

## **The Voice of Art - The Image as Propaganda**

Over the millennia the image has been regarded as friend and foe of political power. In every case, especially in significantly illiterate populations, the image became the loudest voice for those seeking control.

Often the process was ugly and immoral. Equally often great art was produced. In every case, pictures spoke as loud, or even louder than words, for better and for worse.

In this class we will move through political graphic time and place from the days of Darius, in the centuries before the birth of Christ, to our current era of alternate facts and fake news. In transit there will be serious consideration of the manner in which Mexico, Russia and Germany used the image as a tool to propagate then-radical often barbarous content and to manipulate the public.

We will also consider the ways in which changing technology, over the millennia, altered and enhanced the power of the picture; beginning with the bronze portrait coin and concluding with the impact of present day on-line political tweet.

If you Google “propaganda” you will be overwhelmed by the amount of available information. Any book with the word propaganda in its title is worth considering. I also suggest a public library search using “propaganda” as keyword – you don’t have to finish it unless it makes good sense.

**Leader:** Helen Schwartz is an artist, arts journalist, architectural historian, and the author of *New Jersey House* (Rutgers University Press).

**Thursdays:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 6 weeks: September 28 through November 2.

**Location:** Monument Hall