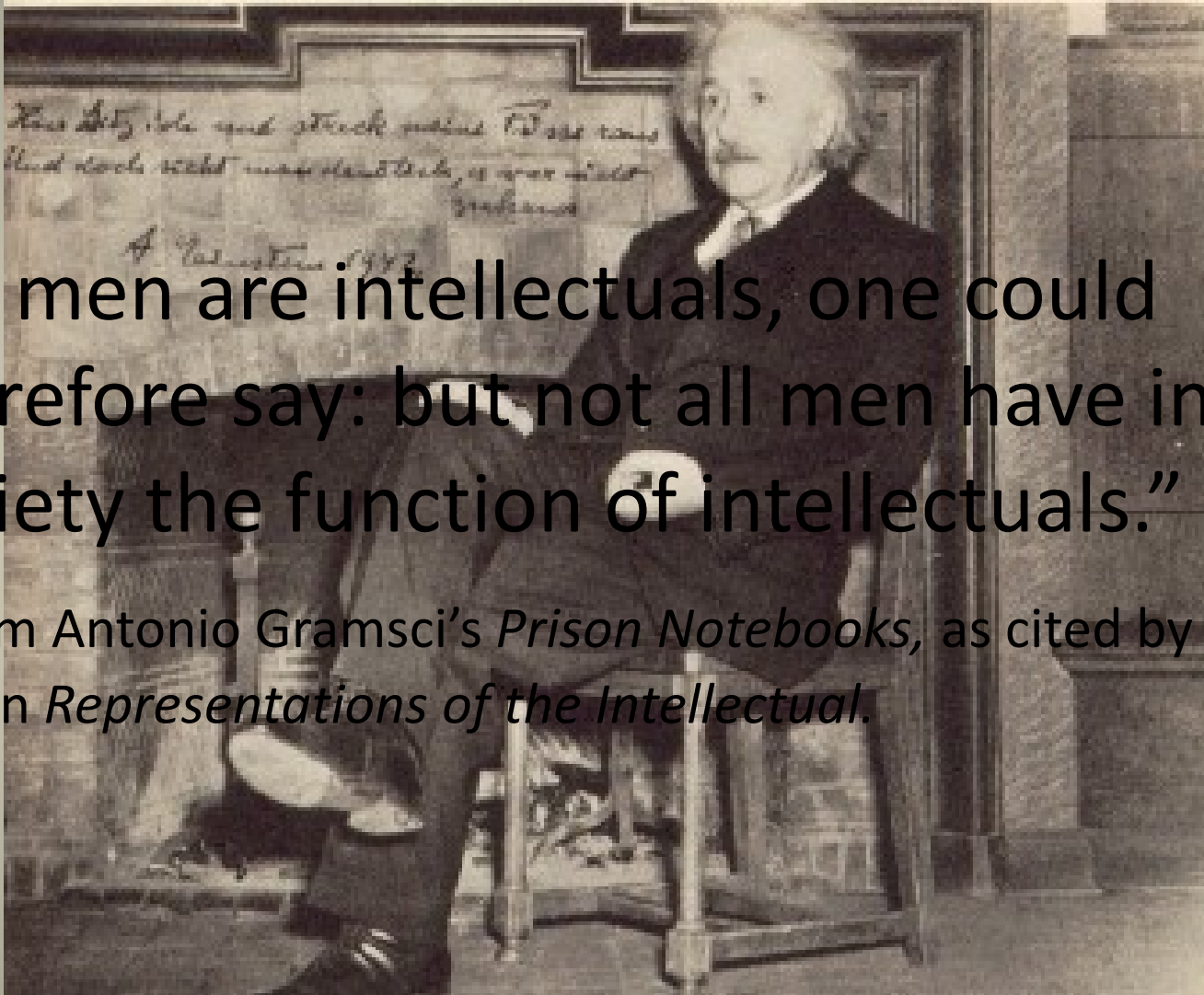




THE ARTIST AS A PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL

*FROM THE POLITICS OF CULTURE:
POLICY PERSPECTIVES FOR
INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND
COMMUNITIES*

