

A Beinecke Library Exhibit: “Art, Protest, and the Archives” Invitation for Teachers



Black Panther poster,
Emory Douglas, 1969

This [exhibit](#) explores art and protest in the United States and Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries. It invites viewers to ask:

- Can art change society and politics?
- How have protest movements and activists used art to effect change?
- Is protest art still powerful when it is preserved in archival collections?

The exhibit brings together art and writings from diverse protest movements in the United States, including Black, Latine, Indigenous, feminist, and LGBTQ+ groups and activists. It also includes items from European literary avant-gardes and 1968 protest across the Atlantic.

Materials are most relevant to high school courses in Art, US, History, African American, Latine, and Indigenous History, Civics, European History, and English Language Arts.

The exhibit is on view through January 7, 2024. School groups are welcome to come for guided tours M-F, between 10AM and 3PM, with advance reservation and depending on Beinecke staff availability. Please note that some of the items in the exhibit include violence, nudity, and offensive language.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange for a guided tour, please contact Tubyez Cropper at tubyez.cropper@yale.edu. Please request tours two or more weeks in advance of your proposed visit date.

Since the exhibit includes over 200 items, it may be helpful for students to explore a few of the exhibit themes in digital form before visiting.

Below, we provide links to items related to some of the exhibit’s central themes: the Black Panthers, Latine labor protest, Indigenous protest, and trans-Atlantic connections among artists. Each link opens to a free and publicly available digital image collection to invite student exploration and further research. Each collection of images can also be downloaded as a PDF.

Yale UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library



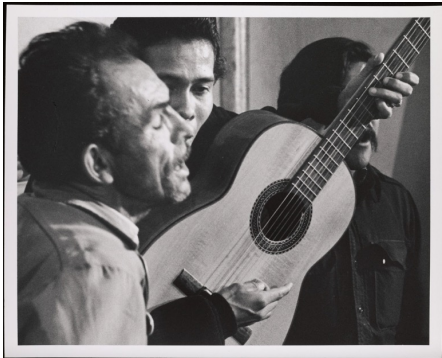
“Beauty is in the Street” poster,
Atelier Populaire, Paris, 1968



Black Solidarity and the Harlem Renaissance in Spain

During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), Langston Hughes and other Black artists and intellectuals from around the world went to Spain to oppose fascism. This 1937 collection of photographs shows Hughes and his friends in Spain:

<https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/32466122>



Latine Labor Protest: Teatro Campesino

El Teatro Campesino was created by Luis Miguel Valdez and farm workers during the Delano Grape Strike (1965-1970). This collection of photographs provides images of the striking workers as they perform staged acts of social conflict in 1966:

<https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/16728969>.



The Black Panthers

The Black Panthers emphasized the power of art by creating a Ministry of Culture, headed by Emory Douglas. This 1968 poster announcing an evening of art criticism in Philadelphia is one of many Black Panther items in the "Art, Protest, and the Archives" exhibit:

<https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/11237276>.

To explore primary sources related to New Haven Black Panthers activism and the 1970 May Day protests, see:

<https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/-free-the-new-haven-panthers-the-new-haven-nine-yale-and-the-may-day-1970-protests-that-brought-them-together/page/the-black-panthers>.



Indigenous Protest: American Indian Movement

In 1978, the American Indian Movement organized the Longest Walk to continue the struggle for Indigenous rights and survival. This collection of photographs shows participants of the 5-month procession across the country from Alcatraz Island to Washington, D.C.:

<https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/2083452>