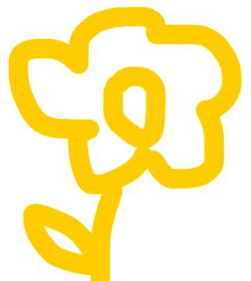


Documenting the making of a document about documentaries



Yuchen Wu
Michigan Library Scholar
July 21, 2022

Mentors: Karen Reiman-Sendi & Josh Harris

Project Overview

Create an annotated bibliography for [Art & Resistance Theme Semester](#) course support

- Deliver what -- Annotated bibliography on documentaries
- From where -- Askwith Media Library / library's video streaming platform
- For who -- Instructors and their Art and Resistance Theme Semester course

ARTS & RESISTANCE

FEATURED COURSES

The image displays three featured course cards from the 'Arts & Resistance' program. Each card has a dark background with a yellow 'M' logo in a square on the left. The first card, 'Television & Social Change', is by Paula Grillo, Associate Professor of Communication and Media, LSA-COMM 305. The second, 'Marking Memory', is by Gemma Tang, Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Slamps-ARTDES 309. The third, 'Design Justice', is by Arifon Hirsch, Professor of Architecture and History of Art, Taubman-ARCH 003. Each card includes a brief description and a 'Learn More' button.

Course Title	Instructor	Department
Television & Social Change	Paula Grillo, Associate Professor, Communication and Media	LSA-COMM 305
Marking Memory	Gemma Tang, Assistant Professor, Art and Design	Slamps-ARTDES 309
Design Justice	Arifon Hirsch, Professor, Architecture and History of Art	Taubman-ARCH 003

Preview of Final Product – Introduction page



Art(ists) in Action: Selected Documentaries for the Arts & Resistance Theme Semester (2023)

Date Prepared: July 2023

Authored by: Yuchen Wu, Michigan Library Scholars Program Intern

Contact: [Joshua Harris](mailto:Joshua.Harris), Media Librarian (joshar@umich.edu)

Introduction

This selective bibliography is intended to offer U-M Ann Arbor instructors some recommendations of library-provided documentaries for consideration, to support Fall 2023 theme semester courses ([Arts & Resistance](#)).

The bibliography incorporates documentaries available at the Askwith Media Library, located in the Shapiro Library, and subscribed online video streaming platforms, including Kanopy Streaming Service, Academic Video Online, and Docuseek. The films cover various art forms, such as theater, music, public art, cartoons, architecture, and writing, and introduce artists from various countries with different identities and causes. These topics include but are not limited to war and peace, human rights, civil rights, racism, gender inequality, LGBTQ+ rights, consumerism, incarceration, and gentrification. These artistic acts of resistance can be individual expression, community engagement, direct political activism, and more. Every documentary gives a unique look into the power of art in changing human minds and shaping the society toward justice and equality.

Preview of Final Product – example documentary entry

There are a total of 31 documentaries!

Citation

[Barefoot Gen's Hiroshima](#). Directed by Yuko Ishida, Tomo Corporation, 2011. Running time: 77 minutes. DVD.

Nakazawa Keiji was a Japanese manga artist and author of *Barefoot Gen*, a historical manga series loosely based on his own experience as a Hiroshima atomic bombing survivor. In this documentary, Nakazawa gave a detailed account of his experience during the atomic bombing in 1945, accompanied by graphics from *Barefoot Gen* that illustrates the bombing and its aftermath. This documentary offers knowledge on the historical event of that atomic bombing and the damage of nuclear weapons. The documentary is entirely narrated from the victim's personal perspective, making it heartbreaking and touching. It also shows the power of manga in visualizing the trauma caused by war and nuclear weapons, while passing out messages of peace and resilience to the younger generation. It matches well for a curriculum that intends to approach war and art from an individual, non-Western perspective. The DVD contains a shorter 32-minute version of *Barefoot Gen's Hiroshima* for educational purposes,

[Guerrillas in Our Midst](#). Directed by Amy Harrison, Women Make Movies, 1992. Running time: 35 minutes. DVD.

