

Protest and Persuasion

Introduction

Many artists have used their work to express their dissatisfaction with the circumstances of their lives or to promote new social ideas.

This collection includes nineteenth and twentieth century European and Mexican protest art as well as a website address where you can view prominent Mexican American social and political artworks.

The artworks in this collection show many ways that artists use focal point to draw the attention of their viewers to particular parts of their works.

The Fugitives



French artist, Honore Daumier's "The Fugitives" depicts the plight of many during war.

See how the white horse, contrasting with its dark background, pulls our attention to the onward movement of the fugitives.



German artist, Kathe Kollwitz, depicts the plight of workers in an industrial age.

Similarly to Daumier one hundred years earlier, the forward movement of the group is reinforced by the somewhat darker female and male figures in the right that contrast with the grayer background figures.

Weibergefängnis vor 100 Jahren (Womens Prison 100 Years Ago)



In this somber print, Kollwitz shows her concern for women in prison.

The door and opening framing the woman and child. Their central location in the image also draw the viewer's attention.

Working Woman with Blue Shawl



This 1903 image of a working woman stands in contrast to more light hearted, romantic depictions of women by Kollwitz's contemporaries, for example Impressionists like Monet and Renoir.

The highlights on the right side of the woman's face draw the viewer's attention to the woman's downward glance.

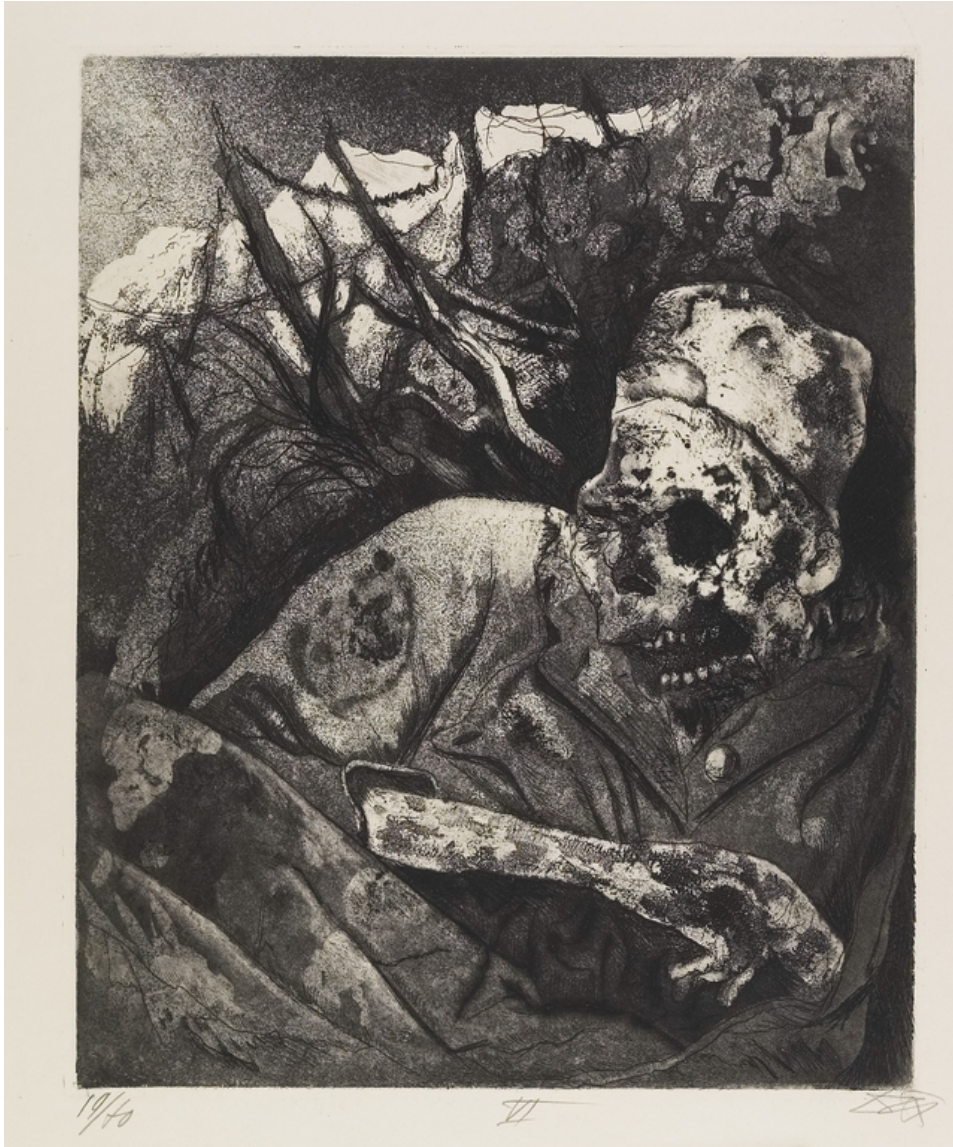
Stormtruppe geht unter Gas vor (Storm Troops Advance under a Gas Attack), plate 12 from Der Krieg (The War)



Another German artist, Otto Dix, used his work to show the horrors of World War I.

The dramatic contrast of the black eye pieces against the much lighter gas masks give this print strong focal points.

Leiche im Drahtverhau (Flanders) (Corpse in a Wire Entanglement [Flanders]), plate 16 from Der Krieg (The War)



Tragic death is again Dix's subject in this print.

The focal point of the print is the black eye socket in the lighter skull.

Lens wird mit Bomben belegt (Lens is Destroyed by Bombing), plate 33 from Der Krieg (The War)



In this print, Dix shows the bombing of a civilian target.

The lines direct the viewer's eye to the center of the image and then back to the faces in the lower corners of the print.

La bandera



José Clemente Orozco was a prominent revolutionary Mexican artist.

In his print "La Banders (The Flag)", Orozco draws attention to the flag by framing it with lighter figures and darker rectangles and by placing it in the center of his print.

La retaguardia



What are the focal points in Orozco's print "La Retaguardia (The Rear Guard)"?

The Scoffer

What do you think Rufino Tamayo was saying with his painting, "The Scoffer"?



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Mexican American Artwork

Mexican American artists have a strong history of art with political or social messages. Go to Protest and Persuasion (<http://mari.eas.asu.edu/ChicanArte/gallery.html>) to see revolutionary artworks by:

Judith Francisca Baca,

Enrique Chagoya,

Carlos Cortez Koyokuikatl,

Yolanda López,

Calcutta, India

Protest and Persuasion by Mary Erickson



In this photograph, David Parker documents the ever-present power of the poster.

Political Demonstration, Democratic National Convention, San Francisco



Photographers have a long tradition of using their cameras to show viewers the confrontations of contemporary life.