

# CONFERENCE CALL:



The Tshwane University of Technology's Faculty of Arts and Design conference aims to explore the intersection of art and activism, commonly referred to as 'artivism.' Artivism emerged as a powerful movement at the turn of the 21st century, heralding a new era in the realm of artistic expression. Rooted in the belief that art possesses the transformative potential to ignite social and political change, artivism encompasses a wide range of creative practices, from visual arts to performance, music, literature, and more. By bringing together scholars, artists, and activists, the conference seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and generate critical insights into the power and potential of art as a catalyst for social change. Through a range of presentations, panel discussions, and artistic exhibitions, participants will examine the diverse practices, theories, and challenges associated with artivism in various cultural and socio-political contexts.

**CONFERENCE NAME:** Artivism  
**DATE:** 26 – 28 June 2024  
**VENUE:** Faculty of Arts campus, Tshwane University of Technology,  
cnr Du Toit and Struben Streets, Pretoria, South Africa

## KEY SUBTHEMES:

### 1. Art as Resistance:

- Exploring the historical and contemporary role of art in resisting oppressive systems and advocating for social justice.
- Examining the strategies and tactics employed by artists to challenge power structures and promote activism through their work.
- Analysing the impact and effectiveness of art as a tool for resistance and liberation.

### 2. Visualizing Inequality and Marginalization:

- Investigating how artists use visual mediums to highlight and challenge issues of inequality, marginalization, and social exclusion.
- Examining the representation of marginalized communities and the role of art in amplifying their voices and experiences.
- Discussing the potential of art to foster empathy, challenge stereotypes, and reshape public discourse on social issues.

### 3. Art and Environmental Activism:

- Exploring the intersection of art and environmentalism, focusing on how artists engage with ecological concerns and advocate for sustainability.
- Analysing the ways in which art can raise awareness about environmental degradation, climate change, and the exploitation of natural resources.
- Discussing the potential of art to inspire eco-consciousness and promote environmentally sustainable behaviours.

#### 4. Art, Technology, and Digital Activism:

- Investigating the evolving landscape of activism in the digital age, examining the role of technology and digital platforms in facilitating artistic activism.
- Exploring the use of social media, virtual reality, interactive installations, and other digital tools in promoting social change through art.
- Discussing the opportunities and challenges presented by digital activism in terms of accessibility, censorship, and the democratization of artistic expression.

#### 5. Artistic Research and Activism:

- Examining the role of performance art as a powerful medium for activism, focusing on its ability to challenge norms, provoke emotions, and incite action.
- Exploring the boundaries between artistic research and activism in live performances, including theatre, music, dance, spoken word, and street art.
- Analysing how art engages with public spaces, disrupts established hierarchies, and prompts dialogue on pressing social issues.

#### 6. Activism and Community Engagement:

- Investigating community-based activism initiatives that involve collaboration with local communities, grassroots organisations, and social movements.
- Examining the transformative potential of art as a means of fostering dialogue, mobilizing communities, and building collective agency.
- Discussing ethical considerations, challenges, and best practices for artists and activists engaged in community-oriented activism projects.

## THE CALL

We invite submissions for papers of 20 minutes each (with a subsequent 10 minutes for questions) on aspects of 'artivism' on the above suggested sub-themes. Papers on related topics will also be considered if they are relevant to the overall field of research (e.g. on broader activism themes using the arts, artistic research using the arts). Selected papers delivered at the conference will be published afterwards, and must be submitted for this purpose in their final form no later than four weeks after the conference.

## ABSTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

Presenters are invited to submit abstracts (250 - 300 words; MS Word format) to reach the Conference Secretariat by **30 November 2023**. Receipt of abstracts will be acknowledged.

### Guidelines for submission of abstracts:

- Abstract to be submitted to: [tutartivismconference@tut.ac.za](mailto:tutartivismconference@tut.ac.za)  
**Subject line:** Artivism Conference Submission
- Accepted abstracts will be published in the conference programme
- Each abstract should be accompanied by a short biography (200 words maximum) of the presenter(s)/author(s)

## REGISTRATION

Early registration for the conference is highly encouraged. Details regarding registration fees, early bird discounts, and registration deadlines can be found on the conference website: [www.tutfadshowcase.ac.za](http://www.tutfadshowcase.ac.za). Please note that presenting authors are required to register and attend the conference.

For further information, detailed guidelines, and updates, please visit the official conference website: [www.tutfadshowcase.ac.za](http://www.tutfadshowcase.ac.za) or [www.tut.ac.za/faculties/arts-design/about](http://www.tut.ac.za/faculties/arts-design/about).

Feel free to contact the conference organising committee [tutartivismconference@tut.ac.za](mailto:tutartivismconference@tut.ac.za) if you have any inquiries or require assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Artivism Conference 2024 and creating a stimulating environment for intellectual growth, knowledge dissemination, and collaborative research.