The Guerrilla Girls is a group of artists and activists who use disruptive visuals to expose gender and racial discrimination in arts and pop culture. This documentary features their art activism acts during the 1980s, which sought to challenge and undermine sexism and racism in the U.S. commercial art world. This documentary combines footage of their art and activism as well as interviews with Guerrilla girls themselves and key figures in the Manhattan art scene. It makes a clear explanation of the existing privilege and discrimination of a white, male-dominated art world, which is valuable as a critique on the art system. This artist collective is a great example for art and activism topics, especially for social justice causes around feminism. [Guerrilla Girls](#) official website shows their ongoing activist efforts, which can supplement the documentary for course use.

Annotation

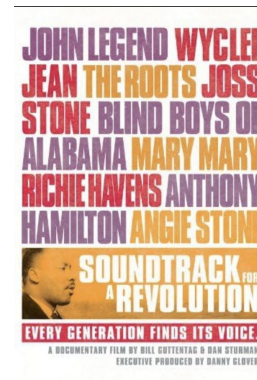
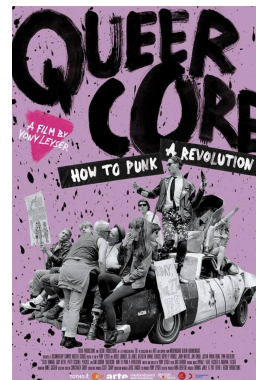
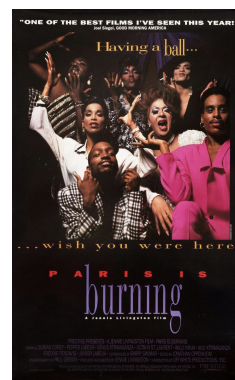
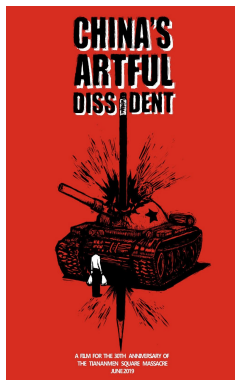
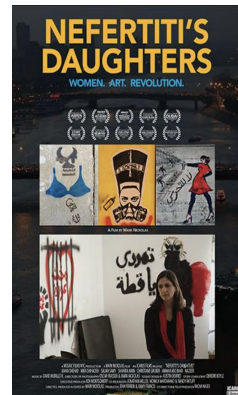
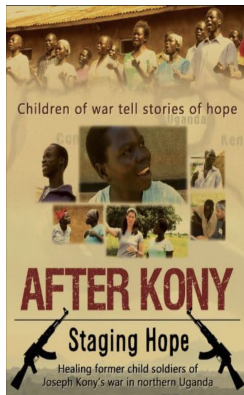
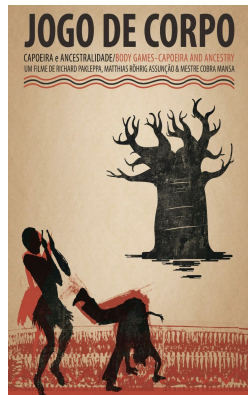
Keyword

War
Nuclear
Visual art - comic
Japan

Gender
Race
Visual art - graphic art / street art
U.S.

