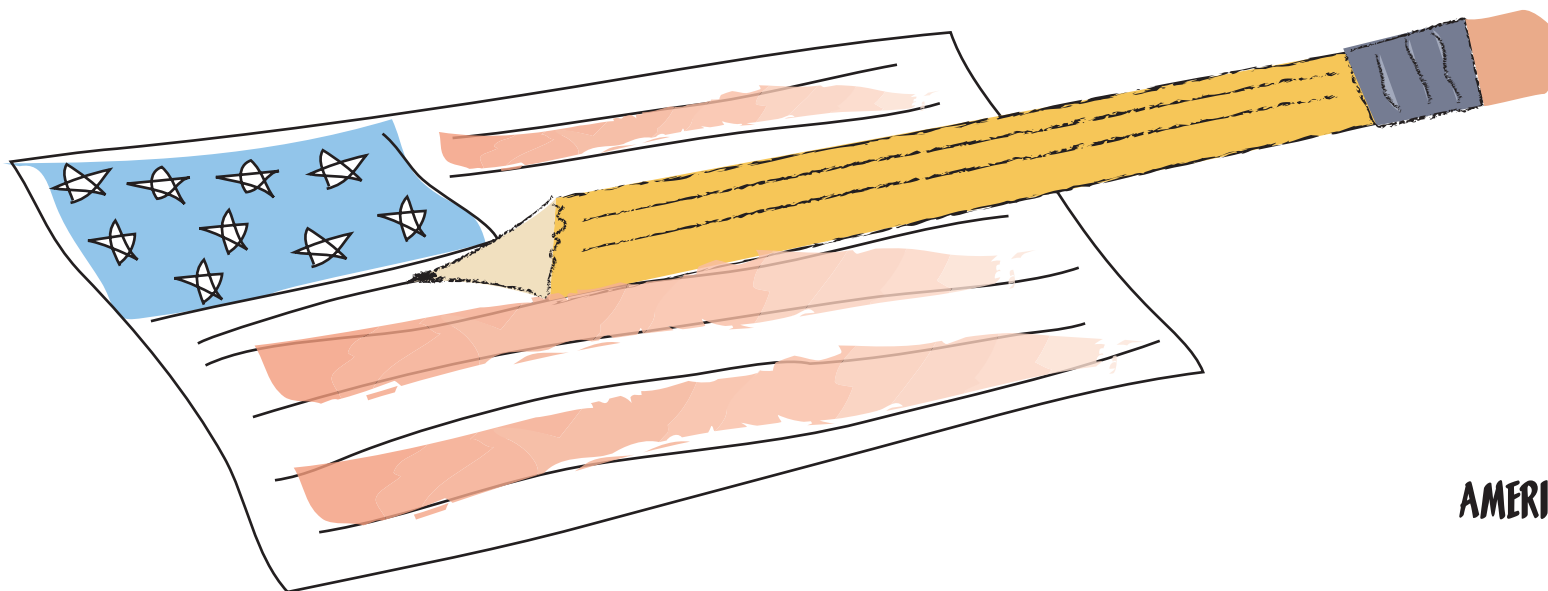


THE POWER OF THE PENCIL

A SELF-GUIDED EXERCISE ON AMERICAN ILLUSTRATORS & THEIR WORK



ANH-THU CUNNION
AMERICAN TREASURES GALLERY
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
JULY 17, 2003



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

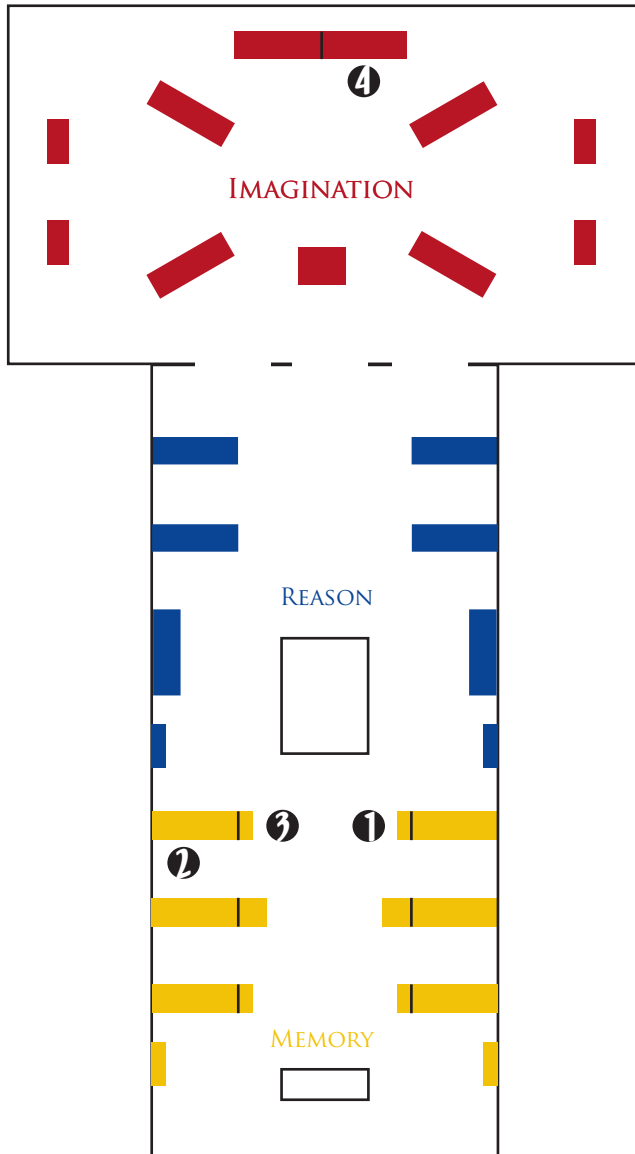
Before we begin to look at the illustrations, please find a bench just outside of the gallery and take a seat. It's important to understand a little bit about your views and habits in order to get the most of this exercise. With the pencil you were given, take a couple of minutes to answer the questions below. Once you are done we can begin our exploration of American illustrators!

1. Do you like to draw? Why do you draw?
2. Do you like to read cartoons? Do you ever notice the illustrations in magazines?
3. What are the most important qualities of an illustration or cartoon?
4. How do illustrations and cartoons entertain their audience?



**KEEP THE PENCIL AS A SOUVENIR
OF YOUR VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS!**

WHILE YOU'RE IN THE GALLERY



Now that we've taken a survey of what cartoons and illustrations mean to you before you came to this exhibit, it's time to begin. Let me give you a "sketch" of what where we will be going inside the gallery.

- 1 First, we will go to the "Memory" section of the American Treasures Gallery and look at a cartoon drawn by Bill Mauldin, called "By th' way, what's that big word?"
- 2 Second, we will cross to the other side of the gallery, to an illustration done by Blanche Grambs, titled "No Work." It is in the "Depression" exhibit case.
