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Sherwin Miller
Museum
of Jewish Art



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EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION TONIGHT!

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Opening Reception Tonight
October 1, 2015
5:00-7:00 pm

A Nazi propaganda poster depicting a soldier in a brown uniform and helmet, looking upwards. He is holding a flag with a swastika. The background is a warm, orange-brown color. The text is in white and orange.

STATE OF DECEPTION
THE POWER OF NAZI PROPAGANDA

A thought-provoking exploration of Nazi propaganda that challenges visitors to think critically about the messages they receive today

OPENING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
SECOND FLOOR MEZZANINE, BRODSKY,
AND SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES

PRODUCED BY
UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM ushmm.org

PRESENTED BY
The
Sherwin Miller
Museum
of Jewish Art

The exhibition opening reception will take place on **Thursday, October 1** from **5:00 to 7:00 pm**. JoAnna Wasserman from the Education Initiatives office of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. will offer remarks and Jill Weinberg, Director of the USHMM's Midwest Regional office will be in attendance to

answer questions while guests enjoy wine and appetizers. All are welcome.

"Propaganda is a truly terrible weapon in the hands of an expert."

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 1924

The Nazi Party developed a sophisticated propaganda machine that deftly spread lies about its political opponents, Jews, and the need to justify war. Nazi propaganda was much more complex than that. For the Nazis to achieve power and pursue their racial policies and expansionist war efforts, a much more nuanced picture had to be painted—one that would appeal to broad swaths of the population, not just a fanatical extreme.

Featuring rarely seen artifacts, *State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda* draws visitors into a rich multimedia environment vividly illustrating the insidious allure of much of Nazi propaganda. "Adolf Hitler was an avid student of propaganda and borrowed techniques from the Allies in World War I, his Socialist and Communist rivals, the Italian Fascist Party, as well as modern advertising," says exhibition curator Steven Luckert. "Drawing upon these models, he successfully marketed the Nazi Party, its ideology, and himself to the German people."

The exhibition reveals how shortly after World War I, the Nazi Party began to transform itself from an obscure, extremist group into the largest political party in democratic Germany. Hitler early on recognized how propaganda, combined with the use of terror, could help his radical party gain mass support and votes. He personally adapted the ancient symbol of the swastika and the emotive colors of red, black, and white to create the movement's flag. In doing so, Hitler established a potent visual identity that has branded the Nazi Party ever since.

After seizing power, the Nazi Party took over all communications in Germany. It marshaled the state's resources to consolidate power and relentlessly promote its vision of a "racially pure," utopian Germany that needed to defend itself from those who

would destroy it. Jews were cast as the primary enemies, but others, including Roma, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and mentally and physically disabled persons, were also portrayed as threats to the "national community."

As Germany pushed the world into war, Nazi propaganda rationalized Germany's territorial expansion as self-defense. Jews were depicted as agents of disease and corruption. The Nazis' actions against them, in Germany and occupied countries, were promoted as necessary measures to protect the population at large.

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Museum Hours

The Museum will be closed on:

Monday, October 5-Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor
Tuesday, October 6-Simchat Torah

Regular Museum Hours

Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday in observance of Shabbat
Sunday, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.