



## *Art, Media, and Social Unrest*

**Third Annual Art Student Graduate Organization Symposium  
Art Department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
March 24 and 25, 2017**

### **Keynote Addresses by**

**Hannah Feldman, Associate Professor, Northwestern University  
Hasan Elahi, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park**

We invite papers and artist talks that consider the entangled relationships between art, media, and social unrest, past and present, however defined. The keynote addresses and reception will be held on Friday, March 24, and panel sessions will take place the following day, Saturday, March 25.

Occupy Wall Street, the Arab Springs, Black Lives Matter: these movements are only three of the most recent to respond to and take shape through the visual sphere. The roles that national and local media play in the construction, dissemination, and perception of narrative has long captured scholars' attention; but artists too have contributed to these same processes. Historically and currently, both art and media have proved crucial in illuminating and obscuring such movements and their participants. Social unrest, of course, extends beyond political activism to deeper and often less defined conflicts.

How have artists engaged with their media environments? To what ends have they produced artworks in the service of various kinds of social unrest? How have objects, imagery, and the media apparatuses in which they have emerged affected their publics' understandings not only of upheaval in their own social environments, but also in other environments, whether in the past or in contexts distant from their own? How have movements

evolved over time, and what happens as they are mediated by digital, print, televisual, and artistic intervention?

### **Possible topics include but are not limited to:**

- The portrayal of contemporary and historical events through various media platforms, as produced by artists, visual activists, and photojournalists, among others;
- Visual expressions of resistance and reconciliation;
- The role of objects and images in protest movements, revolutions, and reactions;
- The role of artists outside the artistic realm in such movements;
- The commodification and exploitation of social unrest;
- How activists, revolutionaries, and the like conceptualize the role of the visual in their activities;
- The effacement of unrest from the visual sphere.

Graduate students are invited to submit a CV (2 pages) and an abstract (300 words) by **January 16, 2017**. Applicants will be notified of the committee's decisions by **January 30, 2017** and will be expected to accept or decline the invitation within a week of acceptance. Drafts of papers and artist talks must be sent to the panel chairs by **March 3, 2017**.

**Please send materials and questions to [asgo.unc@gmail.com](mailto:asgo.unc@gmail.com).**