- 3 Third, we will go to the end of the "Depression" exhibit case and examine the works of Norman Rockwell. There are four different illustrations, all part of a series called "OURS... The Four Freedoms." Please choose one to do use during your activities.
- 4 Lastly, we will walk all the way to the back of the exhibition, to the "Imagination" section. Against the far wall, there is a case labeled "Recent Acquisitions." In that case, there are a series of four Edmund Valtman cartoons. Again, please choose one to use during this exercise.

If you feel you will get lost inside the gallery, please feel free to take this map out of the binder so that it will be more accessible to you while you are here.

Ready? Let's go to the first cartoon...

“ART IS THE DESIRE OF A MAN TO EXPRESS HIMSELF, TO RECORD THE REACTIONS OF HIS PERSONALITY TO THE WORLD HE LIVES IN.”

- AMY LOWELL, POET (1874 - 1925)

Welcome to the American Treasures Gallery at the Library of Congress. Today we are going to study the works of four American illustrators who spent their lifetime recording the world as they saw it. These artists shared their observations with a wide public through magazines, comic strips advertising and public art programs. Through their work, these men and women have preserved a unique and personal glimpse into the period of history in which they lived. Therefore, it is important to know the historical events that shaped these artists' voices in order to fully appreciate their talent. During this exercise we will study each illustration, concentrating on the historical conditions which they portray. Then, you can determine for yourself if the illustrations you've studied can be described as "art."

