

Nazi Art: The Visual Arts of Nazi Germany

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Introduction

- ❑ With increasing numbers in the Nazi Party and Adolf Hitler coming into power, visual art propaganda art became an increasingly important and effective tool.
- ❑ This tool was used to create great influence and better maintain their policies and ideologies.
- ❑ Whether the goal was to portray Hitler as a great leader or display their prejudice towards the Jewish people, their message was always clear.
- ❑ This also means that there was a clear audience for that message.
- ❑ The primary methods of presenting the visual propaganda art were posters, photographs, and films.



“The NSDAP is the support of all Germans living in the east.”

Influence on Different Groups

- ❑ As stated previously, the aim of visual propaganda art was typically to influence or control the ideologies of different groups within the German population.
- ❑ The German youth were easily influenced, which made it easy to push the idea of anti-Semitism on them. They were also heavily encouraged to join the Hitler Youth through propaganda.
- ❑ Women were often seen as motherly figures on propaganda, but they eventually took on other roles. With men away at war, women needed to take jobs at factories and farms. Propaganda was used to display this and indicate they were needed.
- ❑ Men, on the other hand, were always presented as being hard at work or as soldiers on propaganda. Their roles in Nazi Germany society never changed but were centered around more militaristic ideologies during the war.
- ❑ Ideologies focused on anti-Semitism were heavily propagated to everyone of Germany.

Types of Visual Arts Used

- ❑ One of the most common formats of visual propaganda art used by the Nazi Party was Posters. They were posted all over Germany, making them quite effective.
- ❑ They were to present an ideology that the German population should either aim to be or agree with. Some examples of common ideologies were anti-Semitism or one's role in society.
- ❑ Photographs were effective in the sense that they could capture something real and could be easily grasped.
- ❑ An example of this was photographs taken of Hitler surrounded by children or soldiers. This was meant to display leader-like characteristics that would be commended by the German population and overall beneficial for a person in Hitler's position.
- ❑ Just like photographs, films could also capture something real.
- ❑ Films like Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*, displayed the large following of the Nazi Party and their great power. Other films typically showed some form of anti-Semitism.



Hitler can be seen here surrounded by a group of children.

Conclusion

- ❑ With the use of mass visual propaganda art, and through various methods, the Nazi Party was able to successfully influence all of Germany and take complete control and power.
- ❑ Its members were able to target all ages and both men and women to further their agenda.
- ❑ They created the sense that everyone had a role to play in Society and in the Nazi Party.

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