

The Verge Arts Series at Trinity Western University Presents

Arts and Social Action
a symposium

May 4-5, 2007
Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia, Canada

Call for Papers

Every year we are reminded of social unrest in the world. In the past year we have witnessed conflict in several areas of the world, increased security measures prompted by terrorist threats, and unseasonable weather that brings environmental issues to the forefront. As artists and scholars of the arts (visual art, music, film, performance art, theatre, dance, literature, etc), what role do we play in larger societal issues? Should we be involved in advocacy for issues, or does this turn attention away from the development of artistic disciplines that make an impact through trickle down effect? How do these issues change the way art is practiced / studied? This interdisciplinary symposium seeks to engage some of these questions through presentation of papers and guided round table discussion. Participants are asked to read all papers in advance of the symposium and come prepared to engage these topics in discussion sessions.

Further questions that may be addressed could include:

- What ways has art made an impact on ethical and societal issues? In what ways can it?
- Is there such a thing as ethically or socially responsible art, and what might it be?
- Are the arts as ethically significant as times past? Should they be?
- To what degree should artists and art critics be engaged with social and ethical issues?
- Is the move of some popular artists to use their influence for social and political change responsible or problematic?
- As writers or practitioners of the arts, what responsibilities do we have?

This symposium welcomes papers from any discipline that address the topic under consideration. Ten papers will be selected for presentations of 30 minutes in length and ample time will be allocated for discussion of the papers. Please submit presentation abstracts (300 words or less) by March 1st, 2007 to verge@the-outpost.ca. Direct any questions regarding the conference to the same address. We encourage multimedia and other non-conventional forms of presentation. Please include any technical requirements in addition your abstract.

For more information on the symposium and The Verge Arts Series, please visit <http://vergearts.com>