



The Intersection of Politics and Art

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ABSTRACT: Throughout history artists and creators have used their work as a means to express their political views and challenge existing power structures. This relationship between art and politics is present in various forms and across different cultures.

Political art can take many forms including paintings, sculptures, music, theater performances and literature. It aims to convey a political message whether it is to support a cause, resist oppression or criticize those in power.

By responding to current events and political issues art becomes more than just an aesthetic expression. It becomes a powerful tool for social commentary and a means of initiating change. Political art often sparks controversy as it provokes conversations and challenges established norms.

One example of this is the R.K. Laxman, an Indian cartoonist is famous for creating "The Common Man" character and his daily cartoon strip "You Said It" in The Times of India. He started his career as a part-time cartoonist and later became a political cartoonist for The Free Press Journal before joining The Times of India. The Common Man character became a turning point in his life.

The arts have consistently played a role in shaping and influencing political landscapes throughout history. They have the ability to inspire discourse, raise awareness and ultimately contribute to social and political change.

KEYWORDS: Activism, Corruption, Democracy, Identity, Resistance.

I. INTRODUCTION

A political art is an artwork that contains a political message, working or resistance. It can be created in the form of a painting or performed as a song. A strong relationship between the arts and politics, particularly between various kinds of art

and power, occurs across historical epochs and cultures. As they respond to contemporaneous events and politics, the arts take on political as well as social dimensions, thereby becoming themselves a focus of controversy and even a force of political as well as social change. A widespread observation is that a great talent has a free spirit. An artwork with a political message, statement, or act of resistance is referred to as political art. It might be produced as a song or in the form of a painting. A close connection between politics and the arts, especially occurs across historical eras and cultural boundaries between diverse forms of art and power. The arts acquire political and social dimensions as they react to current affairs and politics, making them the subject of debate and even a driving force behind political and social change. A common perception is that someone with exceptional talent has a free spirit. The role of a political artist is to understand and express different points of view of the social and political scenario, through art.

II. FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL ART:

The role of a Political artist is to understand and express different points of view of the social and political scenario, through art.

Political art has four main purposes: social and political commentary, propaganda, protest, and satire.

2.1 Social and Political commentary: In order to help the average person grasp the present political and social difficulties, the artist attempts to express concerns about particular social and political topics.

2.2 Propaganda: These artists are occasionally also employed to spread a message in support of or opposition to the government. It is known as propaganda.

2.3 Protest: Rejection of political decisions or acts is another purpose of Political art. In this manner, art serves as an instrument for protest.



2.4 Satire: In this type of art, the creator shows off his sense of humor and uses humor to depict a serious political incident and raise public awareness.

III. POLITICAL ART FORMS:

Depending on the artist's intention, the medium employed, and the message they're trying to portray, political art can take many different shapes. Here are a few instances of popular political art:

3.1 Public art

In recent years, street art has developed into a significant type of political art, with artists painting murals and installing works on public structures. These pieces frequently feature a political message that addresses topics like climate change, gun violence, and gender equality.

3.2 Ads for candidates

Political movements and events have long been promoted with the use of political posters. They frequently use strong, attention-grabbing imagery and phrases that encourage viewers to act. It's all good.

3.3 Sculpture

Another well-liked genre of political art that can be found in public places, museums, and galleries is sculpture. These pieces frequently serve as a reflection of the artist's political beliefs, employing materials like metal and wood to produce potent pictures.

3.4 Performance art

Live performances are used to deliver political messages in performance art, a type of political art. It can be observed in a range of settings, including theater, dance, and music.

IV. POLITICAL ART THEMES:

Depending on the intention of the creator and the political atmosphere of the moment, political art can cover a wide range of issues. Here are a few political art's recurring topics.

4.1 Social justice



figure4.1: Social justice

Political art frequently features the idea of social justice. It frequently emphasizes problems like poverty, inequality, racism, and discrimination.

