

Re-imagining Voices in the City: The Role of Artist in Portraying Violence

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Abstract

This paper explores the intersection of reactionary politics and female artists, with a particular focus on the violence in the city. It presents my personal research into the violence I witnessed and survived, analysing their aftermath and the ongoing challenges female artists encounter in articulating these political narratives. Through a critical evaluation of the current cultural landscape, the paper highlights how female artists actively engage with and critique the prevailing political environment, often opposing the ideologies propagated by dominant political parties. These artists emerge as vital voices for those who were brutally killed and for women who experienced sexual violence, using their work to bring attention to the silenced stories of these victims. Importantly, there was no governmental support for the victims, as the riots were instigated by right-wing authoritarian political parties. In response, female artists have provided shelter and assistance to survivors displaced by the riots, equipping them with the skills and resources needed to rebuild their lives and attain self-sufficiency. My research delves into the socio-political context surrounding the city in violence, revealing the profound and lasting repercussions on collective memory and identity. By analysing the narratives that frequently eclipse women's experiences during this tumultuous period. In the aftermath of the violence, a number of female artists have emerged as critical voices, employing their work to challenge the status quo. This paper highlights their innovative approaches to addressing violence, trauma, and resistance, often within environments that suppress dissent. Ultimately, I argue that these female artists play a crucial role in reshaping the cultural landscape amid reactionary politics. Their work fosters public dialogue about memory, trauma, and justice, illuminating pathways toward healing and social change in a politically charged environment.

Keywords

City, Violence, Female Artist, Trauma, Resistance, Justice, Art, Politics and Cultural Landscape