



Ai Weiwei - b. 1957

An Artist and critic of the Chinese Communist Party; Also an Architect, Sculpturist, Photographer, Conceptual Artist, Film, Performance, and Public Works

Week #15

A. Sunflower Seeds, 2010 (Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London)

An ocean floor of over 100 million individual handmade porcelain replica sunflower seeds. Audience is invited to walk across the floor of seed. This is a sensory experience. Visitors can touch, walk and listen to the seeds under their feet.



Ai Weiwei

[Click Here for Video](#)

Reflections

- A.1 Woman turns sunflower seed shells into art (Slide 4)
- A.2. 'Sunflower Seeds,' 1942 (Slide 5)
- A.3. Ai Portrait with Sunflower Seeds (Slide 6)
- A.4. Children's Sunflower Art (Slide 7)

A.1. Woman turns sunflower seed shells into art



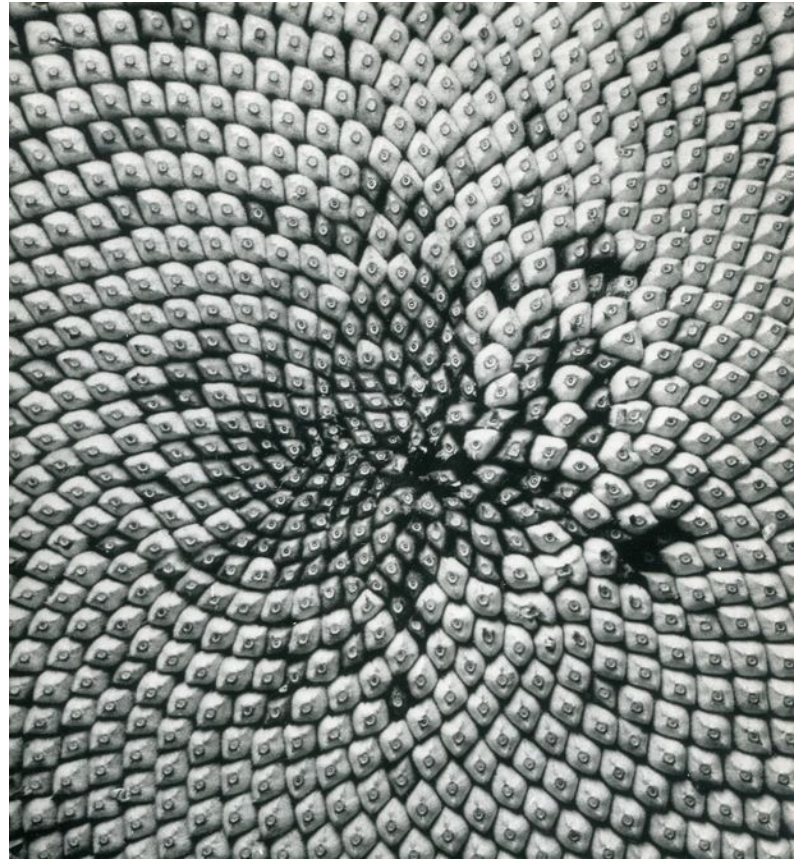
Unknown Chinese Woman, Beijing

A.2. 'Sunflower Seeds,' 1942

Werner was a
photojournalist

Medium:
Gelatin silver print

9 3/8 × 8 1/2 in



Werner Bischof, 1916

A.3. Ai Portrait with Sunflower Seeds

In honor of Ai Weiwei, Red Hong Yi created a portrait of him using seeds

Red Hong Yi



A.4. Children's Sunflower Art



Unknown Artist

B. Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn, 1995



Ai Weiwei

Ai purposely drops a 2,000 year old ceremonial Han Dynasty Urn and destroys it. ***“The only way of building a new world is by destroying the old one.”*** Ai shared this quote from General Mao.

