From the Battle of Seattle to Occupy Wall Street, Bolotnaya Square to Nuit debout, the Arab Spring, the Movement of the Squares, the Color Revolutions and the Umbrella Movement to the current waves of protest sweeping the globe once more—Black Lives Matter and Belarus and Hong Kong—artists have played a conspicuous role in mobilizing popular dissent and resistance around the world. What is the nature of that role? How has it changed in the new millennium? What are the strategies and tactics of creative protest? How did they arise? What can artists bring to protest that others cannot? How does art activism relate to the vogue for “socially engaged art” in academe and the insular or market-driven institutions of the art world? How does current practice relate to previous eras of art and protest, the 1960s, the historical avant-garde?

Please join us this fall as we begin to tackle these and other questions in the first of a series of interdisciplinary, cross-generational conversations with artists and scholars from around the globe. The Art & Protest Initiative is sponsored by Beinecke Rare Book Library, the Whitney Humanities Center, and the Postwar Culture Working Group. We invite students, faculty, artists, activists, and other interested individuals in the Yale and New Haven communities to participate in and shape this ongoing conversation.

Sign up for our mailing list or volunteer to join the organizational committee by writing to: kevin.repp@yale.edu. News about the first events in October and November will be coming soon.