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Art in a Time of Biopolitics: Ecologies of Critique

Today, the question of art activism is one of the key issues to discuss participatory art. According to Boris Groys (2014), art activists try to change political and social conditions by means of art, not the inside the art system, but the outside it, in reality itself. For example, they try to change the living conditions in economically poor areas, raise ecological concerns, provide cultural and educational opportunities for residents in underdevelopment countries, and attract attention to the plight to illegal immigrants, etc. But at the same time, they will not stop being artists. Therefore, various criticisms have often been made. In this paper, I would like to discuss art activism as a medium, and discuss the theoretical and practical possibilities and pitfalls. I will take the projects by several artists including Akira Takayama, Banksy, Olafur Eliasson, which based on geographical, historical and political features in local places, as a sort of dark tourism where people and materials move and meet again.

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