

## Special Issue

# Arts of Abolition and Liberation

### Message from the Guest Editor

Since the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent massive protests in the US in Summer 2020, the term “abolition” has entered common parlance. This issue of *Arts* highlights artworks across media and genre—film, visual art, graphic narratives, theatre, and others—that explicitly focus on the art of abolition: of slavery, the carceral system, the police, or capitalism overall. While many art movements have long aligned with liberatory politics, this issue seeks to analyze artwork with an explicitly activist dimension. The art of abolition might unveil little-known past histories, addressing the dark complexity of our current political climate, or it might imagine a liberatory future, with the artist serving as the architect of the possible. In an era of increasing militarization, policing, and a major global fascist resurgence, this issue therefore serves as a necessary reminder of the potential of art to affect mass societal and personal transformation.

### Guest Editor

Dr. Julia Alekseyeva

Department of English and Cinema and Media Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

28 February 2026



## Arts

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3



[mdpi.com/si/232645](https://mdpi.com/si/232645)

*Arts*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[arts@mdpi.com](mailto:arts@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/](https://mdpi.com/journal/)

[arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)





# Arts

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 0.3



[mdpi.com/journal/  
arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)



## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Arts* welcomes scholarly contributions that address fundamental issues in the arts, broadly conceived, from any meaningful perspective—theoretical, historical, interdisciplinary, and global. Submissions are expeditiously and rigorously reviewed by peers, in order to insure the highest scholarly standards. Because *Arts* is an online journal, articles reach their desired audiences more quickly and reliably than its print media peers. The future is digital, and *Arts* combines the stringent scholarly standards of traditional journals with the easy accessibility afforded by digitalization.

---

### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd

Department of Art History, Savannah College of Art and Design,  
Savannah, GA 31402, USA

---

### Author Benefits

#### Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

#### High Visibility:

indexed within ESCI (Web of Science), and other databases.

#### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 37.3 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 6.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).