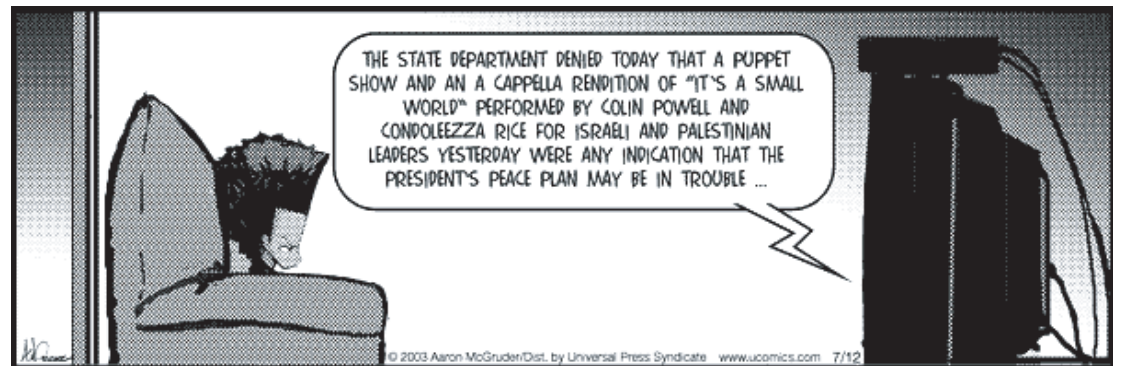
WHAT IS ART?



**SANDRO BOTTICELLI
MAGNIFICAT MADONNA**



**ANDY WARHOL
CAMPBELL'S SOUP CAN**



**AARON MAGRUDER
BOONDOCKS**



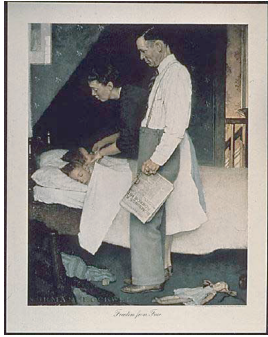
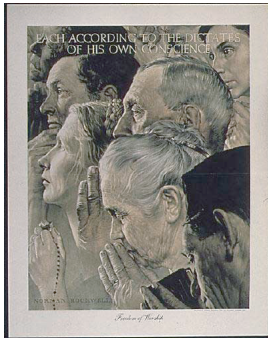
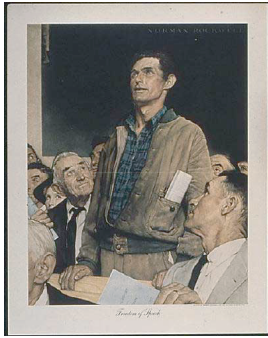
BILL MAULDIN'S "BY TH' WAY, WHAT'S THAT BIG WORD?"

While you are looking at this cartoon, please keep the questions below in mind. Space has been provided for you to take notes or record any thoughts you have while you are here.

1. When was it drawn? What was going on in America at that time?
2. Where was it published?
3. What feelings, impressions come to mind as you are looking at it? What is its tone?
4. What message do you think it is trying to convey?

NOTES:

WHEN YOU ARE DONE, PLEASE CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HALL AND FIND THE NEXT ILLUSTRATION.



NORMAN ROCKWELL'S "FOUR FREEDOMS"

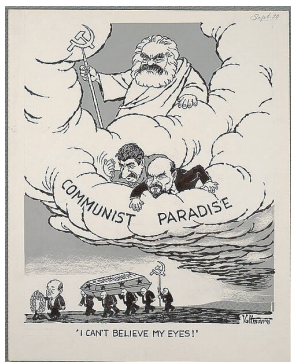
Please choose one illustration to answer the questions below.

Illustration:

1. When was it drawn? What was going on in America at that time?
2. Where was it published?
3. What feelings, impressions come to mind as you are looking at it? What is its tone?
4. What message do you think it is trying to convey?

