

Media Release

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Techniques of persuasion: Politics in print **From the Margaret Carnegie Print Collection**

Opening this week at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, a thought provoking exhibition celebrates dissent and debate from Australian printmakers in **Techniques of persuasion: Politics in print**. Curated from the Gallery's own Margaret Carnegie Print Collection, the works on display tackle universal themes surrounding war, race, religion, consumerism and cultural appropriation

Techniques of persuasion sets out a strong historical lineage of politically active artists using varied styles and techniques, within the printmaking medium, to express their ideas and engage discussion. Highlights of the exhibition include a pair of early 1940's lithographs by atheist, communist, and art activist, Noel Counihan. Depicting blue collar workers in a social realist style, Counihan's art was a direct and gripping response to the politics and social hardships of the Depression and World War II.

Also on display is a work from Marie McMahon, an important figure in Australian political art collectives of the 1970s and 1980s such as Earthworks Poster Collective, Social Fabric and Tiwi Designs. McMahon's *The two Walyers*, from the National Gallery of Australia's Bicentennial Suite commission, interrogates the history and memory of early European occupation of Van Diemen's Land.

More recent works of note include Emily Floyd's stunning series of huge lithographs from 2012: *Herrnhut Commune*, *Social Insects* and *Structure and Silence of the Cognitariat*, a suite that makes use of a sophisticated formal language as an obscure 'call to action'.

Techniques of persuasion: Politics in print will be on display from Saturday, 24 May until Sunday 27 July in the Margaret Carnegie Gallery at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

Dates: Saturday, 24 May – Sunday, 27 July 2014

Where: Margaret Carnegie Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Cost: Free