Reflections

- B.1 Gallagher Smashing Watermelons (Slide 10)
- B.2. Still from Hammering Out (an old argument), 1998 (Slide 11)
- B.3. Acid on Nylon, 1960 (Slide 12)
- B.4. Agnes Martin Destroys her own Art (Slide 13)

B.1. Gallagher Smashing Watermelons



B.2. Still from Hammering Out (an old argument), 1998

This Italian-born, Berlin-based artist sees the beauty in destruction.



Monica Bonvicini

B.3. Acid on Nylon, 1960

'Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn'
makes me think
of other artists
who purposely
destroys things in
the name of art.
Metzger created
'auto-destructive
art'

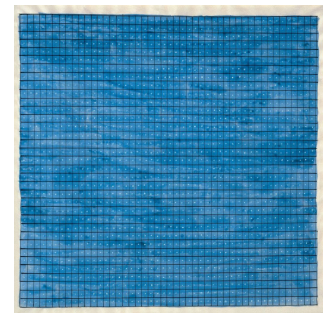
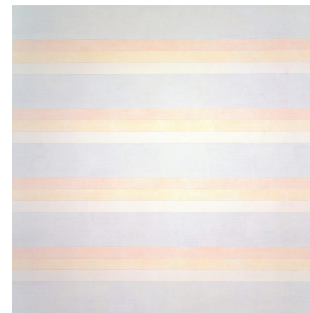
Gustav Metzger



B.4. Agnes Martin Destroys her own Art

Ai's dropping, reminds me of Agnes Martin who created lots of art, specifically abstract paintings. She was known for destroying a lot of her own work if she didn't like it. She would repeatedly destroy them, over and over, and redo her work, until she liked her final product.

Agnes Martin



[Click Here for video](#)

C. Life-Jackets, Konzerthaus Berlin 2016

Ai wraps the columns of the facade of Berlin's Konzerthaus. There were 14,000 life vests from refugees who landed on Lesbos, a Greek Island. They battled the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey



Ai Weiwei

Reflections

- C.1 Aids Memorial Quilt (Slide 15)
- C.2. Climate Action Protest: 22,000 Shoes (Slide 16)
- C.3. NFL Wears Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness (Slide 17)
- C.4. Red Shoe Protest, The Killing of Women and Girls, Mexico (Slide 18)

C.1. Aids Memorial Quilt



Photo Karen Bleier/AFP/GettyImages

C.2. Climate Action Protest: 22,000 Shoes, 2015



C.3. NFL Wears Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



NFL

C.4. Red Shoe Protest, The Killing of Women and Girls, Mexico

On average, 10 women / girls in Mexico are murdered daily. Less than 10% will get solved



Unknown

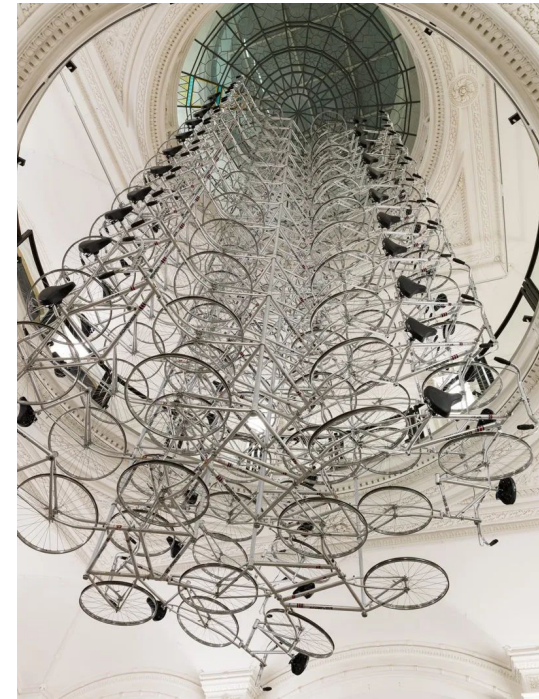
D. Forever Bicycles, 2014

Ai used 1,254 bicycles to create this sculpture. This took 7 days to erect.

