

= Grrrrrrrrrr !! =

Grrrrrrrrrr !! is a 1965 oil and Magna on canvas painting by Roy Lichtenstein . Measuring 68 in x 56 @.@ 125 in ( 172 @.@ 7 cm x 142 @.@ 6 cm ) , it was bequeathed to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum collection from Lichtenstein 's estate . It depicts a head @-@ on representation of an angry dog growling with the onomatopoeic expression " Grrrrrrrrrr !! " . The work was derived from Our Fighting Forces , which also served as the source for other military dog paintwork by Lichtenstein .

= = Background = =

The Lichtenstein foundation notes that the inspiration for this painting is a frame of Our Fighting Forces # 66 ( February 1962 ) , which was published by National Periodical Publications ( now DC Comics ) . In that frame only a portion of the dog 's head is visible and the speech balloon says " Grrrrr ! " In addition to the painting itself , Lichtenstein produced a small 5 @.@ 75 in x 4 @.@ 5 in ( 14 @.@ 6 cm x 11 @.@ 4 cm ) graphite on paper study .

The painting was bestowed to the Guggenheim Museum after Lichtenstein 's 1997 death , following a promise made in 1992 . The museum used Grrrrrrrrrr !! in the promotional posters for the 1993 exhibition " Roy Lichtenstein : A Retrospective " , which ran from October 7 , 1993 ? January 16 , 1994 . Other notable exhibitions where this work was shown include " Rendezvous : Masterpieces from the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Guggenheim Museums " which ran from October 16 , 1998 ? January 24 , 1999 at the Guggenheim Museum in New York , as well as " Art in America : 300 Years of Innovation " which traveled to several museums in China between 2007 and 2008 .

The work appeared on the cover of the November 1993 issue of ARTnews .

= = Details = =

Although Grrrrrrrrrr !! is derived from what Guggenheim Senior Curator Susan Davidson calls a " low @-@ grade comic strip " that is a typical Lichtenstein source , it is representative of Lichtenstein 's fascination with " the atomic language of Ben @-@ Day dots , black outlines and the three primary colors as the elementary vocabulary of low @-@ budget commercial imagery . "

According to Jennifer Blessing of the Guggenheim , " There is also an element of humor in creating fine art out of what has customarily been considered ' low , ' a playfulness that is equally evident in the onomatopoeic caption and bellicose expression of the dog in Grrrrrrrrrr !! " .

= = Related works = =

In 1962 , Lichtenstein created Arrrrrrff ! , an oil and graphite pencil on canvas painting depicting a dog from a subsequent issue of Our Fighting Forces , the series that was the source of Grrrrrrrrrr !! . That source depicts the dog by the name of " Pooch " in profile with a text bubble reading " Sniff--Sniff--Sniff--Sniff--Arrrrrrff ! " above his head . The inspiration for this painting came from Our Fighting Forces # 69 ( July 1962 ) . Arrrrrrff ! was sold at Christie 's in 1996 for \$ 420 @,@ 500 to an undisclosed buyer .