

Art 274: Paperworks

Project 1: *Cultūra* Instabook

Cultūra is the Latin root for our English word "culture". In Latin we see its root ties with cultivation and care. It has been said that culture works in a similar way to the fish in water... "it is not the fish who discovered water." The water is just the way things are for the fish and often culture works like that too. Our awareness of it often goes unarticulated.

But what is culture?

"Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition goes a step further, defining culture as shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are learned by socialization. Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group.

"Culture encompasses religion, politics, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things," Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London.

<https://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html>

The Assignment:

For this project, you will create a collage Instabook about an aspect of American culture in the light of the national Art Action Day. While the subject matter will be up to you, you must choose a topic you can articulate a specific position on in both word and image. It can incorporate any media and found or made collage elements. It must be able to lay flat.

You will begin with an 11x17 sheet of paper. Fold and cut the paper in the appropriate manner for the Instabook (see instruction sheets).

Begin planning and layout for each of the 8 panels. Somewhere on the book include the hashtag #TheFederation and #ArtUnites

Once you have completed the layout, scan the Instabook on the large format scanner in 230c. Save it as a jpg at 300dpi. Give the file to Ryan to have printed.

Once the prints are returned from Copies For You, we will cut, fold, and edition them.

You may keep one copy, Ryan will keep one copy. (If you want more copies for yourself, they will be .25 / ea). The rest you will "Shop Drop," or disseminate around the city. You will document the dissemination process with your phone and return the images to me.

We will critique the Instabook on 1.25

[Politics](#)

Glenn Ligon, Shirin Neshat, and Others Will Launch a Day of Action on the Anniversary of Trump's Inauguration

Art events will be taking place in cities across the country to encourage activism and cultural exchange.

[Brian Boucher](#), December 20, 2017

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/the-federation-art-action-day-1185296>



Joan Jonas, [Glenn Ligon](#), [Shirin Neshat](#), and [Mickalene Thomas](#) are among the artists who will launch the first #ArtActionDay on January 20, 2018—the one-year anniversary of President Trump's inauguration. On that day, a coalition of artists, cultural organizations, and companies like Tumblr and Spotify will host nationwide readings, panel discussions, workshops, and a special Spotify “creativity boost” playlist curated by artist Laurie Anderson.

Organized by [The Federation](#), a group started by Anderson and producers Laura Michalchyshyn and Tanya Selvaratnam in response to Trump's [travel ban](#), the events will take place in partnership with organizations such as PEN America, The Kitchen, the artist-founded PAC [For Freedoms](#), Film Forum, and Lincoln Center. The website also provides a downloadable kit for DIY activism that can be carried out from anywhere.

“We will use our platforms and our voices to represent that art is essential to democracy,” said Selvaratnam in a statement announcing #ArtActionDay, which was partly inspired by the controversial call for an “[art strike](#)” on Inauguration Day. “We decided on that day because this past January 20, arts institutions were encouraged to close their doors in protest of the inauguration. A terrible idea! Never tell artists to be silent. On January 20, we want artists to be more loud and visible than ever.”