Conflict and activism


Abstract

This panel was convened in order to bring together various approaches to ‘conflict and activism’ that had an anthropological reading within a fine art context. In particular it explored drawing practices in relation to inner city realities. My own peer reviewed paper ‘Drawings of stories told’, was concerned with drawings made in response to being embedded within a community development organisation, (Newton Futures) and of how the drawings made in support of community development led on to a series of further drawing led investigations, that responded to stories being told to myself as I was making drawings standing in the streets of my local community. The presentation was developed out of the research material I had developed for a chapter in the book; ‘Collective and collaborative drawing in contemporary practice’. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 192-215. ISBN 9781527503472. The chapter ‘Drawing as a tool for shaping community experience into collective allegory’ explored how a practice that began with being embedded within a community development organisation, moved on to walking through a community and drawing, and had become over time a practice that was responding to the stories told by individuals met whilst drawings were being made. The development of an allegorical practice that had further evolved from this work was also highlighted, and a debate was undertaken as to what were the real benefits of this type of work to the community that had stimulated the initial idea.

Actions (login required)

Photo. I’m surprised i’m even writing this but Global Activism: Art and Conflict in the 21st Century has brought back my faith in the perceptivity of the art world. I
feel like I've been reading books and visiting exhibitions about art and activism almost every week over these past few years. It reminds me a bit of 2008 when suddenly most art institutions were organizing exhibitions and conferences about ecology while printing magnificent catalogues and shipping installations, artists and critics at huge (ecological) costs. The activism began to disperse into areas surrounding metropolitan cities and industrial areas and even into rural areas as environmentally-susceptible facilities such as nuclear waste repositories and landfills, which often resulted in violent riots. The environmental conflicts have been aggravated since numerous construction projects have boomed in the country. A Study on the Environmental Governance to Resolve Conflicts Related with Siting of Environmental Facilities: The Case of Buk-gu, Ulsan City and Jindong-myeon. Definition of Conflict: Conflict is an ever present process in human relations. It has been defined by A. W. Green “as the deliberate attempt to oppose, resist or coerce the will of another or others. According to Gillin and Gillin, “Conflict is the social process in which individuals or groups seek their ends by directly challenging the antagonist by violence or threat of violence.”

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