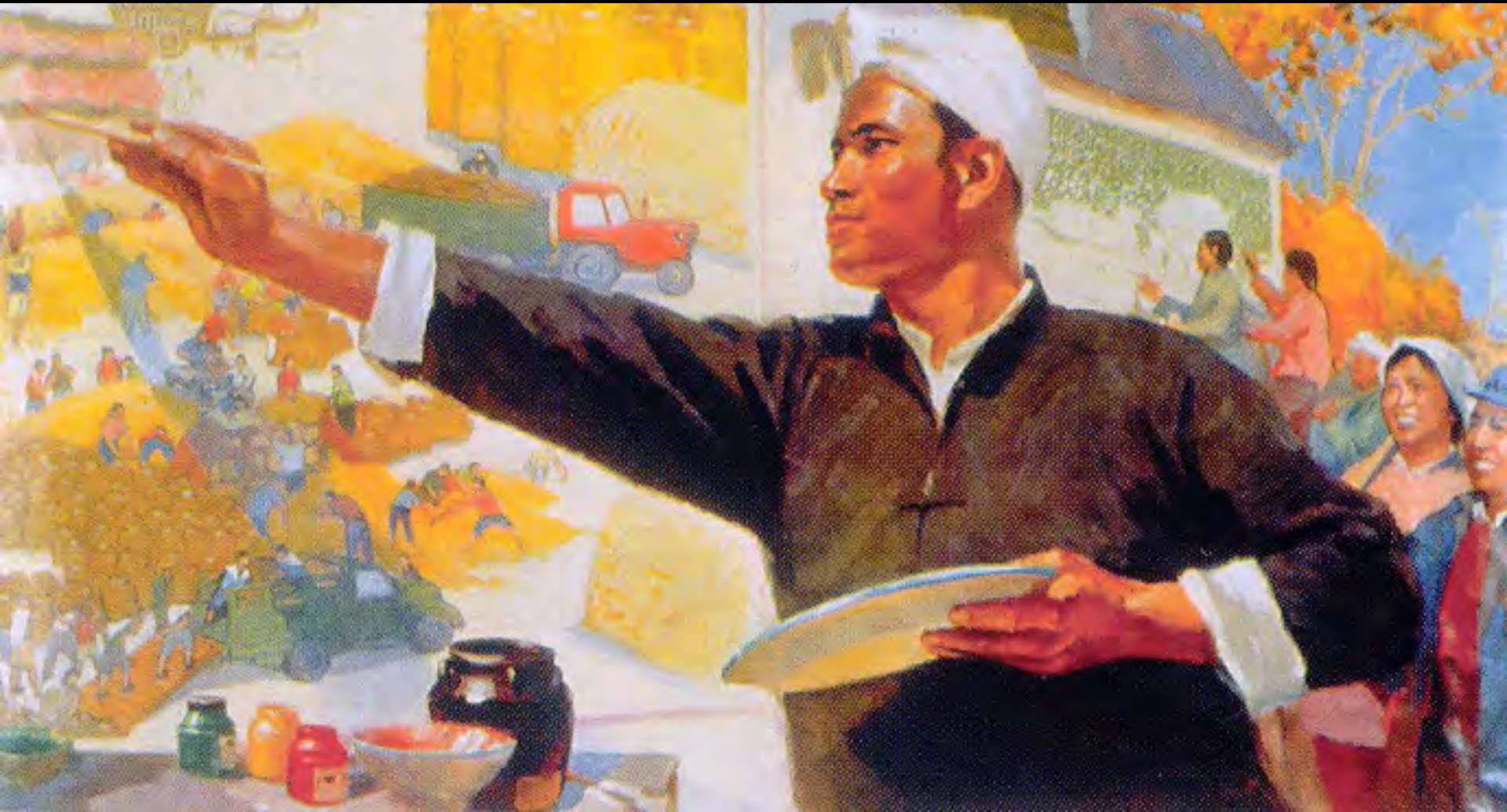




## Part 2: Cogs and Wheels: Socialist Realism and Political Art

What is the purpose of art?



