

TYLER JENKINS (2004748)

Illustration (BA)

Word count, 1368

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Intro

The title of my gallery / exhibition is 'Make Art not war' this is influenced by the famous anti-war slogan 'Make love not war' slogan, although the true origin is unknown many people have claimed ownership to it: my reason for choosing this word play was due to the fact I believe it describes my ideology perfectly. 'Make Art not war' represents the fact that I believe artists don't use their platform to their full advantage, we live in an era where politics are at the forefront of every social media and news outlet, but yet artists strain from creating political art. I believe we have the ability to express our opinions in creative ways and reach new audiences, that's why I believe the title 'make art not war' fits this exhibition.

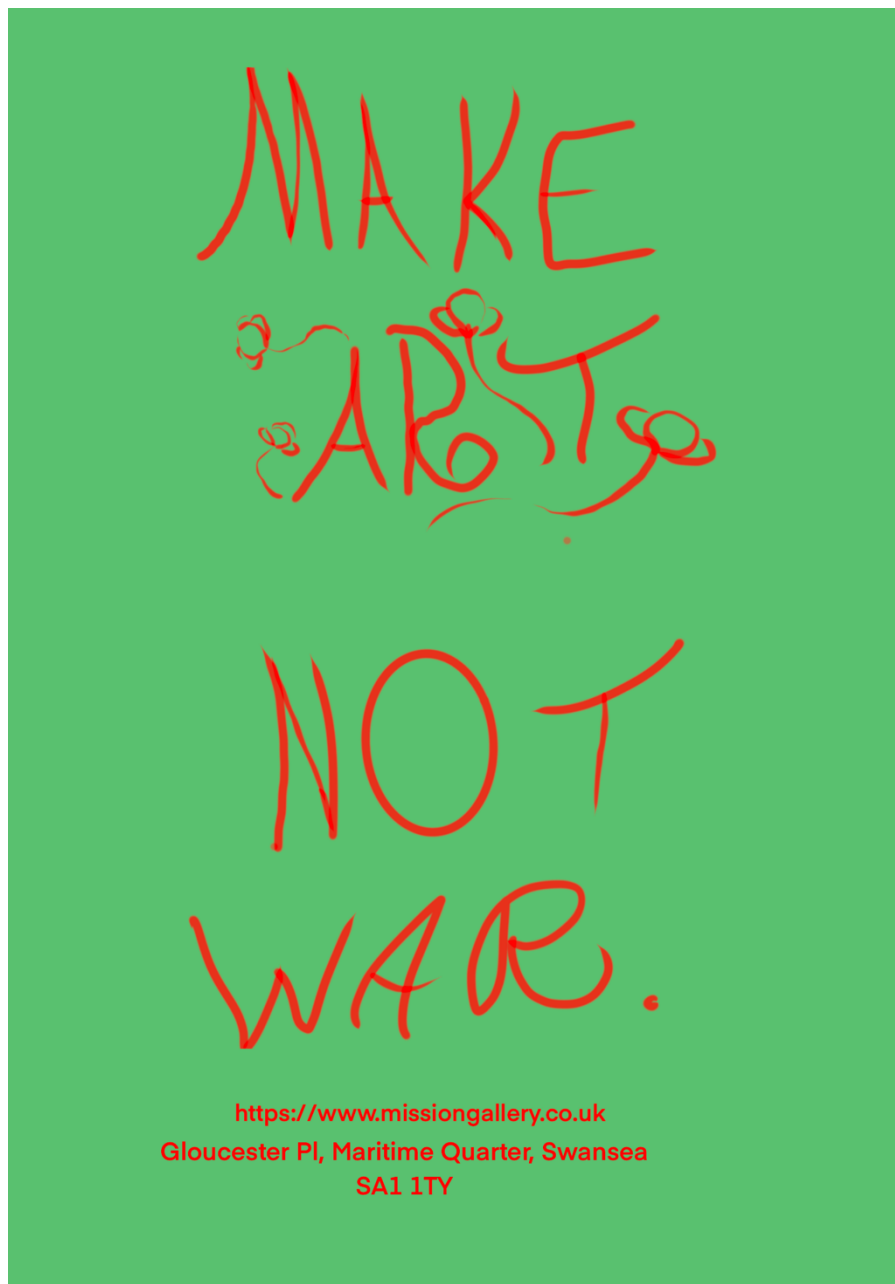


FIGURE 1



Upon entering the gallery, you are greeted by Louis Raemaekers 'To your health, Civilization!' which first appeared in 1920 Dutch newspaper the De Telegraaf, Raemaekers was a well-known cartoonist in his active years, his work was known to be very antiwar and mostly aimed towards the German armed forces. My reason for choosing this as my starting piece is due to its striking nature: the vibrant red that symbolizes the blood attracts the eye of the audience but also disgusts the viewer at the same time; causing them to make their own depiction of the meaning behind this piece.

