Project Proposal:

Propaganda Through Art

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FFAR-249 (Winter 2025)

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February 21st, 2025

The keywords that I choose for this project are the following: Engaging (from FFAR-248) and Activism (from FFAR-249). I chose these keywords because I truly believe that art is a powerful tool to share ideas and sensibilize the citizens. As Julien Posture said: "I do believe it is by developing a deep critical engagement with the concept, rather than to dismiss it, that illustrators would develop more control and agency over their work and their role in the industry".(Posture 2025) That means that every good artists have a message they are trying to transfer with their art. Knowing that, here are the questions that I will try to answer in my essay: How can Artists actually brings a change to society with their art. Are artists the best way to sensibilize a population since they can reach so many citizens with their sincerity. And on the other end, can the power that artists hold become dangerous when it is mixed with propaganda? I think that the limit between art and propaganda is very blurry and I would like to expand on that in my essay. As Wendy Cooper said: "Artwork is often created by an individual to express their emotions or ideas. However, their aim is not to convert the viewer but to simply encourage the exploration of a theme, to provoke thought. Artists are creating an experience, hence why artwork is considered subjective." (Art Vancouver 2025) I agree with this, but I still think that art and propaganda can be interjoined. But the main goal of my essay will be to show amazing art by artists that I love and that transmits a huge message. Here are some artworks that I would showcase if I was curating an exposition about the power of activist art.

1. Posture, Julien. *How to Do Things with Style*. PDF file. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://moodle.concordia.ca/moodle/pluginfile.php/6996451/mod_resource/content/3/Posture_How%20to%20Do%20Things%20with%20Style.pdf.

2. Art Vancouver. *Art and Propaganda*. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://www.artvancouver.net/post/art-and-propaganda.

3. Everyware. *Re-Recycle*. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://everyware.kr/home/portfolio/re-recycle/.

4. Michael Aaron Ulmer. *Dinner for One*. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://michaelaaronulmer.com/portfolio/dinner-for-one.

5. Noel Badges Pugh. *Mush Fern 4pk 5"x7" Laserprints*. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://noelbadgespugh.bigcartel.com/product/mush-fern-4pk-5-x7-laserprints.

This artwork called ReRecycle of Everyware. It is a beautiful project that is done in an abandoned sewage treatment facility and I think that it is great because it brings beauty to an abandoned site instead of destroying it. Reusing is one of the best thing an artist can do to showcase the impact environment can have in our society and I think this is a perfect example of that:

(Everyware 2025)

This picture of the photographer Michael Aaron Ulmer. He has many photos that I would like to showcase because his entire portfolio his full of poignant and thought provoking pieces. He spends so much time to get the perfect picture and it always has a powerful message:

(Ulmer 2025)

Finally, I would showcase a selection of Noel Badges Pugh artworks. He does so many of those "women nature" figures and I find it so beautiful. I think that nudity can often be seen as a provocation in the art world, especially if it is drawn with a sense of sensuality. I think that the way that the way that Noel draws women so beautifully and mixes them with plants is such an ode to the beauty of nature. Recently it feels like we neglect nature as much as we used to (and sometimes still do) neglect women in our society, and I think Noel's art shows that both are valuable and should be cherished and respected:

(Pugh 2025)

1. Posture, Julien. *How to Do Things with Style*. PDF file. Accessed February 21, 2025. https://moodle.concordia.ca/moodle/pluginfile.php/6996451/mod_resource/content/3/Posture_How%20to%20Do%20Things%20with%20Style.pdf.

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