







Artistic Activism and Agonistic Spaces Chantal Mouffe
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Can articlesign practices still play a critical role in a society where the difference between art and advertizing have become bitured and where artists and cultural workers have become necessary part of capitalist production?

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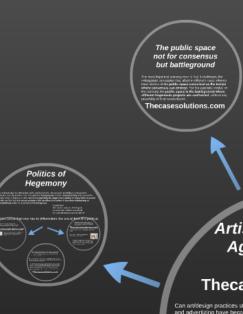
Rebuild

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How is it related?

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"social practice": art that flourishes outside galleries and museums and welcomes all, opening dialogues with those who live beyond its precincts. Encompassing social service, community building, object-making, and real-time discussion around economic inequity, it's social



"My task is just seeing what can get reactivated,







Liberal consensus
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How is architecture related?

Is architecture merely aesthe political agent

Liberal consensus Thecasesolutions.com

Properly political questions always involve decisions which require us to make a choice between conflicting alternatives. This incapacity to think politically, is to a great extent due to the **uncontested hegemony of liberalism**.



The dominant tendency in benefit rought is characterized by a rationalist and individualist approach which is unable to great particularly the quantities return of the social word, with the conflicts that pluralism entails; conflicts for which no rational solution could ever exist, hence the dimension of antagonism that characterizes human societies.

One of the main tenets of this liberalism is the rationalist belief in the availability of a universal consensus based on reason. Liberalism has to negate antagonism since, by bringing to the fore the inescapable moment of decision - in the strong sense of having to decide in an undecidable terrain antagonism reveals the very limit of any rational

agonism

political theory that emphasizes the potentially positive aspects of certain (but not all) forms of political conflict.

ne social from the political.

political is the internal order or logic of a system that chooses one particular way over others and at its very base is a concept that can be changed

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Society is not to be seen as the unfolding of a logic exterior to itself.

Every order is the **temporary and precarious** articulation of contingent practices.



Things could always be otherwise and therefore every order is predicated on the **exclusion of other possibilities**. It is in that sense that it can be called 'political' since it is the **expression of a particular structure of power relations**.

It is in this sense that one ha

The social is the practices of everyday acts dependent on the **political institution** and which are **taken for granted**, as if they were **self-grounded**.

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The frontier between the social and the political is essentially **unstable** and requires **constant displacements and renegotiations** between social agents.

Every order is therefore political and based on some form of exclusion. There are **always other possibilities** that have been **repressed** and that **can be reactivated**. The articulatory practices through which a certain order is established and the meaning of social institutions is fixed are 'hegemonic practices'.

Every hegemonic order is susceptible of being challenged by counter-hegemonic practices, i.e. practices which will attempt to **disarticulate the existing order so as to install another form of hegemony**.

The 'agonistic' struggle recognizes that society is always politically instituted and never forgets that the terrain in which hegemonic interventions take place is always the outcome of previous hegemonic practices and that it is never an neutral one. This is why it denies the possibility of a non-adversarial democratic politics and criticizes those who, by ignoring the dimension of 'the political', reduce politics to a set of supposedly technical moves and neutral procedures.

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hegemony is a construction

An agonistic conception of democracy acknowledges the **contingent character** of the **hegemonic politico-economic articulations** which **determine the specific configuration** of a **society at a given moment**.

They are precarious and pragmatic constructions which can be disarticulated and transformed as a result of the agonistic struggle.

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The public space not for consensus but battleground

The most important consequence is that it challenges the widespread conception that, albeit in different ways, informs most visions of the public space conceived as the terrain where consensus can emerge. For the agonistic model, on the contrary, the public space is the battleground where different hegemonic projects are confronted, without any possibility of final reconciliation.

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