“In the world today all culture, all literature and art belong to definite classes and are geared to definite political lines. There is in fact no such thing as art for art's sake, art that stands above classes, art that is detached from or independent of politics. Proletarian literature and art are part of the whole proletarian revolutionary cause; they are, as Lenin said, **cogs and wheels** in the whole revolutionary machine.”

*Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art (1942)*



May 1942, Yan'an. CPC Central Committee Forum on Literature and Art.



# *Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art* (1942)

“In the world today all culture, all literature and art belong to definite classes and are geared to definite political lines. There is in fact no such thing as art for art's sake, art that stands above classes, art that is detached from or independent of politics. Proletarian literature and art are part of the whole proletarian revolutionary cause; they are, as Lenin said, **cogs and wheels** in the whole revolutionary machine.”



**What is the purpose of art?**





“Fine art works should be like sunshine from blue sky and breeze in spring that will inspire minds, warm hearts, cultivate taste and clean up undesirable work styles.”



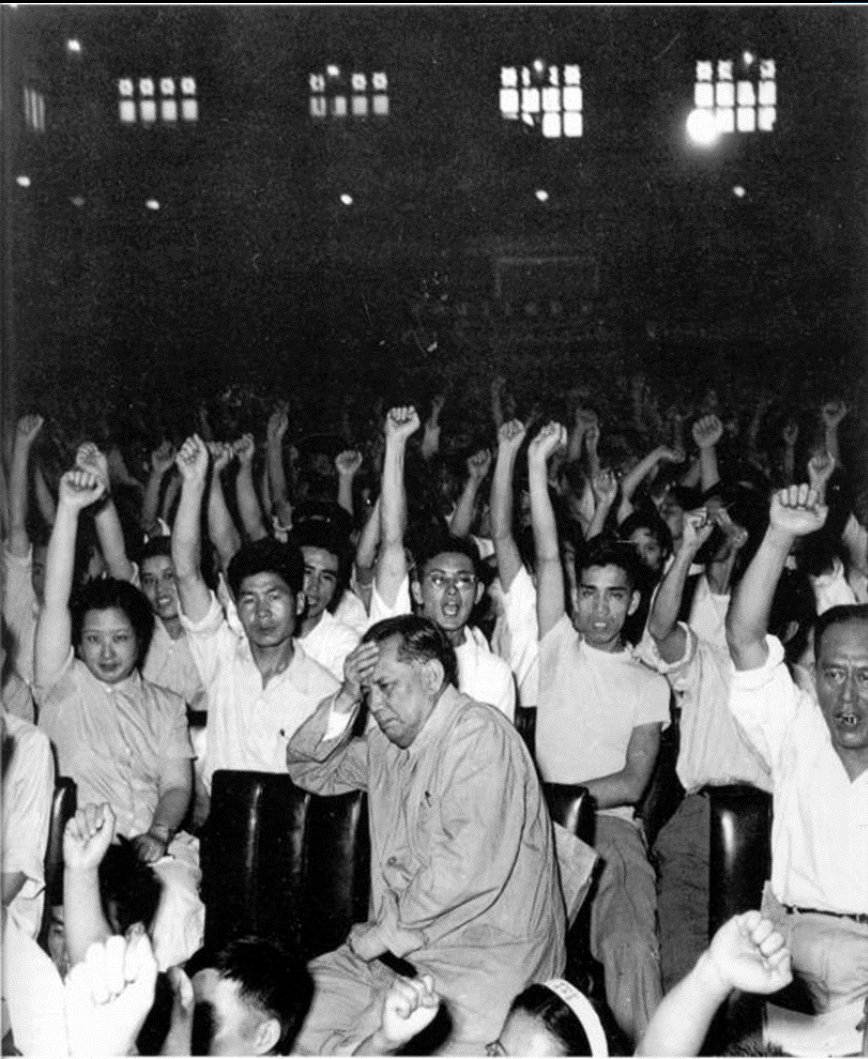
Chinese President Xi Jinping presides over a symposium that gathered some of the country's most renowned authors, actors, scriptwriters and dancers in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 15, 2014. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)