In the book 'The war cartoons of Louis Raemaekers' there is a segment that speaks about this piece of art describing it as, "one of Raemaekers strongest examples of symbolism, indicting war itself as well as war as waged by the Teutonic allies." (Raemaekers, 1917).

In my opinion I believe this art piece shows how war does nothing, but cause death and chaos and the only victor is death itself.

I think out of the four pieces this is my favourite piece of art, the usage of the colours really makes the art piece pop.

FIGURE 2



After entering the gallery, the left-hand side features this art piece, 'The Plumb-pudding in Danger' which represents William Pitt and Napoleon cutting into the globe which is depicted as plumb pudding. My belief is this symbolises the two-leader's attempting to take a slice of the pie showing the civil unrest between the two nations as the thought to build their empire.

I chose this drawing as of the comedic value behind the theme, the drawing itself contains dark eery undertones for use of line shading but "The Plumb-pudding in danger' is one of Gillray's most famous satires dealing with the Napoleonic wars in the early 19th century." (BritishLibrary, 2021)

This piece has been renowned as one of the artists most noticeable piece's by James Gillray, he is known for his use of the caricature style, he uses over the top features to help create a mental image in the viewers mind. In this piece for example, "Note particularly the exaggeration of Pitt's skinny physique and Napoleon's beak-like nose: comical devices that would have quickly identified the subjects to his audience by appealing to popular conceptions of the two men." (BritishLibrary, 2021)

FIGURE 3



The third piece is titled Gargantua this piece depicts “the corpulent monarch Louis-Philippe seated on a throne, gobbling bags of coins being hauled up a ramp by tiny laborers, the coins having been wrung from the poor of France by his ministers.” (Theartstory, 2021)

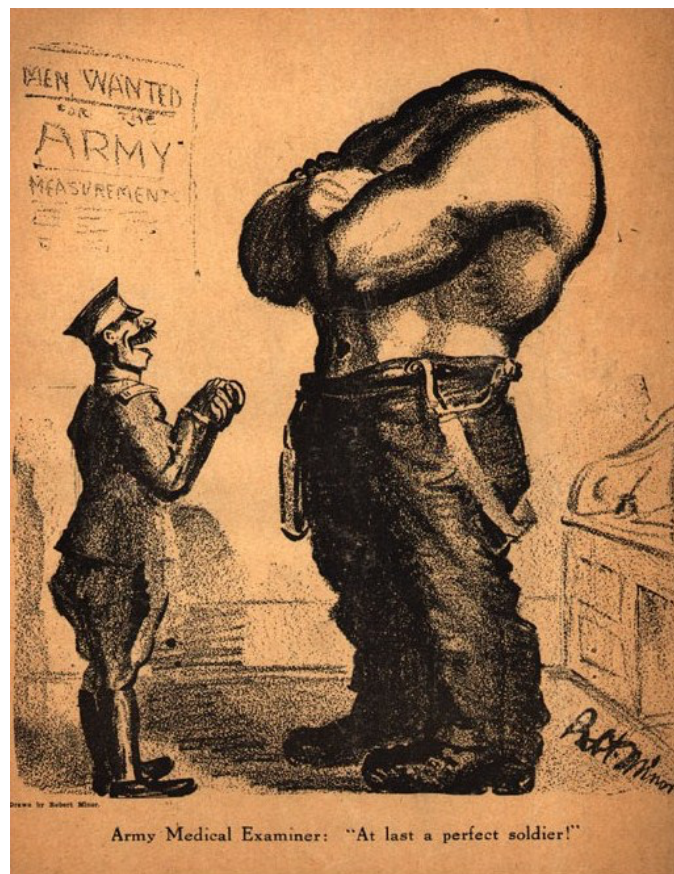
I decided to place this piece directly at the end of the gallery, my reason for this is because of the narrow semi-circle at the end of the building, my idea for this area was to make the viewer feel satisfied with the gallery ending. The ideology was to have the lights off except the one directly over the piece which gives the feel you are one of the workers walking the coins into the dark gruelling mouth of the figure.

