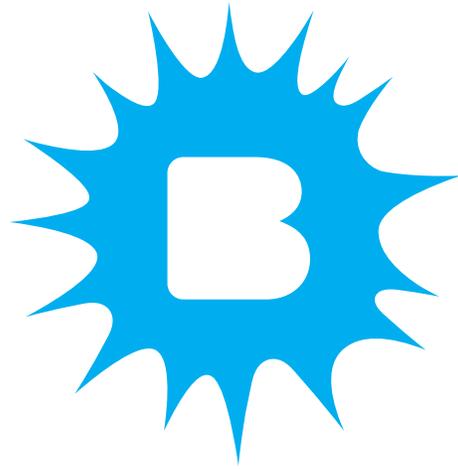


Press Release



October 2015

Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art Presents *Agitprop!*

Exhibition Features Contemporary and Historical Art Projects Devoted to Social Change

At key moments in history, artists have reached beyond galleries and museums, using their work as a call to action to create political and social change. Opening December 11, 2015, the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition *Agitprop!* explores the legacy and continued power of politically engaged art through more than fifty contemporary projects and artworks from five historical moments of political urgency. *Agitprop!* will be on view from December 11, 2015, through August 7, 2016, in the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum.



Photo: Dread Scott (American, born 1965). *On the Impossibility of Freedom in a Country Founded on Slavery and Genocide*, performance still, 2014. Pigment print, 22 x 30 in. (55.9 x 76.2 cm). Project produced by More Art. Collection of the artist, Brooklyn. © Dread Scott. (Photo: Mark Von Holden Photography. © Dread Scott)

The term *agitprop* emerged from the Russian Revolution almost a hundred years ago, combining the words *agitation* and *propaganda* to describe art practices intended to incite social change. Since that time, artists across the ideological and global landscape have adopted modes of expression that can be widely reproduced and disseminated. *Agitprop!* will feature a full range of these materials, from photography and film to prints and banners to street actions and songs, TV shows, social media, and performances. Connecting current creative practices with strategies from the early twentieth century, these projects show artists responding to the pressing questions of their day and seeking to motivate broad, diverse audiences.

In keeping with the collaborative spirit of *agitprop*, contemporary artists participated in the selection of the exhibition's content, thereby opening up the process to reflect multiple perspectives and positions. Unfolding in three waves, *Agitprop!* kicks off on December 11 with five case studies in early

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238-6052
T (718) 638-5000 F (718) 501-6134
www.brooklynmuseum.org

agitprop and twenty contemporary art projects selected by the Sackler Center staff. The first round of participants will each invite an artist or collective, whose work will be added to the installation beginning February 17; that second group will invite a final round of artists, whose work will be incorporated on April 6. In total, more than fifty contemporary fusions of art and political action, involving hundreds of contributors, will be exhibited.

On view throughout the length of the exhibition, the historical examples explore the various ways that political aspirations took creative form in the early twentieth century, from women as subjects and makers of Soviet propaganda to the cultural campaigns for women's suffrage and against lynching in America, and from individual practices such as Tina Modotti's socialist photographs in Mexico to the government-sponsored Living Newspaper productions of the Federal Theatre Project. The contemporary projects address urgent struggles for social justice since the second half of the twentieth century, including antiwar demonstrations, AIDS activism, environmental advocacy, multipronged demands for human rights, and protests against mass incarceration and economic inequality. With past and present examples installed together, links between historical and contemporary work emerge, highlighting the intergenerational strategies, ongoing development, and long-term impact of politically engaged art over the past century.

"This exhibition continues the Brooklyn Museum's commitment to providing a platform for public dialogue around political and artistic issues and for placing contemporary work in the context of a vast collection that encourages audiences to make connections between the past and the present," said Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum. "With a tradition of building inclusive relationships with communities that are simultaneously local and global, we are uniquely positioned to support the wide-ranging conversations that this exhibition and the included artists will inspire."

The first round of invited artists includes Luis Camnitzer (U.S./Argentina), Zhang Dali (China), Chto Delat? (Russia), Dread Scott (U.S.), Dyke Action Machine! (U.S.), Friends of William Blake (U.S.), Coco Fusco (U.S.), Futurefarmers (U.S.), Ganzeer (Egypt/U.S.), Gran Fury (U.S.), Guerrilla Girls (U.S.), Jenny Holzer (U.S.), Los Angeles Poverty Department (U.S.), Otabenga Jones & Associates (U.S.), Yoko Ono (Japan/U.S.), Sahmat Collective (India), Martha Rosler (U.S.), Adejoke Tugbiyele (Nigeria/U.S.), Artists for Democracy/Cecilia Vicuña (Chile) and John Dugger (U.S.), and, in a collaborative work, The Yes Men (U.S.) with Steve Lambert (U.S.), CODEPINK (U.S.), May First/People Link (U.S.), Evil Twin (U.S.), Improv Everywhere (U.S.), Not An Alternative (U.S.), along with more than thirty writers, fifty advisers, and a thousand volunteer distributors (U.S.).

Agitprop! will be accompanied by extensive programming and performances, allowing artists and thinkers to respond to current events throughout the run of the exhibition.

Agitprop! is organized by the staff of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art: Saisha Grayson, Assistant Curator; Catherine Morris, Sackler Family Curator; Stephanie Weissberg, Curatorial Assistant; and Jess Wilcox, Programs Manager.

Press Contact:

Sarah Lukacher, Public Information Associate, (718) 501-6354, sarah.lukacher@brooklynmuseum.org
Fatima Jones Kafele, Media Relations Manager, (718) 638-6331, fatima.kafele@brooklynmuseum.org

GENERAL INFORMATION**Admission:**

Contribution: \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Also FREE: Thursday nights, 6–10 pm, and first Saturday of the month (except September), 5–11 pm. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Thursday 11 am to 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 am to 11 pm. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48.
On-site parking available.