## artillery

STATE OF THE PARTY NAMED IN

KILLER TEXT ON ART

## EVERYDAY POLITICS SEX, RACE & BIG BROTHER!

ULYSSES JENKINS
KERRY JAMES MARSHALL
VANESSA BEHLROFT
ANDRES SEEPANO
GUEST LECTURE: BARBARA KRUSE

## CULTERMAN

Not since 1952's "I Like Ike" has a political message been as lionized, vilified and plagiarized as Shepard Fairey's "Hope" and "Progress" Barack Obama posters. In a small hamlet in Germany in September, I picked up the local paper not even understanding the publication's name, but the image splayed across its front page — the now familiar red, white and blue hues of Fairey's ode to the democratic nominee.

As in the case of most elections, no political message goes unpunished. Weeks before the election, the social action committee "Americans For Visual Literacy" (AVL) published a scathing missive about the senator's support for a career criminal — "the poster was designed by [Fairey] one of America's leading graffiti vandals" — charging the artist with using plagianzed communist imagery to help sell a politician; writing "DO YOU KNOW" on the poster is the 2008 democratic equivalent of the 'Che Guevera Poster' (with all that implies)." They ended their bullet point accusation — links to major papers that wrote about Fairey buttressing their facts — with "Only Fools Find 'Hope' In Empty Statesmen, Hollow Opportunists and Vile Imagery."

Spelling the senator's name "Barak," yet calling themselves Americans for Visual Literacy: some, including myself, initially thought this was a joke. However contacting AVL, I received a 12-page response that cleared up any misconceptions I may have had—



the spelling was intentional, one section read, to make the name "appear more Russian." A day after AVL's message arrived in various inboxes, Fairey had responded on his website to the "2008 Obama Poster Facts" with such phrases as "It is very sad that people like you resort to such sleazy tactics. and that decent people have to spend time combating small mindedness and disinformation." And after receiving over 750 hate malis. AVL's Yahoo account was terminated by the internat prant, While this election down to pervert that corpmon toks speeds phrasa into 1 disagne with what

immaculate: long. straight hair pulled back tight and draping down her back. She wore huge, round, black sunglasses and sported a pale yellow form-fitting cocktall dress with matching pumps: Everyone scrambled out of her way while gazing at her. For a second, I underdressed. lke had showed up to an awards party: and forgot my tux. The girls were all singing \*Go Creamiel Go marriel Go Creamiel" y did, she strutted to ard against the sidewalk over and whispered in Gream Rinsa That's at in the mouth ... it all

ed the group, Cream her tracks and looked JJJ. "Why you hangin" ther down and assured Oh I see: Well, what do un things around here. k, you ask me. Would we're all voting for?" matter of fact, that's e turned around to the "Who we voting for?" med back, and went nd down and laughing ther "You write mat for Obama."

a in there, he gonna fix nd gave me a hug. She n flowers and Carmos get outte here. We're s. You don't need to be ream Rinse patted me round to the gris and total. One by one they me and blow kicos ned to me right before chind her, blow a keet. me, "Hey Portland, are me?" @

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As I propers to send this out for publication, a few weeks before the election, as AVL resides

another e-mail blast, I'm actually thread their of that the snage and has defined this election was born as a wheat postur plant and on the streets of LA - (begat), - by an artist who, describe has - access within walls, prefers to work outside of them. I look pryorus with hyperinks to articles hitting Washington Post, UA Treet, The Very Now Times and that Gunnan paper, and am syour that et the election in grassroots carried on born from a street times, turned into the image of the election and The image of the view whiches will a on November Atta manks to Formy - and the definition - to has been a victory for untakt an O



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