

Is Art for Pleasure or Politics? In this study group, we will explore the political side of art, hoping to investigate how artists make political commentary and how governments use art for political ends.

“Painting is not made to decorate apartments. It’s an offensive and defensive weapon against the enemy.” - Pablo Picasso (about *Guernica*)

A few possible topics:

- Political Commentary in Performance Art: protests in music and theatre
 - Kuo Pao Kun: Singapore playwright jailed for political stance
 - Kay Tse: Hong Kong Cantopop singer for social justice & democracy
 - Indonesian Wayang Kulit: political commentary by clowns in traditional shadow puppet plays
- FX Harsano: an Indonesian activist artist
- Post-colonial art: Examples of working through the past
 - India
 - Singapore
 - Philippines
- Ai Weiwei: the best-known political artist?
- The Artists Village, est. 1988, Singapore: socially articulate artists
 - Tang Da Wu
 - Lee Wen
- Art & Politics in Mao’s China: “Revolutionary Romanticism” during the cultural revolution, how did art & artists change
- Architectural Propaganda (eg. The Forbidden City and Turkmenistan under Turkmenbashi)
- Contemporary Myanmar Art: Surviving the Civil War
 - Htein Lin
 - Nge Lay
- Communist Chinese Propaganda Posters; still going strong: from the 1920’s to the ‘state publicity’ of President Xi Jinping
- How do Asian governments support the arts? A survey.
- Political Bollywood films

- The Importance of Art in Nation-Building
- Cambodian Art after the Khmer Rouge: How do you bring back art when all the artists have been killed?
- Art & Colonialism in Asia: Projecting power through art
- Politics and Fashion: From Mao suits to Mandatory Hijab (in Aceh)
- Graffiti in Asia: Protest, Art or Vandalism?
- Ancient Religious Architectural Propaganda (think Angkor Wat & Borobudur)
- Activist-Artists in Southeast Asia
 - Vasan Sithiket, Thailand
 - Wong Hoy Cheong, Malaysia
- Censorship and the Arts: a review of Asian governmental policies
- Performance Art in SE Asia: acknowledging cultural traditions while exploring social and political issues
 - Dadang Christanto, Indonesia
 - Liew Teck Leong, Malaysia
- Political cartoons
- Philippine Protest Art: against colonialism, against Marcos, against Duterte
- Art of the Vietnam War