**THE INSISTENT IMAGE: RECURRENT MOTIFS IN THE ART OF SHEPARD FAIREY AND JASPER JOHNS**

*by Emily Rigsby*

Born in 1970, in Charleston, S.C., this will be Shepard Fairey’s first major exhibition in his hometown. Fairey’s work, based on skateboarding culture and a sticker campaign that went viral, has become one of the most visible street artist in the world. His seemingly ubiquitous geometric, stars, sunbeams, chevrons, the human eye, and Andre the Giant arguments about power, security, protection, and comparable subjects. Known for his visual manipulation of logos, symbols, and imagery, the new paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and screen prints explore and analyze the complex sociopolitical gumbo that constitutes contemporary American culture. Along with exhibiting his works in the indoor space, Fairey has created a series of large-scale public murals, visually and thematically related to the show, in locations throughout downtown Charleston.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.

In all, Fairey is questioning the notion of American hegemony within the context of current geopolitical upheavals. As a country, the United States has long maintained the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept ripe for critical analysis. President George H. W. Bush famously said we would prevail in the Gulf War because “God was on our side.” Quotes such as these offer creative opportunities for Fairey’s brand of social activism through art. His method is to use metaphor to uncover the hidden agendas and political currents flowing just beneath the surface.