FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: PRAXIS
Dates: April 25 through June 27, 2014
Opening Reception: Friday, April 25, 5-8PM
Gallery Hours: Tuesdays through Fridays, noon to 5PM
Contact: tpyrzewski@wayne.edu

The exhibition PRAXIS focuses on the political factions evolving in the United States of America during the late nineteen sixties that came to fruition in the seventies, including the liberation sought by Black Power movements, the freedom from tyranny advocated by wide-spread anti-Vietnam War struggles, and the foundations of gender equity forwarded by feminist activists. Just as such political groups emerged simultaneously, influencing each other, works in the exhibition associated with each of these domains will thematically and politically cross-reference one another, creating a dense fabric of meaning, image, and sound evocative of that turbulent period.

Given their pivotal contributions to the Black Power Movement, political figures like Stokely Carmichael and Angela Davis are highlighted in the show. One part of the exhibition features background material depicting the activities of the founding political organizations and individuals associated with COINTELPRO. Other sections will focus on the political demonstrations of the Vietnam War and the Detroit riots. Another aspect of the exhibition will feature feminist movements that gained full strength through the activities of writers such as Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan.
Some artists engaged with the public in performative activities or even created their own community spaces to disseminate their work, while others utilized the power of speech to reach audiences.

The exhibition embodies the interaction and layering that defined the 1970s, while mirroring the public activity of those times. The installation allows visitors to listen to original recordings of historical value, read through period magazines and books, and consider the cultural context of the era, as they view works of art on display.

Materials like Romare Bearden’s 1968 cover of Time magazine, Langston Hughes’s “Writers of the Revolution” recordings, Robert A. Sengstacke’s documentary photography, and Gloria Steinem’s writings for the original Ms. magazine will be on view.

The show includes some of the most groundbreaking artists from that time. The urgency their works evoked remains recognizable and powerful today. The nudity of Sylvia Sleigh’s painting is still provocative while Yoko Ono and John Lennon’s poster action War Is Over (if you want it) - which will be visible throughout the city of Detroit during the course of the show - has lost none of its relevance in the decades that followed. Adrian Piper’s performance The Mythic Being and Cindy Sherman’s photographic Bus Riders ask us to recognize apparent gender and race issues in a very personalized way. The exhibition further incorporates the iconic, slogan-based works of such AfriCOBRA artists as Barbara Jones-Hogu whose calls for changes in society were taken to the streets.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalog, with reprints of writings including German philosopher Marcus Steinweg’s “Politics – Semiology – Contingency” and Grace Lee Bogg’s “From Marx to Malcolm and Martin.”

Artists in the show: Casper Banjo, Judith Bernstein, Barbara Kruger, Yoko Ono, Adrian Piper, John Riddle Jr., Martha Rosler, Robert A. Sengstacke, Cindy Sherman, Sylvia Sleigh, and AfriCOBRA group (Barbara Jones-Hogu, Carolyn Lawrence, Nelson Stevens, Gerald Williams).
Cindy Sherman
*Untitled, 1976/2000*
Gelatin silver print, Edition of 20
Paper 10 x 8 in (25,5 x 20 cm)
Image 7 ¼ x 5 in (18 x 13 cm)
War Is Over!

If You Want It

Love and Peace from John & Yoko

Yoko Ono & John Lennon
War Is Over – If You Want It, 1971
b/w poster print
33 x 23 ½ in
84 x 59.5 cm
Martha Rosler
*Roadside Ambush*, from the series *House Beautiful: Bringing the War Home*, 1967-72
Photomontage
20 x 24 in
50.8 x 61 cm
Gloria Steinem
Ms.
First issue - Spring 1972
Adrian Piper
The Mythic Being
1973
Video still
Barbara Jones-Hugu
Unite, 1971
Silkscreen on paper
22 ¼ x 30 in
56 x 76 cm
Robert A. Sengstacke
_Honor King, 1968_
Gelatin Silverprint
Rev. Martin Luther King Speaks: The Great March to Freedom
Detroit, June 23, 1963
Vinyl
Langston Hughes & Margaret Danner
Writers of the Revolution
Vinyl
Black Forum
Stokely Carmichael
*Free Huey!*
Vinyl
Black Forum
Angela Y. Davis, Ruchell Magee, the Soledad Brothers and Other Political Prisoners
*If the Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance*
Paperback
Signet, First Printing, December 1971
NEW YORK: The Breakdown of a City

MAYOR LINDSAY

TIME magazine, November 1, 1968
The Breakdown of a City
Cover design by Romare Bearden
Chuck Holt, Ronnie Irwin, Rear, Facing Camera, 9 December 1970.
Riots: Police in riot gear exit a looted store through front window, 24 April 1970
Vietnam War: Group of demonstrators, some with their arms interlaced, march with signs at peace demonstration in Washington, D.C., 21 October 1967
Minh Surrenders, Vietcong in Saigon; 1,000 Americans and 5,500 Vietnamese evacuated by Copter to U.S. Carriers