52'w x 32' h x 9' d



Austin, TX



Berlin, 2014

Ai Weiwei

Reflections

D.1 30Ft High Bicycle Archway (Slide 21)

D.2. Bicycle Shop Germany (Slide 22)

D.3. Bicycle Fence (Slide 23)

D.4. Bicycle Wheel Dome (Slide 24)

D.1. 30Ft High Bicycle Archway

Burning
Man
Festival
2007



Mark Grieve and Ilana Spector

D.2. Bicycle Shop Germany

The facade of a bike shop that is co-owned by Christian Petersen, in Atlandsberg, Germany



Artist Unknown

D.3. Bicycle Fence



Artist Unknown

D.4. Bicycle Wheel Dome



E. The Walk, 17 September 2015 (with Anish Kapoor)

Ai Weiwei and Artist Anish Kapoor walk in solidarity, empathy and sympathy on a 7-mile route through London, holding blankets to bring awareness to 100's of refugees who are fleeing violence across the globe.

[Click Here for Video](#)



Reflections

E.1 Bed-in for Peace Protest (Slide 28)

E.2. Aids activism (Slide 29)

E.3. Freedom of Information Act (Slide 30)

E.4. George Floyd Protest Art (Slide 31)

E.1. Bed-in for Peace



John Lennon and Yoko Ono's

[Video Link](#)

