

Sunday Talk'n Heads

2010-2014. Acrylic on canvas, four panels, 30 x 40"

Meet the Press was the first Sunday Morning talk show and began in 1947 on NBC. It was a 30 minute news conference where a guest was interviewed by a panel of questioners. Face the Nation on CBS followed in 1954.

This Week began in 1981 with David Brinkley who had left NBC and joined ABC.

Fox News Sunday began in 1996, created by the right-wing Republican operative Roger Ailes and funded by right-wing trash media mogul Rupert Murdoch. FNS is designed to showcase Republican propaganda and demonize Democrats and Democratic administrations in state and federal government. The theme of the show is Republicans are right, Democrats are wrong, corporations are good, unions are bad, right-wing white guys are good, liberals bad, and minorities are an annoyance, unless they agree with right-wing white guys.

The longer these Sunday morning shows are on television, the more America keeps deteriorating. The standard of living continues to decline for average Americans. The illegal foreign wars continue. The corrupt political system keeps on corrupting, while corporate domination explodes across the society.

Obviously, the focus of these programs is to maintain the status quo. They are designed to entertain the viewer with flattery interviews, simplistic questions and answers for the members of Congress, the White House, the Pentagon and corporate America. These shows don't question power and authority. They cater to it, fawn over it, and snuggle up to it. It's the place where the promoters of torture go to justify their insanity.

These programs are pro-war, military cheerleaders. They are an extension of the military-industrial warfare state that is America. Furthermore, the political coverage on these shows is nothing more than dog races of trivia between Republicans and Democrats. It's all about American exceptionalism – we're the greatest country on earth; you're with us or against us. Minorities, the unemployed, the homeless and the poor are only mentioned when extraordinary tragedy is involved.

That's why the political class and the establishment elite can talk about change but never change. The solution is always to look forward and ignore all the crimes, and all the social and financial disasters they have created. It's always time to move on...to more of the same. The hosts and guests say nice words, but no action follows. There is no accountability, no change, and no progress. Furthermore, the journalists who question and speak truth to power are attacked and ridiculed. They are put in their place as outsiders, interlopers, and troublemakers.

This country is where it is today because the corporations and the wealthy control the message and the platform. That's why these programs remain on the air. These programs showcase the corporations and the wealthy elite's worldview which is, they deserve more and therefore take and keep more. It's an ideology uninterested in democratic, equitable solutions benefiting everyone. Therefore, it's no surprise that we're moving toward an authoritarian state of mass surveillance and brutality. After all, who benefits from that?

Who benefits from all these wars? Who benefits from political gridlock? Who benefits from high unemployment? Who benefits from racial and ethnic divide? Who benefits from the increasing number of people in poverty? Who receives the most tax breaks? Who benefits from a poorly educated public? Who benefits from the transfer of wealth upward? Answer: the wealthy and the corporations.

Furthermore, who owns these Sunday morning talk shows? Who pays the multimillion-dollar salaries of these mediocre hosts, these shoeshine boys of the Washington elite?

The hosts and guests on these programs are cartoon characters of the American political landscape. These shows have long passed their expiration date. They are relics of the 20th century. The past is where they belong. Say goodbye and turn them off. There is no public benefit to keep watching. Welcome to the 21st Century.

P.S. No offense to the cartoons.