4.2 Environmental activism



figure4.2: Environmental activism

In recent years, political art has increasingly incorporated environmental issues. Many artists are raising awareness of problems like climate change, pollution, and deforestation through their work.

4.3 Abuse of authority and political corruption.



Figure 4.3: Abuse of authority and political corruption

For ages, artists have addressed the themes of political corruption and power abuse. This kind of art frequently focuses on subjects like politics.

4.4 War and Violence



figure 4.4: War and Violence



Political art has a long history of delving into the themes of war and violence with artists through the ages using their creative protest against the atrocities of conflict and the destructive consequences of militarism. This makes it an avenue for these artists to express their political beliefs and spark meaningful conversations within society.

V. THERE ARE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF POLITICAL ART.

Some view it as a potent tool for raising awareness and shedding light on social injustices that need urgent attention. It serves as a platform for marginalized voices to be heard and for the grievances of the oppressed to be given credence. Others however see political art as a form of propaganda whose intrinsic purpose is to enforce and propagate specific political ideologies. While these opinions have validity the overarching role of political art transcends any singular interpretation; its purpose is to explore and examine the complexities of political issues fostering constructive dialogue among viewers.

VI. INDIAN ARTISTS PUSHING BOUNDARIES WITH THEIR POLITICAL ART

These Indian artists are boldly challenging the status quo utilizing their artistic proficiency to voice their concerns and critique the political landscape. Through their unique artistic expressions they push boundaries, sparking conversations and encouraging society to reflect on important political issues. Their works contribute to an ongoing dialogue about political power, responsibility and accountability captivating audiences and urging them to question the norm. By fearlessly exploring the complexities of the political realm these artists present a fresh perspective allowing us to see and understand Indian politics in a new light.

6.1 R.K. Laxman-Anti-Hindi Agitation of Tamil Nadu in 1960s

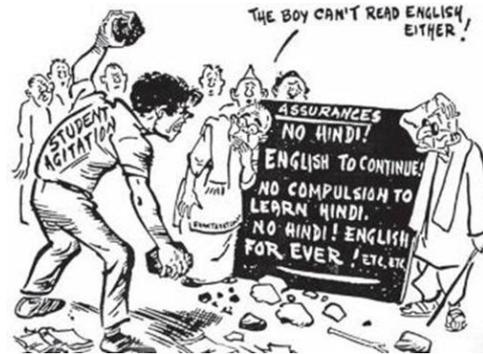


figure 6.1:R.K. Laxman-Anti-Hindi Agitation of Tamil Nadu in 1960s

"The Common Man" character, created by RK Laxman, was well-known for portraying the problems of a common guy in his comic strips. The newspaper "Times of India" featured the majority of his portrayals of everyday people. Along with illustrating the problems that the average person faces, he also sketched portraits of well-known people. If you've read "The Malgudi Days" by RK Narayanan, you've probably noticed the illustration by RK Laxman on the front page. Tamil Nadu was shaken by anti-Hindi agitations in the 1960s, which led to the police shooting and killing a number of unarmed residents. The DMK, a significant political force in Tamil Nadu, is alleged to have benefited from these violent agitations in order to gain power.

6.2 Sushant Deorukhkar - Standing up as a Watchman



Figure 6.2: Sushant Deorukhkar Standing up as a Watchman

Renowned for his mesmerizing surreal portraits of prominent figures and celebrities Sushant Deorukhkar fearlessly confronts hypocrisy when he deems it necessary. Alongside his passion



of presenting Alia Bhatt and Diljit Dosanjh with their striking portraits he also delves into satirical artwork that highlights the current government's handling of affairs such as his thought-provoking piece featuring the term "chowkidar."