The use of lines and cross hatching really gives the piece of art a dark overtone and a feeling of needing to rush. The darkness over the city in the backgrounds shows the blind eye of ‘Louis Philippe’, I also believe the fact he is looking straight forward rather than toward the people, shows civil unrest within the piece.

This piece was considered so controversial at the time ‘While the scathing image was meant to run in the December 16, 1831 publication of La Caricature, the police along with government's censor halted the printing.’ (Theartstory, 2021)

The publisher and artist were both tried in Court in February 1832; each man fined 500 francs plus legal fees and pleaded guilty. All three were sentenced to six months in Sainte-Pélagie prison. (Theartstory, 2021)

FIGURE 4



The final piece is located on the left-hand side of the exit my reason for choosing the location of this piece was to give the viewer one final message before they leave the gallery, the art piece is titled 'At last a perfect soldier' by artist Robert Minor. My reason for choosing this piece is the admitting factor of the character the 'perfect soldier', almost the bouncer effects my hopes is the final it will help encourage them to remember what they had seen.

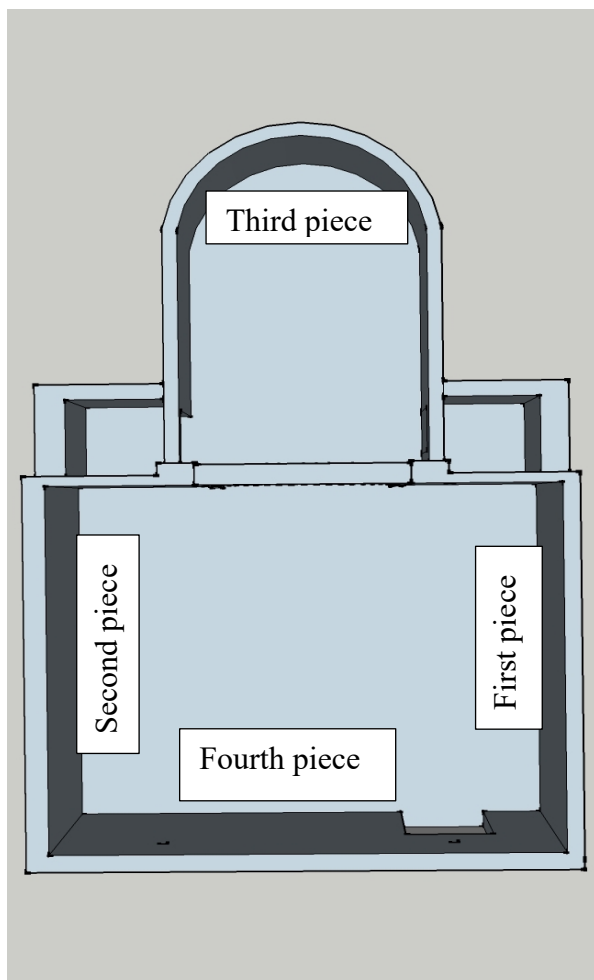
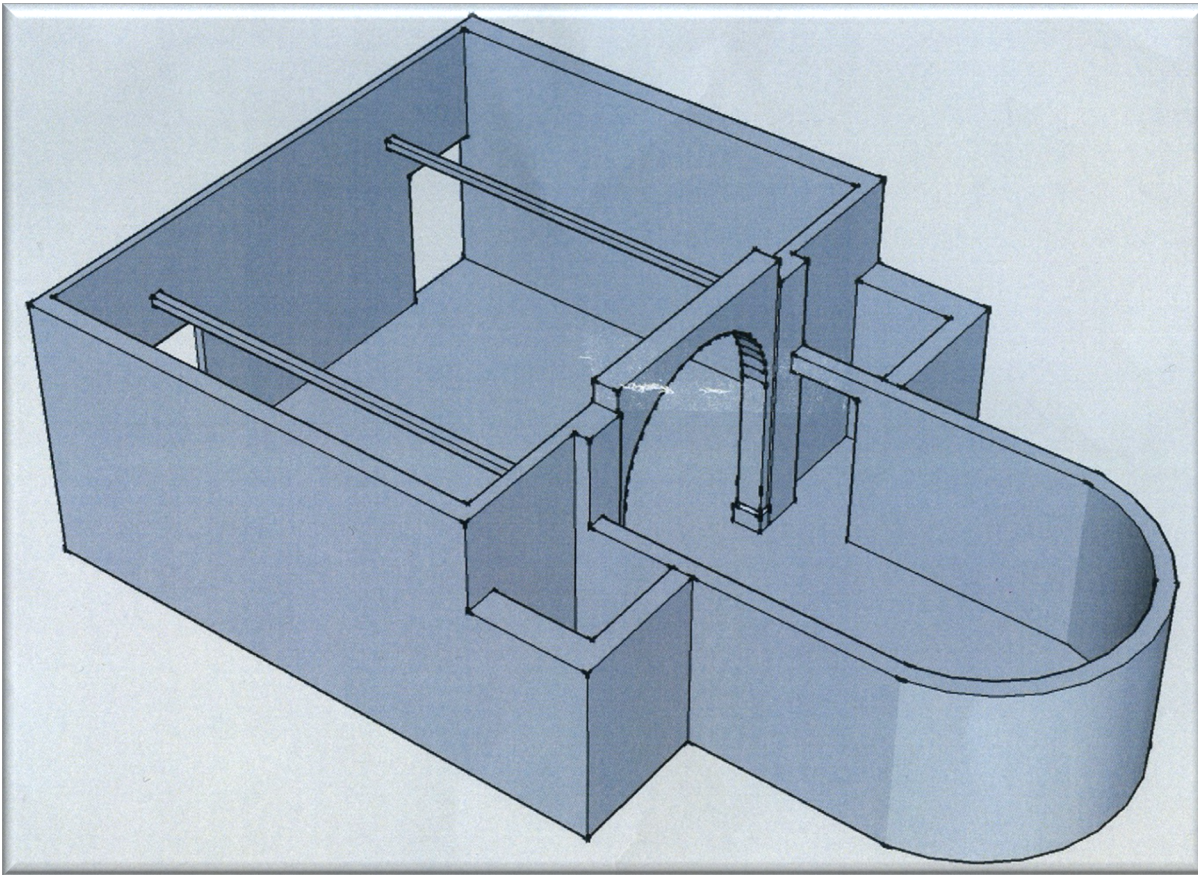
This piece was considered so controversial it ended up leading to the closure of the magazine publisher the masses, 'the US Post Office to stop delivering the magazine, citing a violation of the Espionage Act, resulting in a legal battle and the eventual closure of the publication.' (culture trip, 2021)

