

## Design and Resistance (Izmir, 15-16 May 2014)

Izmir, Yasar University, May 15-16, 2014

Deadline: Jan 31, 2014

Bahar Emgin

### DESIGN AND RESISTANCE

#### Venue

Yasar University, Izmir, Turkey

#### Keynote speaker

To be announced

#### Theme

The protest movements that have recently broken out in different regions of the world including the Arab Spring, the occupy movements and the recent Gezi protests in Istanbul have brought onto the agenda the potential of creative resistance. Particularly the advent of digital technologies has enabled rapid production and widespread distribution possibilities. As such these demonstrations have proceeded with their own peculiar visual culture, icons and symbols. Protests which were set off by strong economic and political concerns were marked by the creative use of artifacts, images and spaces. The most pertinent aspects in terms of design studies were the elements of humor, play and creativity that prevailed during the struggles.

In this sense we had a striking encounter with the dissident face of design apart from its conventional conception as a marketing and styling tool. This creates an opportunity to discuss design's relationship with the cultivation, organization and expression of social dissent. An examination of the role of design in political outcries requires questioning both established boundaries of design discipline and practice and conventional conceptions of political struggle. Questions regarding the issue include examining the representative and/or constitutive roles of design practices, the ways design addresses and transforms power relations within a given society/social order and the transformations that design thinking and practice undergo during periods of strong social dissent.

Some of the issues contributors are invited to address are as follows:

#### Resistance with design

The role of design in representing dissent

Visual languages and styles of resistance

The subversive role of design in given power relations

Designer as a political identity

Resistance in design

Dialogues between conflicting design approaches

Power relations in design praxis  
Critiques of mainstream design approaches  
Resistance to design  
Anti-design approaches  
Users' responses to/negotiations with design  
Re-appropriating design

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

Those who are interested in contributing papers to the ninth 5T Congress are invited to submit a title and an abstract of 250-300 words through EasyChair [an on-line conference organizing system <http://www.easychair.org/>] by January 17th 2014. Registration to EasyChair is essential in order to submit abstracts. The conference language is English, therefore all abstracts, presentations and papers should be in English. For any further questions please contact Instr. Bahar Emgin ([bahar.emgin@yasar.edu.tr](mailto:bahar.emgin@yasar.edu.tr)). Selected proposals will be announced on February 17th, 2014.

#### Conference Fee

The conference fee is 100 Euro or 270 Liras. It covers lunch, tea and coffee services throughout the event, the conference dinner (May 15) and the closing reception (May 16).

#### Reference:

CFP: Design and Resistance (Izmir, 15-16 May 2014). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 11, 2013 (accessed May 10, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/6405>>.