Identity
Cause
art form

association with art/social movement or social work
region



Research Process



TAUBMAN COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING	Critical Data Visualization	Catherine Griffiths - Assistant Professor, Digital Studies Institute & Taubman College of Architecture	DIGITAL 355	The course is a combined theory and practice exploration of creative data visualization approaches through the lens of critical data questions. Students will explore issues of data equity, bias, privacy, and colonialism, as well as an array of visualization techniques, including experimentation with image composites, code libraries, and extended reality technologies. Students will explore emerging critical data frameworks that look at data feminism, the politics of machine learning, decolonizing data, and data humanism. Students will also look at the work of artists, designers, and activists and analyze their visual strategies and practice-based approaches.
	Design Justice	Andrew Herscher - Professor, Architecture and History of Art	ARCH 503	Design practices of all sorts have, throughout their histories, advanced the imperatives of racial capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, authoritarianism, and other systems of oppression and exploitation. In response to these histories, this course will explore the attention being paid to "design justice": a concept of design that centers its relationship to systems of oppression and exploitation, as well as its capacity to resist and transform those systems.
	Grounds for Architecture: Historicizing Land	Andrew Herscher - Professor, Architecture and History of Art	Arch 603	This seminar will extend the historicization of architecture to the land that architecture occupies. How to historicize land? How to relate histories of land to histories of architecture? And how do historicizations of land open onto anti-colonial, decolonial, and Indigenous histories of refusal and resistance? We will grapple with these questions by historicizing the land we occupy on and around the University of Michigan campus and availing ourselves of archival material at the Bentley Library, Washtenaw County Register of Deeds Office, and other collections of historical sources, as well as first-hand documentation and data-collection.
STAMPS SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN	ADV Typography: Type for Resistance	Audrey Bennett - University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor	ART/DES 422	This studio course provides advanced grounding for students who have completed a semester of typography and are interested in further exploration and challenge with a focus on messages for resistance. A solid preparation in the advanced study of typography can bring great insight into how text/typography can be enhanced to function with clarity within complex projects. Students learn to cultivate the relevant skills required to analyze, design, and produce successful visual communication through the use of type as image for resistance. Additionally, students conduct research in both historical and contemporary contexts to find the confidence to build their typographic voice.
	Interventions in Commerce	Rebekah Modrak - Professor	ARTDES 313.001	This course will be a forum for acts of culture jamming, a practice which exposes news that media won't cover, disrupts the flow of commerce, and actively critiques media and consumer myths. The course will focus on the history of subcultural practices that include guerrilla art, street theater, media hoaxing, billboard banditry, subvertising, and creative activism. Students will jam culture themselves by exploring various strategies that enable them to interject personal, political or critical messages into consumer spaces, and will also intervene in digital platforms, partner with institutions to install new messages in their spaces, and engage in public sites
	Marking Memory	Emilia Yang - Assistant Professor of Art and Design	ARTDES 359	In this course students will explore the role memory plays in fashioning and questioning meaning in everyday life. Students will experiment with objects, imagery, archives, digital authoring tools and the urban environment to create projects that critically engage cultural memory and the contested politics of memory.
	Sexual Objects	Sally Clegg - Lecturer I	ARTDES 394/501 (050582, 045733)	This seminar explores the notion of the "sexual object" in art & design from various critical perspectives. The course covers six main themes: the nude; sexual objectification and sexualization; pornography and eroticism, especially in the age of the Internet; histories of sexuality through objects; the unconscious and sexual difference; and the uncanny. The main learning objective of this course is to familiarize students with major debates surrounding object making in relation to sexuality and representation, and to empower students with critical understanding of the main issues. The course connects to the Stamps lecture series and engages with other guest speakers.
	Social Spaces	Michael Andrews - Lecturer II	Art Des 203	This course explores the ways in which artists, designers, and citizens work within the public sphere. Students will gain an understanding of socially engaged art and design practice while learning approaches and skills essential to engagement work. Through ongoing discussions and assignments, students will define opportunities for their creative practice to impact society while broadening their perspectives of people and the world around them. By the end of the semester, students will have become more attuned to the social structures in which they reside and have a greater vocabulary, awareness and

