporarily closed in conjunction with the installation of the upcoming Student Loan Art Program Exhibition. Daily program resumes on August 29.

List Projects: Civil Disobedience is organized by Henriette Huldish, Curator, and Yuri Stone, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

A selection of the films and videos included in this exhibition are courtesy of the Associated Press Archives, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), The Film-Makers' Cooperative, the Hoover Institution Archives, Icarus Films, MIT Museum, MoMA Circulating Film & Video Library, Picture Palace Pictures, and Video Data Bank.

Exhibitions at the List Center are made possible with the support of Fotene Demoulas & Tom Coté, James & Audrey Foster, Jane & Neil Pappalardo, Cynthia & John Reed and Terry & Rick Stone.

General operating support is provided by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, the MIT School of Architecture + Planning, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and many generous individual donors. The Advisory Committee Members of the List Visual Arts Center are gratefully acknowledged.

The List Visual Arts Center is the contemporary art museum at MIT. The galleries are located at 20 Ames Street in Kendall Square, Cambridge, Ma. Regular hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 12-6 PM; Thurs 12-8 PM. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Always free of admission. <http://listart.mit.edu/>

LIST PROJECTS: CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Bakalar Gallery

Daily Film & Video Program

12:05PM

The Workers Film and Photo League

The National Hunger March, 1931; 11 min

America Today and The World in Review, 1932; 11 min

12:30PM

The 1960s: Civil Rights Movement

Videofreex, *Fred Hampton: Black Panthers*, 1969; 23:10 min

Madeline Anderson, *I Am Somebody*, 1970; 29:43 min

Kevin Jerome Everson and Claudrena N. Harold, *We Demand*, 2016; 10:20 min



1:35PM

The 1960s: Social Unrest and Anti-War Protest

Storm de Hirsch, *Trap Dance*, 1968; 1:52 min
Leonard M. Henny, *Peace Pickets Arrested for Disturbing the Peace*, 1968; 6:40 min
Firing Line, Episode 99: William F. Buckley & Allen Ginsberg, 1968; 13:24 min
Third World Newsreel, *America*, 1969; 32:00 min

2:30PM

Protest Actions at MIT

Richard Leacock, excerpts from *November Actions*, 1969; 17:25 min

2:50PM

Women's Liberation, Gay and Gender Rights, AIDS Activism

Third World Newsreel, *Up Against the Wall Ms. America*, 1969; 6:09 min
Barbara Hammer, *Sisters!*, 1974; 8:08 min
Gregg Bordowitz, *some aspects of a shared lifestyle*, 1986; 24:40 min
Tara Mateik, *Toilet Training: Law and Order in the Bathroom*, 2003; 26:23 min

4:00PM

Economic Disparity and Political Polarization

Videofreex, *Money*, 1970; 2:52 min
Paper Tiger Television, *Tompkins Square Park: Operation Class Warfare on the Lower East Side*, 1992; 34:36 min
C-SPAN, footage of Taxpayers March on Washington, 2009; 17:04
Jem Cohen, *Gravity Hill Newsreels: Occupy Wall Street no. 2* (3:48 min) and *no. 3* (5:15 min), 2011

5:05PM

Black Lives Matter

Democracy Now!, *From Ferguson to NYC, Protesters Mark National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality*, 2014; 4:17 min
Ja'Tovia Gary, *An Ecstatic Experience*, 2016; 6:11 min
Patricia Silva, *Mass Swell*, 2016; 14:07 min
PBS NewsHour, *Interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates*, 2015; 7:05 min

5:40PM

Women's Marches and Recent Protests

Jem Cohen, *Birth of a Nation*, 2017; 9:47 min
Associated Press, *footage from Women's March on Washington*, 2017; 3:17 min
Meerkat Media Collective, *To Be Heard: Day #13 of the Trump Administration*, 2017; 3:17 min
Paper Tiger Television, *Standing Rock Women's March*, 2016; 3:25 min



MIT List Visual Arts Center

THURSDAY NIGHT SCREENING PROGRAM

In addition to the daily screening program each Thursday during the run of *List Projects: Civil Disobedience*, a feature documentary film will be screened at 6:00 PM in the Bakalar Gallery. All screenings are free and open to the general public. RSVPs are required. To RSVP visit <https://listart.mit.edu/events-programs>

July 20, 27; August 3

I Am Not Your Negro. 2016. Directed by Raoul Peck
95 min.

Raoul Peck's 2016 film envisions James Baldwin's unfinished project "Remember This House," a proposal to his literary agent that was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript.

August 10, 17, 31

Stonewall Uprising. 2010. Directed by David Heilbroner and Kate Davis
82 min.

Stonewall Uprising documents the police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Greenwich Village of New York City, in 1969. Sparking six days of violent protests, the Stonewall rebellion was a turning point in the gay liberation movement and modern fight of LGBTQ rights in the United States.

September 7, 14, 21

Let the Fire Burn. 2013. Directed by Jason Osder
95 min.

Let the Fire Burn presents, via television proceedings and news footage, the events leading up to and surrounding an underreported 1985 stand-off between the black liberation group MOVE and the Philadelphia Police Department.

September 28; October 5, 12

Citizenfour. 2014. Directed by Laura Poitras
114 min.

Laura Poitras's 2014 documentary takes its point of departure in the filmmaker receiving encrypted emails from someone with information on the government's massive covert-surveillance programs. Poitras and reporter Glenn Greenwald meet the informant in Hong Kong to learn the alias "CITIZENFOUR" belongs to Edward Snowden, a high-level former CIA analyst. What unfolds is the handing over of classified documents providing evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the National Security Agency (NSA) and eventually, Snowden's current asylum in Russia.



Oct 19, 26

November Actions. 1970/2017. Directed by Richard Leacock
76 min.

Richard Leacock was a prolific filmmaker who pioneered documentary styles known as Cinéma Vérité and Direct Camera by using small, mobile, hand-held cameras to capture moments of immediacy and spontaneity. He was a seminal figure in developing innovative approaches to nonfictional filmmaking, co-founding and teaching at MIT's film school from 1968 through 1989. *November Actions* features four sequences from his unfinished documentary that focused on the Anti-Vietnam War actions on campus in 1969.

Other Public Events

**Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
(a three-part series of art-making workshops)**

Join artist Kate Gilbert for **Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making** a three-part participatory series of workshops infusing tools of meditation with media imagery to create an accumulative work of art or artifact that represents a personal, balanced response to violent imagery.

This workshop series will lead participants through the acceptance of violent imagery in media as a necessary catalyst for change, defining one's response to violence and will culminate in a civically-engaged creative action. Participants are encouraged to attend each consecutive workshop to deepen their practice of defining self and activism in a media-saturated world.

[Kate Gilbert](#) is an artist deeply committed to developing catalytic artistic practices for transformation — of our cities, our relationships, and ourselves. In her artwork, curatorial projects and public art organization [Now + There](#) she strives to facilitate joy, spontaneity and an intersectional approach to creating shared cultural experiences.

Workshop dates

August 18, 2017

12:00–2:00 PM

Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 1: Making a Statement

September 15, 2017

12:00–2:00 PM

Public Program Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 2: Building an Understanding

October 20, 2017

12:00-2:00 PM

Me(dia) Response: Self-Awareness and Activism through Art-Making
Part 3: Creative Action

This series of workshops is free and open to the general public. Lunch is served every session. RSVP required. To RSVP visit <https://listart.mit.edu/events-programs>

