

Survey to Build a List of Pop Culture References to Famous Images Like ‘Napalm Girl’

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Dear colleagues,

I’m a professor of Visual Studies and North American History (Cergy Paris University) currently researching how iconic images from U.S. wars and crises are referenced in popular media—and how these references shape public memory and education.

I’m especially interested in photographic images that have become culturally symbolic—images like:

- Napalm Girl (1972)
- Saigon Execution (1968)
- Kent State/Jackson State shootings (1970)
- The self-immolation of the Vietnamese monk (1963)
- Flag raising on Iwo Jima (1945)
- Huey Newton in the peacock chair
- Washington Crossing the Delaware
- American Gothic
- and similar widely recognized visuals

I’m building a collection of visual or verbal references to these kinds of images in mainstream media, such as:

- TV shows
- Fiction films
- Board or video games
- Comic books or graphic novels
- Music videos or album art

Examples:

- The burning monk photo on the Rage Against the Machine album cover
- Famous painting recreations in Modern Family

If you’ve ever noticed one of these images—or something clearly quoting or recreating them—in any pop culture setting, I’d love to hear from you! A quick comment on:

- What image you saw
- Where you saw it
- And (optional) what you think the reference was doing would be incredibly helpful.

ArtHist.net

Drop me a line at: camille.rouquet@cyu.fr

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This is part of a larger project about how cultural memory is shaped by media. Thanks so much for your input!

Reference:

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