E.2. Aids activism

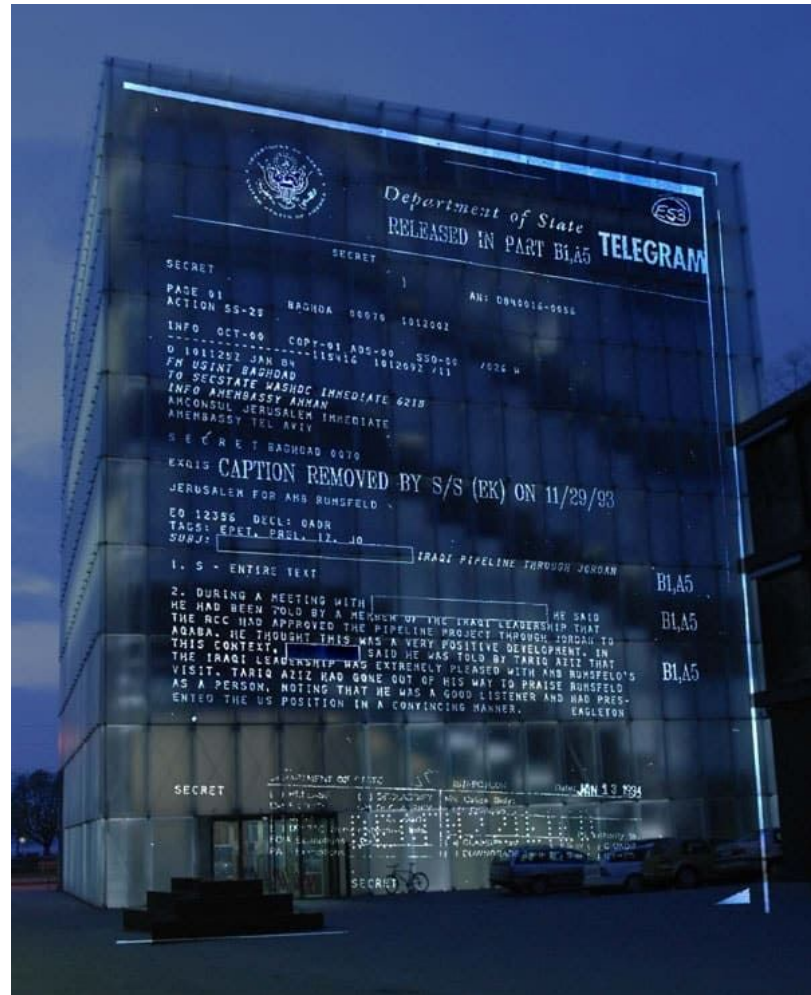


Keith Haring

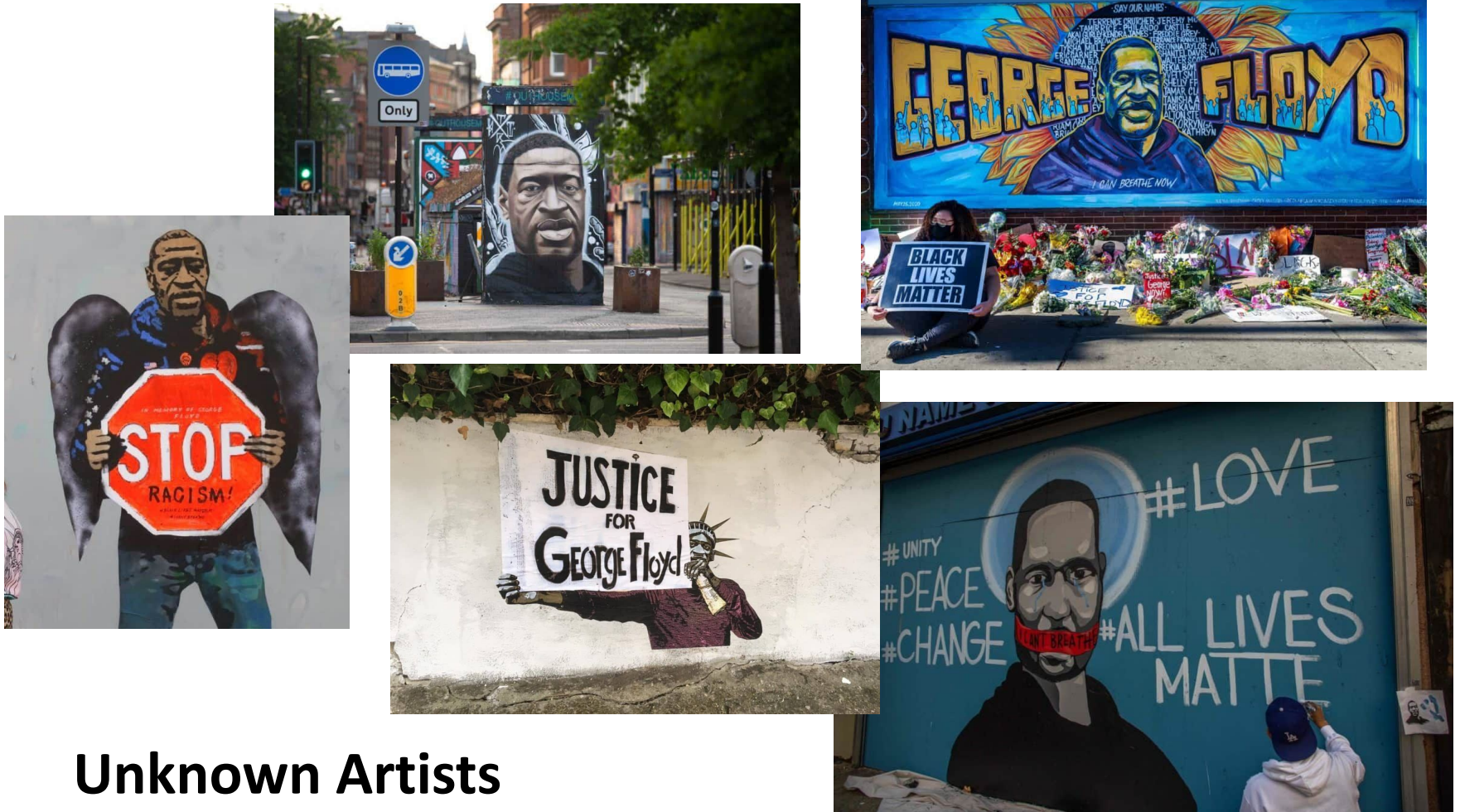
E.3. Freedom of Information Act

In 2004, Holzer projected an image of the Freedom of Information Act onto buildings around the world. She worked to declassify more than 30 government secrets.

Jenny Holzer



E.4. George Floyd Protest Art



Unknown Artists