Theme semester course listing

Keyword summary

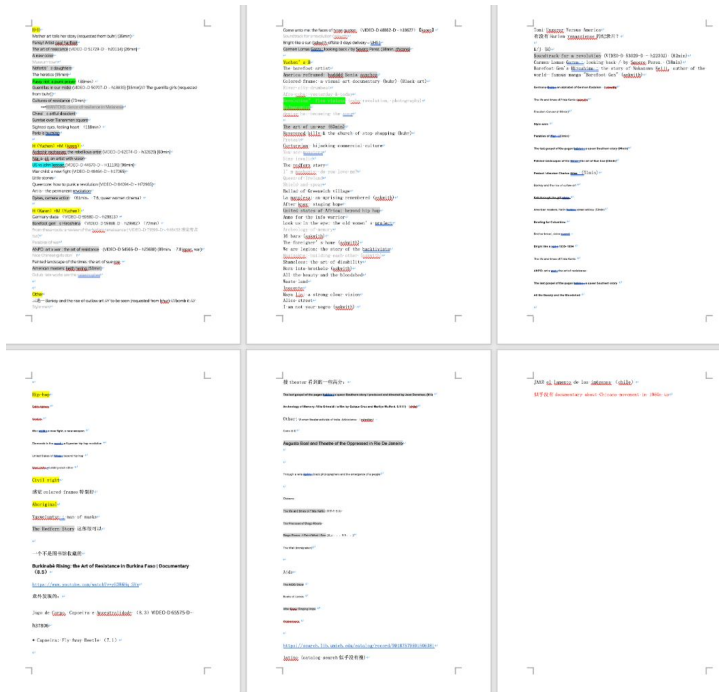
- → Art form
 - → Literary art, Performing art, Visual art
 - → Design, architecture, typography, culture jamming, guerrilla art, street theatre, media hoaxing, billboard banditry, subvertising, creative activism, objects, imagery, community engagement, social, guerrilla theater, theater of the oppressed, memoir, essay, fiction, poetry, artifacts, historical documents, podcast, mural, painting, furniture, photography, graphic design, socially engaged art, film, computation, ER, digital content, DIY, zine, hula, digital art, street art, documentary, TV, meme, social media, rock'n'roll, video
- → Identity
 - → Race
 - → Ethnicity
 - → Sexual orientation
 - → Gender
 - → Ability
 - → religion/spirituality
 - → nationality/citizenship
 - → Socioeconomic status/class
- → Cause
 - → Colonialism, feminism, capitalism, patriarchy, authoritarianism, racism, land, indigenous, white supremacy, environment, poverty, BLM, anti-war, civil right, human right, technology, economy, chicano/latino, crime, labor right, immigration, gentrification, police brutality, government/state/nation, AIDS, surveillance, carceral control, border, terrorism, semitism, speciesism...
 - → social/cultural/political narrative, social change and justice, inequality, power, oppression, social structure,
- → Historical vs contemporary (*digital/tech)
- → Act of resistance (expression / activism, movement, protest)
- → Region (local, US, regional, international)