I believe this piece perfectly speaks for itself looking at other pieces by the artist he has a very self-explanatory Cartoon style but still carries a powerful message behind them. Theodore's draper renewed American historian was quoted saying,

"A truly gifted and powerful cartoonist, he renounced art for politics... But he could not transfer his genius from art to politics." (SpartacusEducational, 2021)

My reasoning for using this quote is I believe it backs up my whole point of the gallery is to encourage artist to venture down the medium of political art as we have an enate ability to transfer our words into a physical representation and spread to a different audience.

The Mission Gallery



The gallery I have chosen is situated by the marina in Swansea bay, my reason for choosing the 'Mission gallery' is due to the recent surge in 'independence Wales' and just politics being taken more serious in Wales. With recent scenes from neighbouring countries such as Northern Ireland where stress of not being heard and almost forgotten by the U.K has resorted to acts of violence and protest, but I believe using art to express your political views is a better alternative. This is why I feel it is necessary for present and future artist's to use there platform and art, to express their political view. That's why I have used political art within my exhibit.

My gallery is featuring 4 different art pieces by Louis Raemaekers, James Gillrays, Honoré Daumier's Gargantua, Robert Minors.

Conclusion

In conclusion I believe the four art pieces are strong enough to leave an impact on the viewers but as time goes on the art form of political art has slowly started to decrease in the use of newspapers and magazines now only being seen on popular magazines such as the spectator and the New York times. I believe there is a market out there for other styles to help create new exciting pieces, although it may seem like a thing of the past, art really does have the abilities to reach globally.

If I was to rerun this gallery, I think I would have to use more modern artists who may specialise in different types of mediums to express their political views: such as collage and photography. My reason for this is to help encourage the younger generation to speak up in a creative way. I would also like to feature this exhibition in different location which might have a more diverse crowd such as London, Madrid, Paris and Milan.

Bibliography

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FIGURE 2

H, Armitage. (2021) *The 15 Most Influential Political Cartoons Of All Time*. [online] Available at: <<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/articles/the-15-most-influential-political-cartoons-of-all-time/>> (Accessed 29 April 2021)

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H, Armitage. (2021) *The 15 Most Influential Political Cartoons Of All Time*. [online] Available at: <<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/articles/the-15-most-influential-political-cartoons-of-all-time/>> (Accessed 29 April 2021)

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