# The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution  
(無產階級文化大革命 *Wúchǎn Jiējí Wénhuà Dà Géming*)





# *The Iconography of Ideology*





*Criticize the Slogan “Practice Self-Control and Restore Civility,” early 1970s.*

Unidentified Chinese Artist.  
Gouache on paper. Richard Lee Ripin  
Art Purchase Fund, 2002.10





*Volunteer Soldier*, early 1970s.  
Unidentified Chinese artist.  
Gouache on paper. Richard Lee Ripin Art Purchase Fund, 2002.11

# *Jiang Qing* 江青 (1914-1991)



- ❖ Theatricality
- ❖ Rejection of Western Style
- ❖ “Red, Bright and Shining” 红光亮
- ❖ Art from previously disenfranchised social strata and regions





# Huxian Peasant Painters

户县农民画 *Hùxiàn nóngmín huà*







*A Cotton Blossom Viewing Occasion*, 1973. Liú Fāng 刘芳 (Chinese, b. 1954–55).  
Gouache on paper. Museum Friends Fund, 2023.10













*A Sleepless Night, 1974*

Liú Zhīguì 刘知贵

(Chinese, b. 1945)

Gouache on paper

Museum Friends Fund, 2023.9





深夜不眠

*A Sleepless Night, 1974*

Liú Zhīguì 刘知贵

(Chinese, b. 1945)

Offset color lithograph

Museum Friends Fund, 2023.24





*Climbing Over the Great  
Snow Mountain, 1977*

Shěn Jiāwèi 沈嘉蔚  
(b. 1948)

Oil on canvas

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter  
Foundation Fund, 2003.13.1





*Standing Guard for our  
Great Motherland, 1975*  
Shěn Jiāwèi 沈加蔚  
(Australian, born China,  
1948)

Poster

Gift of Jerome Silbergeld and  
Michelle DeKlyen, 2011-49  
Princeton University Art  
Museum. © Shen Jiawei







*Climbing Over the Great  
Snow Mountain, 1977*

Shěn Jiāwèi 沈嘉蔚  
(b. 1948)

Oil on canvas

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter  
Foundation Fund, 2003.13.1









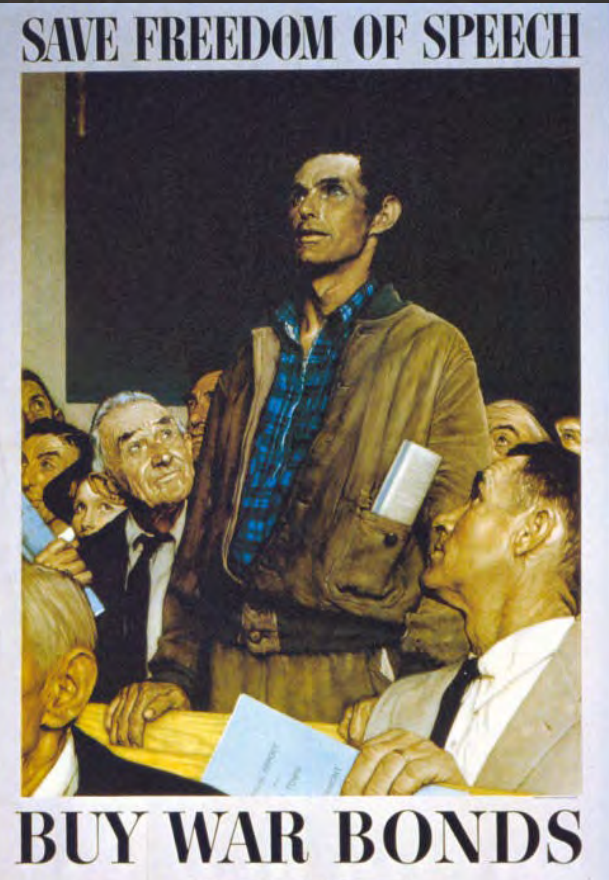
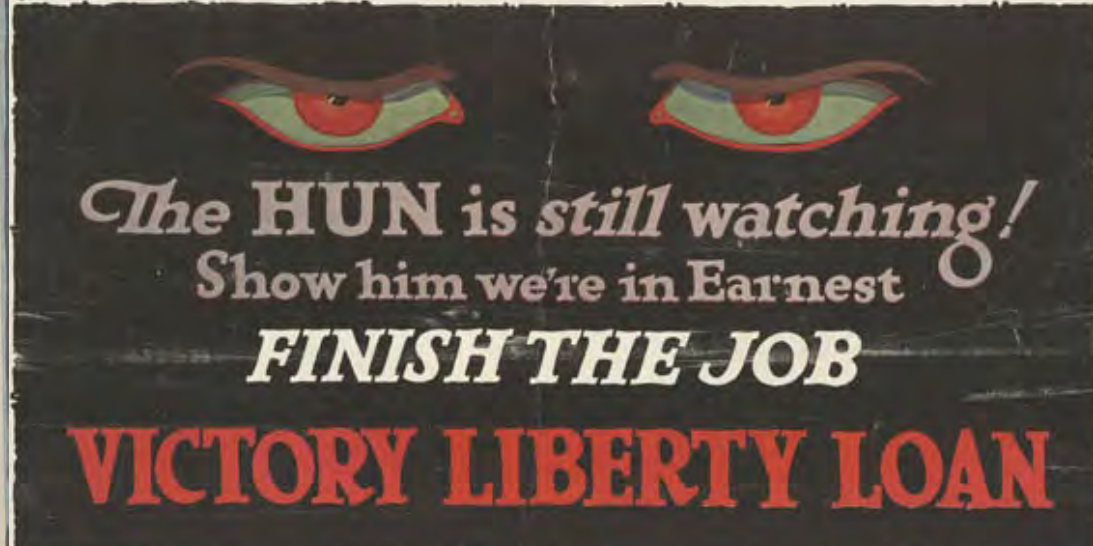