119	banksy	Banksy and the rise of outlaw art / Spiritlevel Cinema ; written, directed & edited by Elio Espana.	academic video online/kanopy	Banksy, the world's most infamous street artist, whose political art, criminal stunts and daring invasions have outraged the establishment for over two decades. Featuring rare interviews with Banksy, this is the story of how an outlaw artist led a revolutionary new movement and built a multi-million dollar empire, while his identity remained shrouded in mystery.
120	street art	To be seen : street art / produced, directed and edited by Alice Arnold.	buhr shelving facility	Documentary on street art and the cultural and political significance of this form of artistic expression.
121		Bomb it / a Flying Cow production in association with Antidote Films, Inc. ; producers, Jeffrey Levy Hinte, Kate Christensen, Tracy Wares ; produced and directed by Jon Reiss.	Askwith Media Library	This film tells the story of graffiti from its cave-painting ancestors through its notorious explosion in New York City during the 70's and 80's as living museums appeared on trains rolling between the Bronx and Brooklyn. This film explores the many manifestations of "bombing," the global graffiti culture where the love of art and ego clashes explosively with law and order. From New York, Tokyo, Berlin, Barcelona, Cape Town, and Sao Paulo, each city boasts its own unique style and form of graffiti, and artists. Through grainy night vision footage and interviews, graffiti writers explain why they risk arrest and injury to express themselves, to reflect their society, and engage in a battle for control over the urban visual landscape. A study of the power of art to disturb, protest, and enlighten.
122		Creative violation : the rebel art of the street stencil	buhr shelving facility	Called art by some and vandalism by others, street art transforms the urban landscape into a forum for self-expression. Filmed in New York City, Pittsburgh, and Toronto, this program documents the underground art form of street stenciling and explores its roots in political street art, industrial signage, and freehand graffiti. Stencil artists pose critical questions about the role of free speech in public spaces as they describe their motives and demonstrate their methods.
123		Bomb it 2 / produced and directed by Jon Reiss	academic video online/kanopy	Jon Reiss and his crew travel to Asia, Australia, the Middle East and beyond, exploring the local graffiti scenes and artists. Follow-up to the groundbreaking street art documentary "Bomb It".
124		Confronting the wall / a Blue Sky Project film ; directed by David B. Marshall ; produced & written by Christine Christopher & David Marshall.	academic video online	We have vision, we have imagination -- and we have paint. From the streets of Rochester, NY 's crime-ridden inner city to the favelas of Brazil, young street artists explore how art brings forth the power to see beyond, move beyond, grow beyond the walls that poverty builds around them. In the summer of 2016, artist Shawn Dunwoody led a project designed to offer employment to a group of five youth. Khari, Aziza, Ephraim, Kokenis and Karina are confronted daily with the challenges of a neighborhood where 87% of them live in poverty. From depressed neighborhoods in their own city, to the streets of Philadelphia and finally to Salvador, Brazil, the young artists discover that both poverty and art are universal experiences regardless of the neighborhood you call home or the language that is on your tongue. Poverty builds walls that shut kids in -- art has the power to tear down walls that confine us.
125		Wall writers / directed by Roger Gastman	Askwith Media Library/academic video online	Following graffiti's early days on the streets of NYC and Philadelphia in the '60s, the art form has since exploded into a global revolution of creative expression. Narrated by John Waters, this documentary features unprecedented access to the forefathers of graffiti, along with testimonies from the journalists, historians, and politicians who bore witness to the largest art awakening of the century.
		Her voice carries / directed by David Marshall ; produced by David Marshall ; produced by Christine Christopher ; co-produced by Helen Rian	academic video online	Her Voice Carries shares the stories of quietly heroic women, told through their own words and the street art of international mural artist, Sarah Rutherford. The film details Sarah ' s journey of discovery as she identifies and collects the stories of ordinary-yet-extraordinary women. The film weaves back and forth between the women ' s stories and Sarah ' s emerging mural art that will honor them far beyond the neighborhoods they call home.

Searching documentaries in the library catalog About 350 documentaries!

	A	B	C	D	E
1	...	Title	Location	Library Catalog Summary	Priority (H,M,L)
31	Art – Political aspects – United States.	No control / a film by Jessica Solce ; an Encode production ; directed & produced by Jessica Solce.	Askwith library	Presents both sides of the gun ownership rights/gun control question. Examines the potential effects of 3D printing on access to firearms and gun violence. Looks at the role of artists in promoting gun control, focusing on an installation by Boston artist Greg Bokor.	
32		An evening with Carlos Cortez / a video by Labor Beat		Carlos Cortez, the legendary poet, artist and defender of the working class, is interviewed at the evening in his honor at Chicago's Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, on May 24, 2002. Also includes interviews with friends of Carlos	
33		The art of resistance	Askwith library	"Surveys the contemporary Chicano art movement by tracing its development during the height of Chicano political activism in the late sixties and seventies, blending archival footage with interviews with the artists and samples of their work, including photos, murals, graphics, films, paintings, and ephemeral art. In explaining how the socio-political climate and events such as the Chicano Moratorium, the United Farm Workers struggle, and political prisoners' defense campaigns influenced their art, the artists also discuss related issues such as Mexican-Americans' struggle for civil rights and their quest for ethnic identity amid a bilingual and bi-cultural community"	H

Documentary shortlisting – H/M/L priority:
high/medium/low



H+H

Mother art tells her story (requested from buhr) (39min)

Pansy! Artist paul harfleet

The art of resistance (VIDEO-D 51729-D -- h20114) [26min]

A new color

Museum town

Nefertiti's daughters

The heretics (95min)

