

## METHODS OF CONTEXTUALIZING

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## Traces of a Protest

Working with people from different backgrounds and languages is exciting for me. The pre-context for this project based on context highlights the importance of understanding and valuing the diverse skills and experiences that Shimmy and Laurent brought to the table. This multilingual background of the group presented a unique opportunity for the project to be inclusive and reflective of different cultural perspectives. The challenge of language barriers is met with the group's collaborative approach, where Shimmy's strength in Mandarin is leveraged and Laurent's bilingual abilities are utilized to facilitate communication and understanding. It was really lovely for me to watch Laurent translate every label either in-person or online at V&A. We all felt like the Umbrella (2014) resonated with all of us, and it was important that the project speaks to all of us for me because that's when we demonstrate the importance of empathy and understanding in creating a meaningful and engaging project. I wanted the project to take a conversational approach which would create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. Instead of working in isolation and then combining a "group" project together, we recognized our strengths and weaknesses and played to, allowing for a more collaborative and holistic project outcome.

In conclusion, the pre-context for this project emphasizes the importance of valuing and celebrating diversity in teams. Exactly like it did in the Hong Kong Umbrella Protest and it is evident in our project. It is reflective of diverse cultural prospective that each of us bought and played on.

## **Bibliography**

Laranjo, F. (2014, December 13). Critical graphic design: Critical of what? Modes of Criticism.

Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://modesofcriticism.org/critical-graphic-design/>

This article is relevant to the 2014 Umbrella Protest in Hong Kong because many of the protest's visuals and graphics were designed to communicate a critical message about democracy and political freedom. The protest was sparked by the Chinese government's decision to limit democratic reforms in Hong Kong, and many of the protest visuals incorporated the umbrella symbol as a powerful image of defiance and protection. The challenges faced by designers in creating truly critical work, as explored in the article, were also relevant to the Umbrella Protest and the broader context of political and social activism in Hong Kong.

DiSalvo, C 2012, *Adversarial Design*, MIT Press, Cambridge. Available from: ProQuest Ebook Central. [24 February 2023].

This book explores the idea of using design as a tool for political resistance and social change. The author argues that design can be used to challenge the status quo and disrupt dominant power structures. DiSalvo's concept of adversarial design is particularly relevant to the 2014 Umbrella protest in Hong Kong. Protesters used a variety of creative design tactics, such as creating posters and banners, designing protest art, and using social media to spread their message. Adversarial design can be seen as a form of nonviolent resistance, as it allows people to challenge authority without resorting to violence.

Agur, C., & Frisch, N. (2019). Digital Disobedience and the Limits of Persuasion: Social Media Activism in Hong Kong's 2014 Umbrella Movement. *Social Media + Society*, 5(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305119827002>

This article examines the role of social media in the Umbrella Movement, focusing on how protesters used digital platforms to mobilize and coordinate their actions. The authors argue that social media allowed protesters to bypass traditional channels of communication and reach a broader audience. However, they also highlight the limitations of social media activism, as it can be difficult to persuade those who do not already share your views. This article is relevant to a design project based around the Umbrella protests in Hong Kong, as it emphasizes the importance of using creative design and messaging to connect with different audiences and build support for a cause.

Wong, K., & Ng, T. (n.d.). Umbrella Movement. Branded Protest. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://brandedprotest.com/umbrella-movement>

This article provides commentary on the 2014 Umbrella protests in Hong Kong and their continued impact on the city and its people. The article highlights the symbolism of the umbrella as a unifying symbol for various protest organizations in Hong Kong, as well as its use as inspiration for protest art. The article features an essay on protest art by Kacey Wong and an updated story on the present situation by Terry Ng. The essay by Wong explores the role of protest art in the Umbrella Movement, while Ng's story provides insight into the current state of affairs in Hong Kong. The article emphasizes the significance of the Umbrella Movement as a moment of political awakening for Hong Kong and a reflection of the city's ongoing struggle for democracy and autonomy. This

article is relevant to those interested in the role of art and symbolism in social movements, as well as those following the ongoing political situation in Hong Kong.

Wright, R. (2019, August 9). 'be water:' Hong Kong protest mantra influences how art is designed and distributed. CNN. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/protest-art-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

Protest art is being used in Hong Kong to inform, inspire and offer light relief in the ongoing pro-democracy protests. The graphics serve multiple purposes, such as advertising upcoming protest marches, containing subversive criticism of the authorities, and encouraging unity and stamina. One key theme of the posters is the ability to "be water," a phrase inspired by martial arts icon Bruce Lee that encourages fluidity and adaptability to any situation. This is in stark contrast to the 2014 protests, which remained in one area of the city as protesters set up camp against the authorities. The new messaging reflects changing tactics and lessons learned. Protest art is distributed through digital channels such as social networks, Telegram and AirDrop, as well as physical "Lennon walls" that are springing up all over the city. These walls are colorful mosaics, comprised of Post-It Notes, that contain inspirational and supportive messages for the protests. They allow people to feel connected to others and bring the solidarity of the people together.

Chow, V. (2014, September 30). Umbrella Revolution: More designs on Hong Kong's protest movement. South China Morning Post. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1603858/umbrella-revolution-designers-come-logos-occupy-central-protests>

This news article reports on the use of umbrellas as a new symbol of protest for a more democratic Hong Kong during the "Umbrella Revolution." The article discusses how logos for the movement began spreading on social media and highlights several artists and their designs. It also includes quotes from artists and netizens who discuss the importance of the movement and the symbolism behind their designs. Within the news article the pictures from different, now banned, Instagram handles features a design created by Angelo Costadimas, a Hong Kong-based artist, filmmaker, and educator. The design depicts a man holding up two umbrellas standing against a yellow banner and was inspired by a media photo of a protester standing in the midst of tear gas clouds holding two umbrellas in a defiant way. Costadimas discusses the symbolism behind the design and explains that the yellow color came from the yellow ribbons used by the students as a symbol of democracy.