NOTES:

WHEN YOU ARE DONE, PLEASE GO TO THE "IMAGINATION" SECTION IN THE FAR BACK OF THE GALLERY.



EDMUND VALTMAN'S CARTOONS

Please choose one cartoon to answer the questions below.

Cartoon:

1. When was it drawn? What was going on in the world at that time?
2. How did that affect the American people?
2. Where was it published?
3. What feelings, impressions come to mind as you are looking at it? What is its tone?
4. What message do you think it is trying to convey?



NOTES:

WHEN YOU ARE DONE, PLEASE GO BACK OUTSIDE TO THE BENCHES IN THE HALL AND FINISH YOUR EXERCISE.

"ART IS THE DESIRE OF A MAN TO EXPRESS HIMSELF, TO RECORD THE REACTIONS OF HIS PERSONALITY TO THE WORLD HE LIVES IN."

- AMY LOWELL, POET (1874 - 1925)

Now that you've had a chance to study the four illustrations, let's revisit the definition of art that we discussed at the beginning of this exercise. Using the information you gathered on the previous worksheet, determine whether or not you think the four illustrations could be considered art. Explain why or why not.

1



Is it art? yes no

Explain: _____

2



Is it art? yes no

Explain: _____

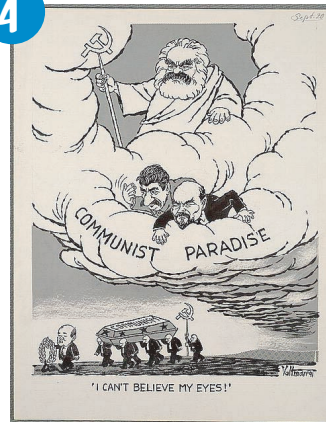
3



Is it art? yes no

Explain: _____

4



Is it art? yes no

Explain: _____



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS: WHAT KIND OF STATEMENT CAN AN ILLUSTRATOR MAKE?

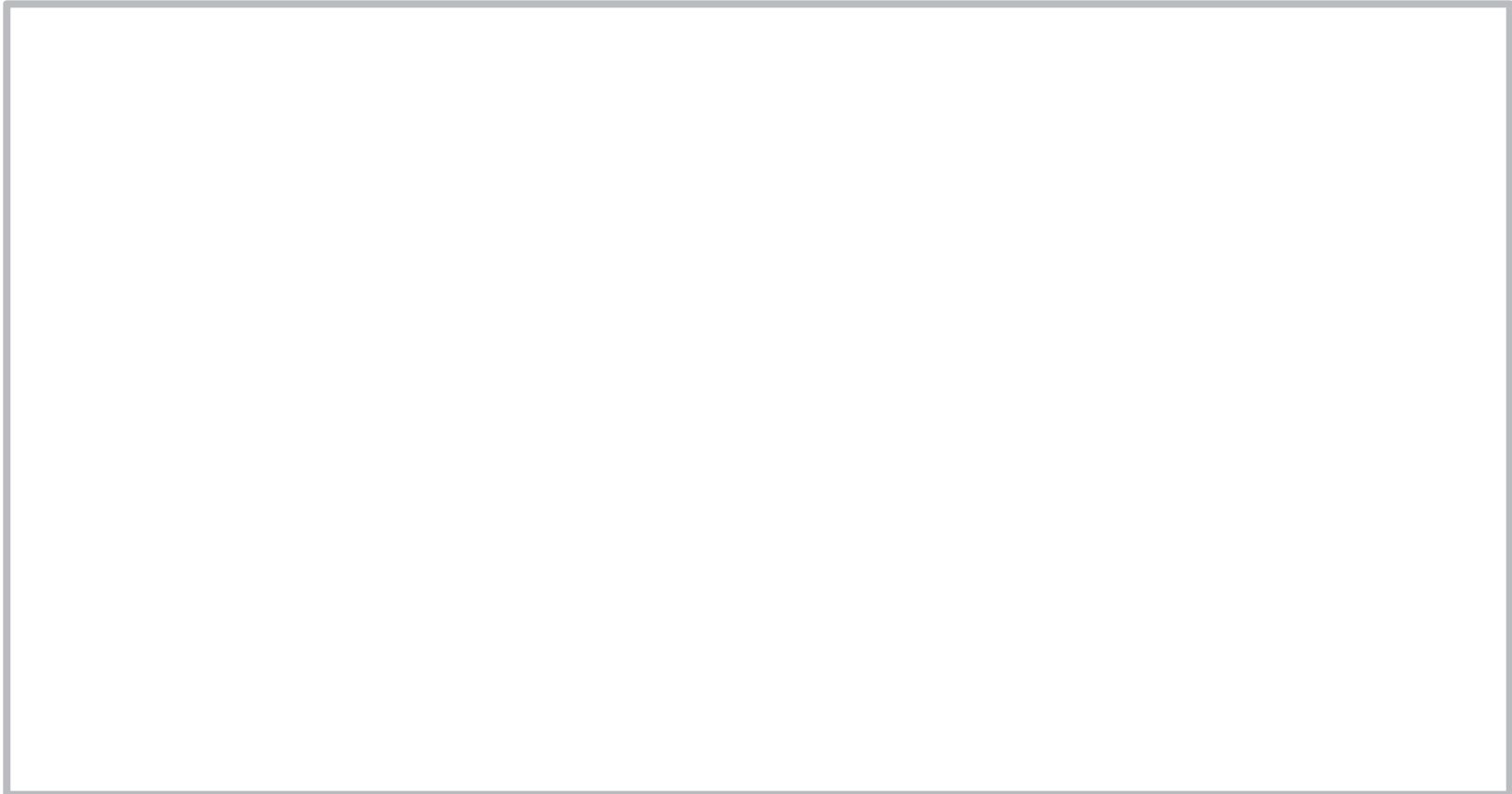
Now that you've studied four examples of illustration, complete the table below.
Feel free to refer back to your notes.

