

Re: Q: Women's Undergarments (female allegories of the state)

Andrea Pappas

Dear Christine,

Check the dissertation (and subsequent publications) by Jill Fields, (Diss is on American undergarments in the 20th C--mostly 1900-1960, I think. There are also a number of texts that address the figure of "Columbia," the "Indian Princess" and the Statue of Liberty as female figures that function as symbols for the U.S. You might run a search on these as keywords in the Art Index to find visual examples. (Warning: this is just the tip of the iceberg--female figures have been used to represent abstract concepts, including the idea of "nation" for a long time....)

Hope this helps.

Andrea Pappas
Asst. Prof., Art History
Santa Clara University

Reference:

Q: Re: Q: Women's Undergarments (female allegories of the state). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 28, 2004 (accessed Apr 6, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/26228>>.