# What is Propaganda?

- ❖ Promote ideology
- ❖ Consolidate Authority
- ❖ Inspire action
- ❖ Clear, accessible message
- ❖ Plays on emotions









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- ❖ Clear, accessible message
- ❖ Plays on emotions

*St. Sebastian Tended by Irene,*  
1625.

Hendrick ter Brugghen

(Dutch, ca. 1588–1629)

Oil on canvas. R. T. Miller Jr.

Fund, 1953.256











Part 3: *Guóhuà* 国画:  
Ink Painting is National Painting



Liú Hǎisù  
刘海粟 / 劉海粟  
(1896–1994)



LIU HAISU  
1896-1994  
MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE  
INK AND COLOR ON PAPER  
1950s



LIU HAISU  
1896-1994  
LANDSCAPE  
INK AND COLOR ON PAPER  
1950s



LIU HAISU  
1896-1994  
MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE  
INK AND COLOR ON PAPER  
1950s



LIU HAISU  
1896-1994  
TREE  
INK ON PAPER  
1950s



LIU HAISU  
1896-1994  
LOTUS  
INK ON PAPER  
1950s





*Blossoming Plum*, ca. 1970.

Liú Hǎisù 刘海粟 / 劉海粟 (1896–1994)

Ink on paper. Gift of the Shih-Yen Wu (OC 1954)

Family, 2016.45





*Without undergoing a whole spell of cold  
that bites into your bones,  
How can you have the plum-blossoms  
regale you with their piercing fragrance?*

Huángbò Xīyùn 黄榘希运 (d. 850)