Pussy riot: a punk prayer (88min)

Guerrillas in our midst (VIDEO-D 50707-D -- h18835) [35min]/// The guerrilla girls (requested from buhr)

Cultures of resistance (73min)

***WANTOKS: dance of resilience in Melanesia

China's artful dissident

Sunrise over Tiananmen square

Sighted eyes, feeling heart (118min)

Paris is burning

H+M

Ardeshir mohasses: the rebellious artist (VIDEO-D 62074-D -- h32828) [60min]

Naji a-ali: an artist with vision

US vs john lennon (VIDEO-D 44670-D -- H11195) [96min]

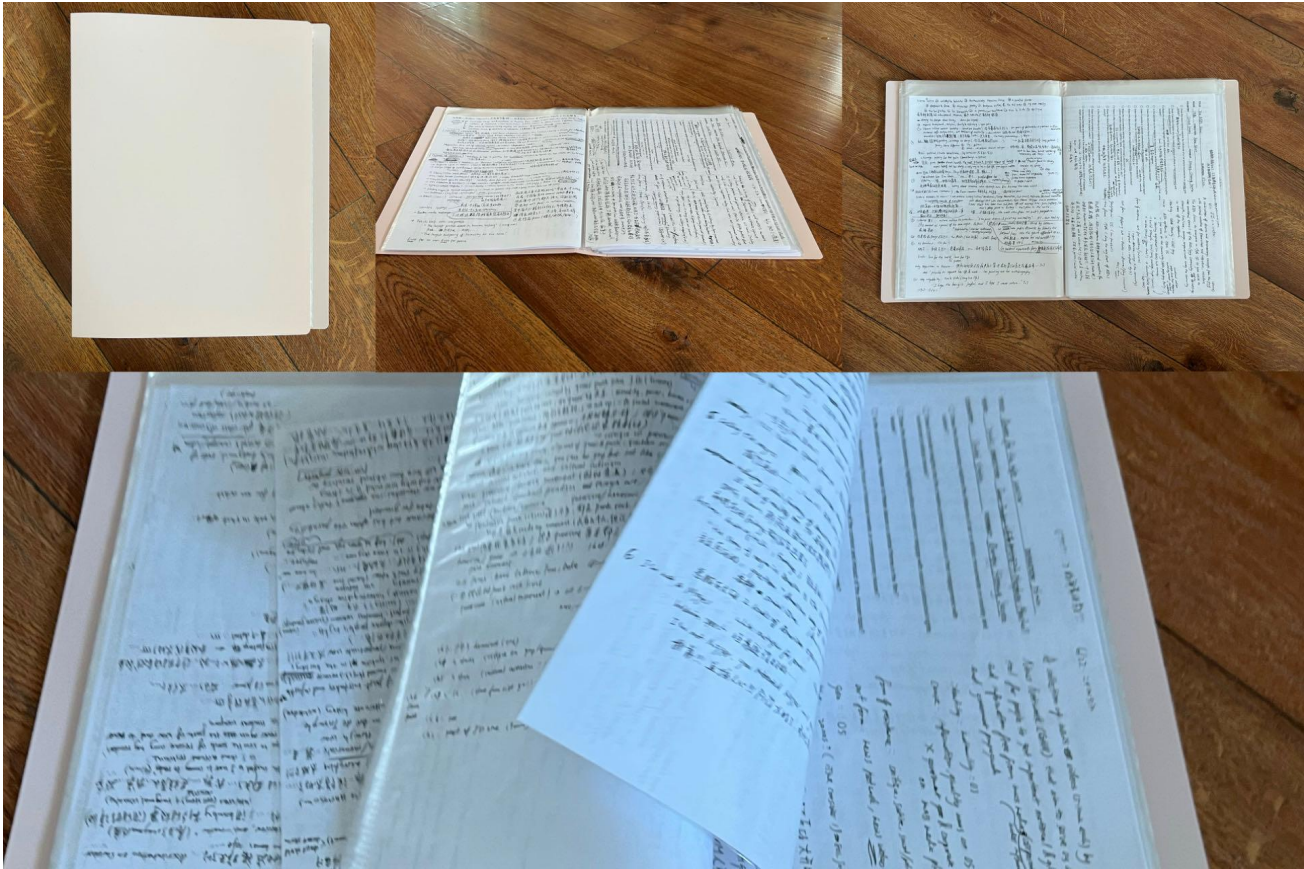
War child: a new fight (VIDEO-D 48464-D -- h17065)