6.3 Nala Ponnappa - Unraveling the Code

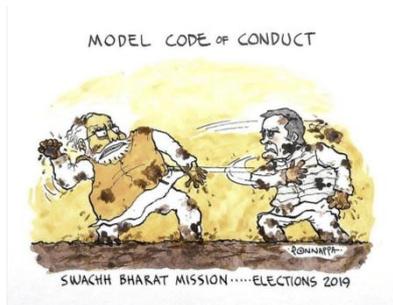


Figure 6.3 :Nala Ponnappa - Unraveling the Code

A seasoned political cartoonist Nala Ponnappa entralls with his brilliant creations. Day after day he skillfully delivers sharp-witted insights into the realm of politics through his thought-provoking cartoons. In his latest masterpiece Ponnappa sheds light on the flagrant lack of respect displayed by rival politicians towards the Model Code of Conduct skillfully capturing the ensuing chaos and disorder that often follows.

6.4 Appupen:- Thugs of hindustan

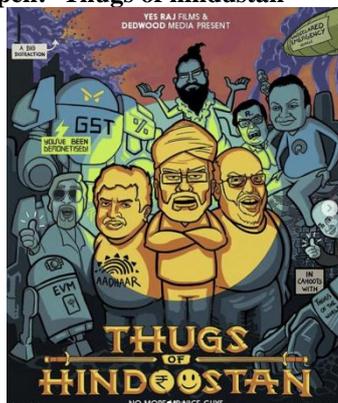


Figure 6.4: Appupen:- Thugs of hindustan

Appupen is a comics creator, visual artist and musician who uses his darkly vivid art to tell satirical stories. His comic style is sharp and imaginative and never fails to drive the point home. The above piece, done in collaboration with Rahul Chacko, cleverly uses the movie poster reference to shed light on the usual suspects of our sketchy political system.

6.5 Mean curry :- The Republic



Figure 6.5: Mean curry :- The Republic

Mean Curry also known as Sabari Venu is a talented and quirky comic artist who has gained recognition for his unique style and sense of humor. Among his impressive collection of comics one piece stands out in particular- a hilarious take on the well-known Arnab Goswami brand of journalism. This comic which can be found on his personal account cleverly captures the essence of Goswami's style and adds a comedic twist to it. In addition to his comics Mean Curry has also shared a fascinating video on the Forest Right Act. This act is an important legislative measure that aims to protect the rights of forest-dwelling communities. Mean Curry's video sheds light on the subject in a captivating and informative way. It is evident that Mean Curry's work is not only entertaining but also carries a significant social and political message.

VII. CONCLUSION

Political art has a rich history spanning centuries and its influence remains palpable in present-day society. This form of artistic expression provides a platform for creators to showcase their innovative ideas while simultaneously communicating their political ideologies and motivating socio-political transformation. Political art covers a diverse range of mediums and tackles an extensive array of themes. Irrespective of its manifestation the primary objective of political art remains consistent - to action and stimulate contemplation regarding contemporaneous social and political matters.

Over the years political art has served as a catalyst for change encouraging individuals to question the status quo and inspiring them to take a stand against injustice. By transcending traditional boundaries and employing various artistic techniques this genre of art compels audiences to engage in critical dialogue and reflect on the problematic issues plaguing society. Through its thought-provoking visual imagery, bold statements



and powerful symbolism, political art amplifies marginalized voices and brings attention to underlying power dynamics.

Furthermore political art challenges conventional norms and conventions dissecting intricate aspects of governance, social inequality, human rights and much more. It sparks conversations triggering profound emotional responses and igniting a sense of urgency to address the pressing problems confronting humanity. By spurring action and stimulating awareness political art acts as a vessel for change fostering a collective consciousness and inspiring individuals to strive towards a more just and equitable world.

In conclusion political art has stood the test of time leaving an indelible mark on society. This profound form of expression transcends boundaries, empowering individuals to challenge the status quo and advocate for necessary transformation. Through its evocative messages and captivating aesthetics, political art implores observers to reflect on the pressing socio-political issues of our time and empowers them to take a proactive role in shaping a better future.

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