-Trans. John C. H. Wu



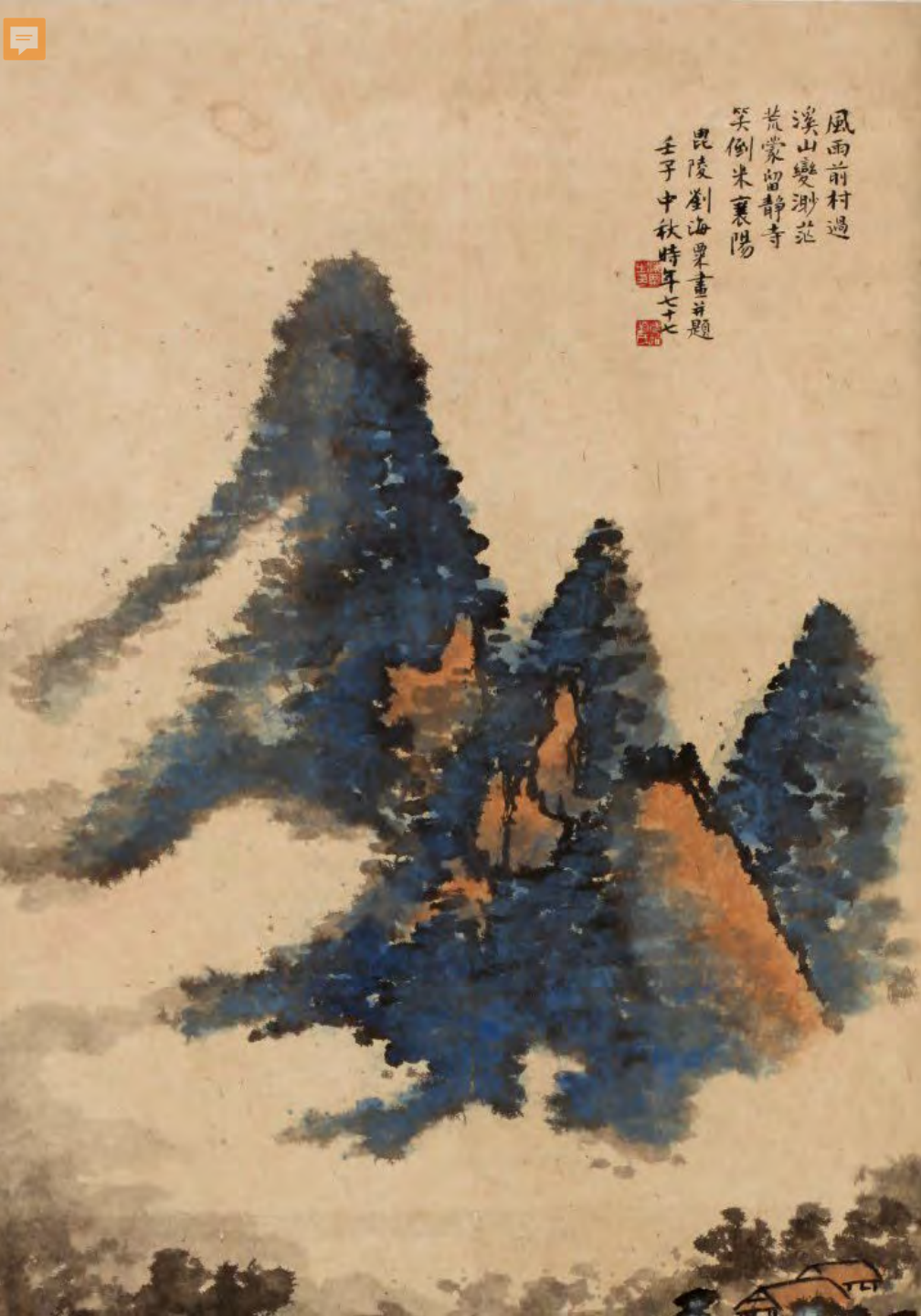
*Landscape After Mi Fu*, 1972.  
Liú Hǎisù 刘海粟 / 劉海粟  
(1896–1994)

Ink and color on paper.

Gift of the Shih-Yen Wu (OC 1954) Family,  
2016.28.1







風雨前村過  
溪山變渺茫  
荒蒙留靜寺  
笑倒米襄陽  
昆陵劉海粟畫并題  
壬子中秋時年七十七

“Wind and rain passed by the village  
in the foreground,  
the view of streams and mountains  
turned hazy  
Only a serene temple is left visible  
from the drizzling rain,  
This painting is an embarrassment in  
front of Mi Xiangyang.

Painted and written by Kunling Liu  
Haisu  
During mid-autumn of the year of  
Renzi (1972), at the age of seventy-  
seven.”







