

## Nazi theory and its role in art

### Task one: Outline e theory of Nazism

#### **What is Nazism?**

Nazism is an ideology of principles and practices of Nazis, (1) The National socialist German Workers party who were under the control of Adolf Hitler during 1933 to 1945. Hitler has developed a sense of a strong message to the people of German as it had developed racist nationalism, control of the economy in each states and national expansion and change of policy, because Hitler has got through to people with his messages by a strong devotion of art and manipulating people as he used art of propaganda to express its Nazi German beliefs. However he was ruthless which kept him in power and many art works were developed and created within the Nazi reign in Germany. Nazi beliefs was that the nation is more important than the people in it and that their will only be one leader which is Adolf Hitler. Under his control German people were to work for him, children were taught to put their nation first and that they were the 'master race' which mean that all other races were inferior because they prefer the Germans to have blonde hair, blue eyes wanting an example of the superiority the Aryan Race which is a ideal way of life for them. Nazism basic beliefs are to believe that Nazi German people were to relate to values around hard work, family, militarism, strong leadership, gender roles, linked to ancient societies and ant-Semitism which are shown or expressed by art work such as the Aryan figure. **The Aryan Figure is expressed in artwork for Nazi Germany to believe that all German peoples should have blonde hair and blue eyes which is a powerful races. This is one of the Nazi belief structures in Nazi artwork.** Another is family which is expressed by the theme of the family which portrays a happy family and happier lifestyle with kids looking innocent. This is what Nazi societies wants for the people of Germany to believe. Therefore using these 8 themes of Nazi artworks structured the Nazi beliefs. However as for the Jewish people and the communists are enemies of the Nazis. Hitler was in control of Germany as a dictator therefore he had develop a change in culture by building and adding other things such as creating a sense of purpose and community, clear role models for people to learn from, reward people who obeyed and punish those who did not and also controlling education and information.

#### **Themes in Nazi Art:**

##### ***The Aryan Figure***

The Aryan Race was part of the Nazi ideology as the Nazis believed that Germans were the Master Race which is their point of view that there is a race with its own rights and duty to lead other races. The Aryan Figure has shown that only people with blue eyes and blonde haired were the most powerful races in the world and from this had developed the sense of art of the Aryan Figure as males were displayed on art work of sculptures, males who are in control;, classless, noble, no shame etc. however also shows the godlike and the strength and power. German men opposed to the demolition of life in the city where there isn't a life for Germany because that is how Hitler saw things and was portrayed in art works and spread across the nation.

##### ***The Family***

The theme of the family had been advertised by using artworks to show the German family. As this picture shows a loving family together with blonde hair and blue eyes as it was showing or used as a role model to unify Germans. However this picture also shows an ideal

of a mother and a father and three children happy to be living in a ideal society. It shows the lifestyle of both mother and father

### **The Fuhrer**

#### **“Der Fuhrer by Heinrich Knirr, 1937 (a painting of Adolf Hitler- Dictator).**



The painter Heinrich Knirr has been painting images of Hitler and this painting is one of the famous Hitler painting in history known as the ‘Der Fuhrer’ however Hitler knew that his image is important and that painting and photography of him are only allowed to be released if he personally approves it, therefore artists were scared to paint Hitler because one mistake could cause their life’s. This painting of Hitler falls under the theme of Fuhrer art as it is only a portrait of Adolf Hitler. However he is a strong supporter of Nazi art such as painting and architecture. He believe that modern “degenerate” art was out of the picture however he encouraged “proper” art by building the Munich known as the House of German Art to display special painting.

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Paintings were mainly of military scenes and portraits of the Fuhrer wearing military dress and the brown Nazi jacket showing that he strongly was a Nazi German. This was a strong and simple message to the society of Germany and portrayed the ideal of Hitler wanting to gain victory for the German society. Hitler painting shows that he’s the leader and a dictator who stands up and speaks on behalf of the people of Germany. He also believes a leader’s role is to act selfish and ruthlessly. Hitler wants to be painted looking thoughtful by staring into the distance portraying that he is thinking about future plans for Germany and he will gain back the control and power of Germany. Hitler painting never shows him seated because it shows a sign of weakness, however he is also painted full length to show his role of being a dictator. Most of Hitler painting isn’t painted at home or personal areas because Hitler prefers to be painted standing in front of a background like a landscape to show he is a powerful leader with the world at his feet. Other painting of Hitler such as “Leader and Commander in Chief of the Army” by Conrad Hommele 1940, shows the same pose with a bunker beneath his feet which also shows an innocent background,

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Hitler painting is linked to the policy and ideas of the Nazis because the national is more important than any one person, Hitler used his message of art to get his message to the people and that what the painter Heinrich Knirr did by painting Hitler helped him gain control and keep being Fuhrer of Germany. There are two sources that will back up the importance of Fuhrer art for example “Der Bannertrager “(the standard bearer) by Hubert Lanzinger, c 1935, which depicts Hitler as a messianic figure staring towards a better Germany also with the Nazi flag billowing behind him. Heinrich Hoffmann Lanzinger is the artists and was first displayed at the Great German Art Exhibition in Munich in 1937. This piece of art work shows that Hitler was planning the future for the Nazi German for being control and powerful. However other source related to the Fuhrer are The Leader and Commander in Chief by Conrad Hommel in 1940. He had painted Hitler in the pose of the Feldherr as Commander in chief and a world map at his feet and also the bunker in the background which expresses that he is innocent and has control over the world and that is what Hitler wants in all his art work drawn around him. By all these artworks it’s important to have Hitler as the main focus because he is the leader and everything goes his way or there will be consequences,

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