The Jewish Studies Research Group's Noon Hour Series THE ART OF POWER: THE DEGENERATE ART EXHIBITION OF 1937

WED., OCT. 7, 2015 12PM IN LAWSON HALL 1227



PROFESSOR SONIA HALPERN

In 1937, Hitler organized a shocking art exhibition that was specifically designed to undermine Jews and other "undesirable" groups, and thus inherently elevate the status of "pure" Germans. With one of the exhibition's rooms reserved for art by Jews, and the rest of the show degraded for its "Jewish influences," The Degenerate Art Exhibition, a travelling show in Germany and Austria, was seen by millions of people, and was a crucial propaganda tool that marked the beginning of the intimate connection between art and the political supremacy of the Nazi Party. By focusing on the Degenerate Art Exhibition, Sonia will discuss why the Nazis detested some types of art and revered others, revealing a specific artistic aesthetic that reflected their political agenda.