



## **Introduction to Artivism workshop**

### **DRAFT PROGRAM**

#### **5 days**

##### **Introduction**

Artivism is a conscious combination of art and activism, and is adopted to demonstrate a productive and value-loaded attitude to engage in social-spatial issues through arts projects. Artivism is also an intentional attempt to bring about the transformation of certain social meaning through community engagement, be it passive (audience) or active (producer). The effect of art in strengthening community identity and inducing creative social transformation is relatively palpable: art, if not deliberately offensive, can also be liberating and fun – motivating a greater variety of community members who are otherwise perceived apathetic and voiceless by the power representatives. Community is, after all, not an undifferentiated mass of people; and art should not be expected to simply tend the need of an institutionalized whole. As both a sustained practice and isolated actions, art triggers discussions and voices concerns, thus triggering democratic participation no matter the context.

*COVID 19 adjustments: In the eventuality of social distancing and/ or travel restrictions being enforced in the country/city where the training is to be held, participants will not be in the same physical room, though they will be in the same virtual space. Facilitators within*

*the training will make necessary adjustments so as to ensure the successful creation of a safe space in which stories can be shared and vulnerability can be explored.*

## **Meet the trainer**

Antonij Karadzoski is an artist and human rights activist from North Macedonia, currently based in the Netherlands. He uses art to break down stereotypes and raise awareness of important issues in the LGBTIQ+ community. "Culture of Humiliation" was his first activism campaign on creating awareness on bullying and cyber-bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity, inspired by his own experience being a young homosexual in a conservative country like North Macedonia. Antonij recently released his new exhibition "Culture of Silence," using a mixed technique of photography and visual art. This exhibition deals with breaking the stigma and raising awareness on emotional abuse from a migrant's perspective.

## **Essentials: what we need for the activism workshop**

1. Safe art space with a room to work that has desks and chairs for at least 8-12 participants.
2. WIFI (fast connection).
3. Screen / TV / projector with sound and a HDMI connection cable.
4. DVD player connected to the screen (a laptop with DVD player and connection to the screen also works).
5. Flip-over or whiteboard.
6. Stationary:
  - White paper
  - Pens & markers (3 colours)
  - Post-it notes ( 9 packages in 3 different colours)
7. Printer

## **Day 1**

### **Soft skills to be addressed:**

1. Trust building
2. Safe-space development

**Theory to be addressed:**

3. Activism theory: historical perspective
4. Case study

**Method:**

General meetings, case study analysis, peer work, open class feedback.

**Overall objectives:**

1. Subject matter introduction: now and then
2. Exploring mediums and channels for activist practice

*Activities & Exercises*

1. Check-in: arriving: settling in body and mind.
2. Introduction to activism: a brief historical perspective.
3. Case study 1: Chicano artists in East Los Angeles and Zapatistas in Chiapas.
4. Open class feedback on case study.
5. Activism vs protest: action sustainability.
6. Check-out: processing information, clarifying doubts, sharing insights.

*Day 2*

**Soft skills to be addressed:**

1. Trust building

2. Safe-space development
3. Conceptualization: from ideas to production
4. Creative thinking

**Theory to be addressed:**

1. Artivism theory
2. Artivism channels and formats

**Method:**

General meetings, case study analysis, peer work, open class feedback.

**Overall objectives:**

1. Exploring mediums and channels for activist practice
2. Exploring techniques of visual expression

*Activities & Exercises*

1. Formats and examples: an evolution in time
2. Case study 2: Arpilleras vs. Pinochet
3. Open class feedback on case study
4. Brainstorming your activism project: peer-to-peer interaction and analysis. The facilitator/trainer will provide guidelines for this interaction. The facilitator/trainer will monitor the interactions, providing feedback and ideas on how to execute each project.
5. Check-out: processing information, clarifying doubts, sharing insights.

*Day 3*

**Soft skills to be addressed:**

1. Trust building
2. Safe-space development

3. Conceptualization: from ideas to production
4. Creative thinking

**Theory to be addressed:**

1. Activism theory
2. Activism channels and formats

**Method:**

General meetings, case study analysis, peer work, open class feedback.

**Overall objectives:**

1. Materializing an idea
2. Exploring techniques of visual expression

*Activities & Exercises*

1. How to transform a personal story through visual expression: audience understanding and the importance of community engagement in activism
2. Beyond languages: images that travel the world
3. Case study 3: Ai Weiwei and Banksy
4. Open class feedback on case study
5. Individual follow-up on activism projects
6. Check-out: processing information, clarifying doubts, sharing insights.

*Day 4*

**Soft skills to be addressed:**

1. Trust building
2. Safe-space development
3. Visual expression techniques

**Theory to be addressed:**

1. Activism theory
2. Activism channels and formats

**Method:**

General meetings, case study analysis, peer work, open class feedback.

**Overall objectives:**

1. Materializing an idea
2. Exploring techniques of visual expression

***Activities & Exercises***

1. Modifying artwork ideas by using shadows, texture, perspective, typography and colour palettes.
2. Case study 4: Conflict of interest, grace under pressure: Tblisi is burning and Girls ad Dhabas
3. Open class feedback on case study
4. Local context: participants bring activism projects from their local, regional or continental context.
5. Check-out: processing information, clarifying doubts, sharing insights.

***Day 5*****Soft skills to be addressed:**

4. Trust building
5. Safe-space development
6. Visual expression techniques

**Method:**

General meetings, case study analysis, peer work, open class feedback, presentations.

**Overall objectives:**

1. Explaining, contextualising and presenting an activism project

***Activities & Exercises***

1. Day dedicated to finishing the artwork and presentation.
2. Each presentation is followed by an open class feedback session.

Facilitator/trainer provides the framework for comments.

\*The outlined programmes are subject to modification, before and during the trainings. All modifications are introduced responding to group dynamics, so as to improve each participant's understanding of both theoretical and practical components.

**Prepared by Antonij Karadzoski**