**ARTH 220 3.0**

**Socially Engaged Art**

**What is this course about?**

Can art play a role in creating social change? What are the implications of involving art and its audiences in social justice work? This course explores these questions by examining the work of artists and collectives from around the world who have contributed to social movements or used the tools at their disposal to imagine––or even realize––solutions to local, national, or international problems. Variously called New Genre Public Art, Socially Engaged Art, Social Practice, Community-Based Art, Artivism, and Art for Social Change, this type of work blurs the boundaries between art, advocacy, and activism by directing the creative and intellectual freedom that is often afforded to art and artists toward greater social purposes. Each week, we will look closely at one social movement and/or issue from the 1960s to the present.

**A Note on Content…**

Given the overarching the focus of this course on art and social change, we will look at artworks and read texts that address challenging or difficult subjects including racism, colonialism, apartheid, and homo- and transphobia. **Please review the syllabus carefully.** Anyone who has questions or concerns about any specific material or who would like to discuss any issues or works further is welcome to contact me. My door is always open! If you are ever experiencing distress, you may wish to contact [Student Counselling Services](https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/mental-health) or the [AMS Peer Support Centre](http://amspeersupport.com/).