

PROPAGANDA

Propaganda is information, which is often misleading, that is used to promote a political cause or opinion.

Propaganda art is often used to influence people's emotions and make them see the facts in a certain way. This can be seen as unfair or dishonest but it is also a powerful way to communicate a message.



What did you do in the war Daddy? Parliamentary Recruiting Committee / Public domain.

QUESTIONS

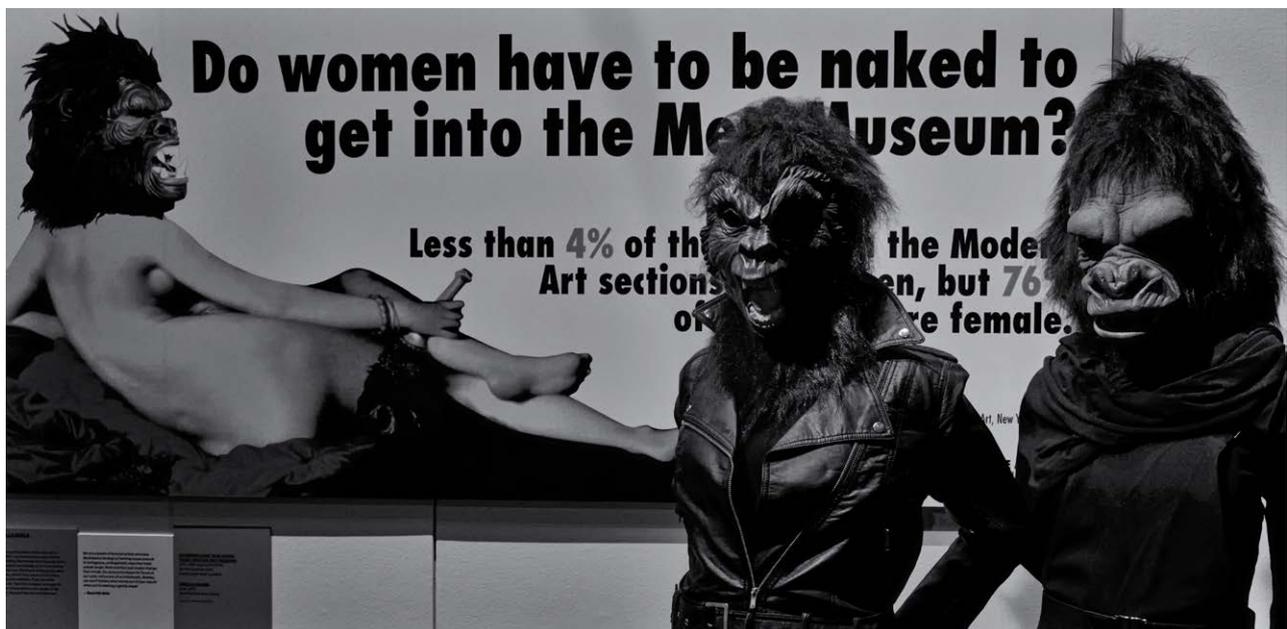
- Who do you think this poster is aimed at?
- What message do you think it is trying to communicate?

FEMINIST ART

The Guerrilla Girls are an example of women who used art to draw attention to the inequality in the art world, and society. In 1989 they placed this poster in the Met Museum.

It says, Do women have to be naked to get in to the Met Museum? Less than 4% of the artists in the Modern Art sections are women, but 76% of the nudes are female.

They have used funny and sometimes outrageous pictures and statistics on stickers, posters and billboards. Through this, and debates and discussions, they have brought issues of sexism and racism to the front of people's minds.



Guerrilla Girls—Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum? from 1989 Eric Huybrechts / CC 2.0 BY-SA

QUESTIONS

- The Guerrilla Girls are anonymous. Is this important? Why? Why not?
- Is shocking people the best way to get your message across?

DISSIDENT ART

A dissident is someone who opposes the government.

Ai Wei Wei is a Chinese dissident artist. He's one of the most famous contemporary artists and he uses his art to criticise the Chinese government about issues such as human rights.



Source: Shutterstock.com / J Morc

In 1995 Ai made an artwork by destroying another one. He took photos of himself dropping a 2,000-year-old vase on the floor. By smashing it and taking photos, he destroyed the value of the ancient object but also destroyed its cultural value.

The Chinese government arrested Ai Wei Wei in 2011 on charges that said he hadn't paid taxes. He was released from prison after almost three months. Some people were sceptical about whether this was a legitimate crime or whether the Chinese government were trying to send a warning to him.

QUESTIONS

- Is Ai Wei Wei right to take risks with his art?
- Should you ever get in trouble for making art?