| | When was it first published? Where was it published? Magazine? Newspaper? Book? | Do you think it makes a statement about the existing social climate? | Do you think it makes a statement about the existing economic climate? | Do you think it makes a statement about the existing political climate? | Do you think it makes a statement about the existing religious climate? | Is it aesthetic? |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|------------------|
| “By the’ way, what’s that big word?” by Bill Maudlin | | | | | | |
| “No Work” by Blanche Gramb | | | | | | |
| Your choice: One of Rockwell’s “Four Freedoms” magazine covers _____ | | | | | | |
| Your choice: One of Edmund Valdin’s cartoons _____ | | | | | | |



WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU?

Now it's your turn to illustrate the world you live in. Using the pencil provided, draw an illustration/cartoon that reflects the social, economical, political and/or religious climate of the world around you. Don't forget to have fun with this exercise, you don't have to be Michaelangelo to be a good illustrator!



"WITHOUT THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT IT IN SPECIFIC TERMS, I WAS SHOWING THE AMERICA I KNEW AND OBSERVED TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED."

- NORMAN ROCKWELL

GETTING TO THE "POINT"...

Please help me by taking the time to answer these last few questions. Your input is valuable to me and I am grateful for it. Have a great weekend!

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being the least favorable), please rate your feeling towards the following:

Length of exercise: _____

Sense of purpose: _____

Clarity of instructions: _____

Usefulness of DRS: _____

Choice of objects: _____

Design of lesson: _____

Overall enjoyment: _____

2. Is there anything you would change about this lesson?

3. What do you think I should keep? What part did you enjoy the most?

4. Any other suggestions? Comments?



NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Now that you've looked at all the illustrations that have been selected for this exercise, let's take another look at the questions I first asked you at the beginning.

1. Do you like to draw? Why do you draw?
2. Do you like to read cartoons? Do you ever notice the illustrations in magazines?
3. What are the most important qualities of an illustration or cartoon?
4. How do illustrations and cartoons entertain their audience?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT IN COMPLETING THIS EXERCISE. I HOPE YOU HAD FUN!