Little stones

Queercore: how to punk a revolution (VIDEO-D 84094-D -- H72965)

Art is... the permanent revolution

Preliminary documentary watchlist



Documentary record

Star rating

total: 1/4 stars

is: 1:20-1:40 (4/8/25/6)

**** (真给力, 很art activism)

TITLE: China's Artful Dissident DURATION: 60 min
 YEAR: 2019 DIRECTOR: Danny Bon-Moshe DIRECTOR
 COUNTRY: Australian FORMAT: Kanopy Streamy Service

- Does the documentary explore the influence of art or artistic movements on society and culture?
Influence of art on society
- Does it provide insights into the creative process of artists or their engagement with social and political issues?
艺术家的创作过程!!! 很给力!!!
- Does the documentary highlight political activism or engage with social justice/civil rights issues?
很给力!!! 很给力!!!
white, anti-CCP
human right, dictatorship
- Is the activism or the response to these issues a central theme in the film?
See control:
- Does the documentary focus on historical events or contemporary issues?
1989 - 到现在 history + ongoing
- Does it provide a nuanced understanding of the context and impact of the chosen topic?
- Does this film focus on mainstream or marginalized artistic movements?
marginalized art
- Does this documentary offer perspectives from various countries and cultures?
China (包括 international), 各国人士的文章 + 采访
- Does the documentary address significant social justice/civil rights issues such as racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental activism, etc.?
- Does it offer meaningful insights and perspectives on these issues?
perspective:
- Does the documentary demonstrate strong storytelling, cinematography, and artistic quality?
不是光拍视频的纪录片 - 我都未看过 (control)
很 appealing: 全篇高潮迭起, 最后一个镜头很给力!!!
- Is the filmmaking style engaging and visually appealing?
- Does the documentary provide educational value, offering insights and knowledge relevant to the subject matter?
很给力
- Is the documentary accessible to the intended target audience in terms of language, length, and complexity?
accessibility/language
length: 长一点, 但真的好看, 问题很活... 挺流畅的...
complexity: 很给力!!! (讲的可好了!)

0/7 ok 11:30-1:00 Kanopy streamy service

Badiucano, ~~Australian~~ Chinese political cartoonist/artist on his activist art to protest against Communist regime's white washing of history, authoritarian dictatorship of Xi, and abuse of human rights, risking himself and his family (2010s)

- ✓ identity: citizenship/nationality: Chinese
- ✓ cause: against China's Xi's dictatorship, state ~~is~~ whitewashing of history, for human rights.
- ✓ form of resistance: political activism, 绝食 activism!!! 很给力!!!
(post on twitter # campaign, street art, cartoon, performance exhibition)
- ✓ art form: visual art [cartoon]
+ street art
+ perform + exhibition
* + use of social media (spread activism message)
- ✓ time frame: 2010s
- ✓ geographic: China: Australia: HK? (包含 international Ed)
各国音乐人士合作, 各国音乐家响应参与

真的很给力!!! 太给力了!!! art 讲的 creation 讲了 (整个 exhibition process 都有!) 非常 political 非常 activism, 非常 risky 把老外都整不会了... China's historical context background, social issue 也讲了 还有 footage, 又送纪录片! 死!! 还有 social media 的优势 - 真的很给力!
我真的大开眼界 + 又很感动...

