

Justifying Injustice: How Caricatured Depictions Of African Americans Impacted Worldwide Perception

Jaida Noble

Arts, Media, and Culture

Dr. Deirdre Raynor

University of Washington Tacoma

How have Black caricatures been used as propaganda throughout history, and how have (African American) artists challenged and reclaimed this racist imagery?

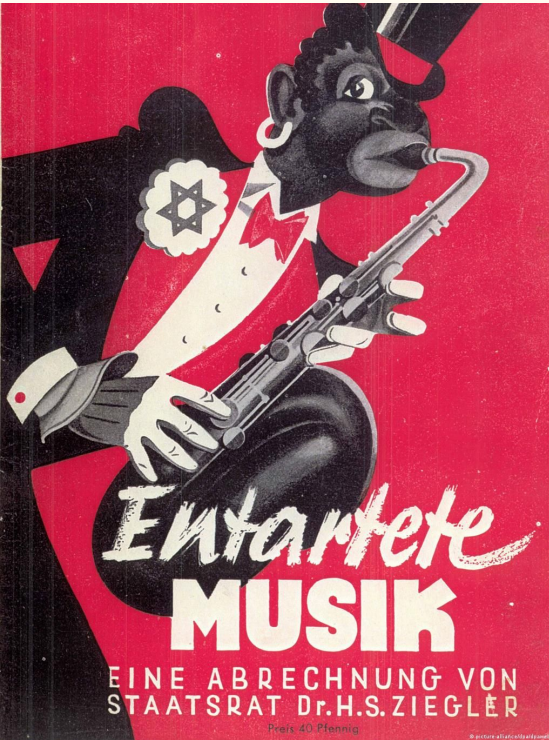
Art Affects Culture

- Normalizes a certain perception
 - Can influence treatment and freedoms with the enforcement of unjust policies
 - Ex. Jim Crow caricature v. Jim Crow laws



Black Caricature is Not Fixed to the United States

Degenerate Music Poster (Germany)



Golliwog Caricature in 1961 Ad (U.K.)



Mammy Caricature (Germany)



PENOFSKY'S ICONOGRAPHICAL FRAMEWORK



The Vampire That Hovers Over North Carolina.

- Representational meaning- denotation
 - Vampire
 - Fusion Ballot Box
 - Black Man

- Iconographical symbolism- connotation
 - Tiny People= powerless/weak

- Iconological symbolism- connotation w/ context
 - Fusion Ballot Box= Blacks are infiltrating the government with unfair political tactics





“Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.”
-Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