Basic info →

Screening checklist →

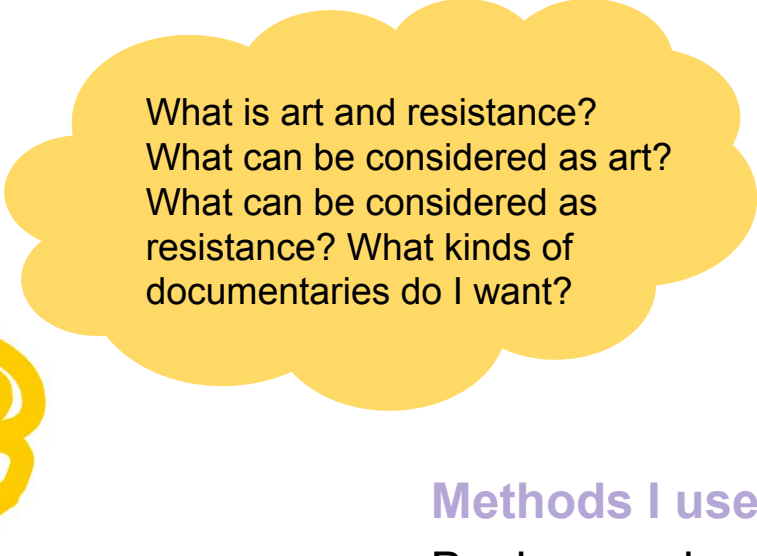
← Summary

← Comment

Documentary record - front

[back](#)

Challenge: defining the project scope



What is art and resistance?
What can be considered as art?
What can be considered as resistance? What kinds of documentaries do I want?

Methods I used:

Background reading & watching

Interview

Library catalog search

Theme semester course listing

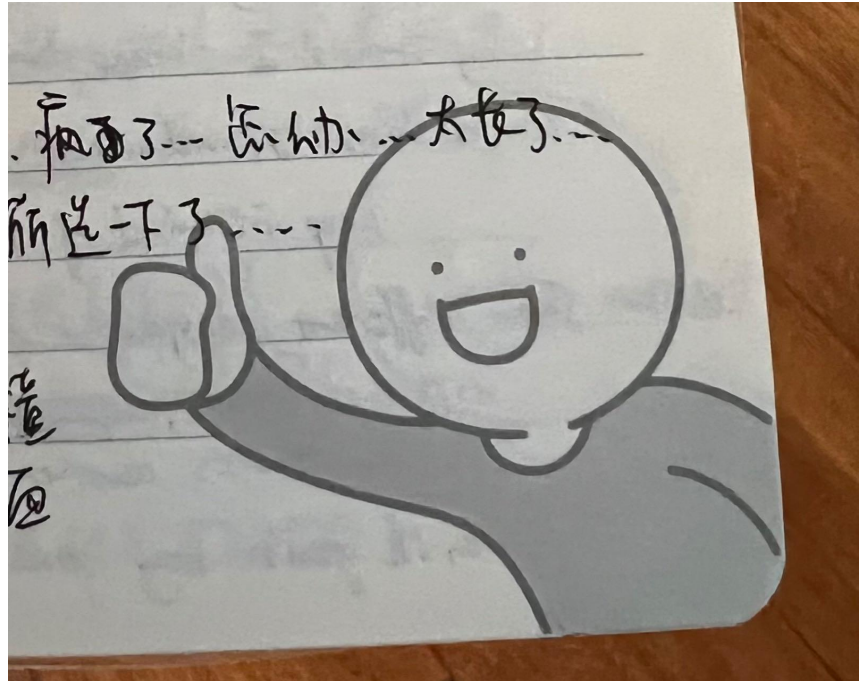
Growth: research

Research is a super messy, iterative process. There's not a right way to do research, and the most important thing is to keep doing and moving forward.



Challenge & growth: communication & collaboration

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. The only important thing is to communicate and keep the conversation going.



Challenge & growth: time management & work/life balance



These many things I learned__

- Research skill
- Critical thinking/writing about documentary
- Annotated bibliography
- Technology & software
- Knowledge in Art and Resistance topic
- Knowledge in documentary & media education, media literacy
- Teamwork, time management, communication

Big big thanks to those who helped



Q & A