KEVIN HARRELL

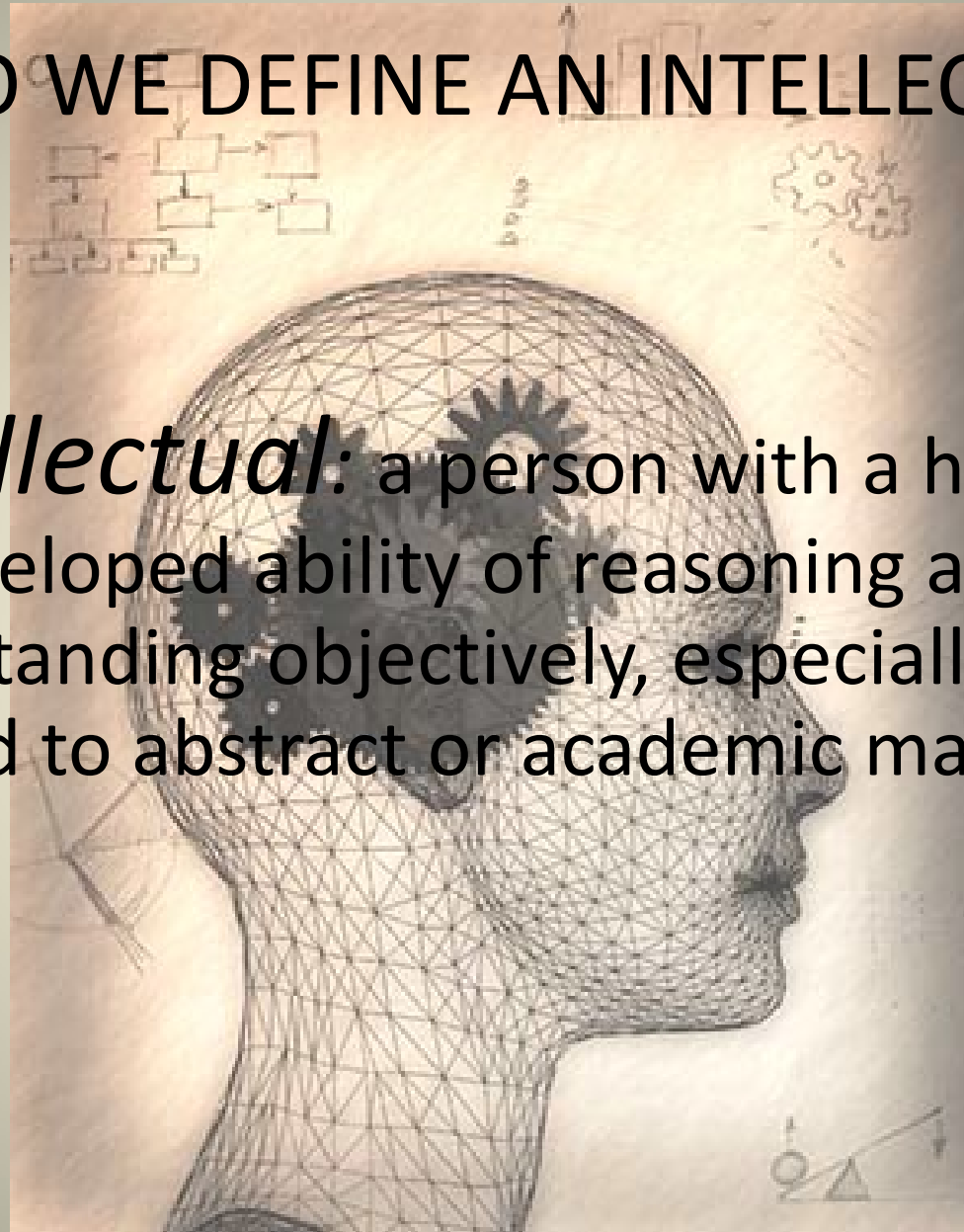


“All men are intellectuals, one could therefore say: but not all men have in society the function of intellectuals.”

-- from Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*, as cited by Edward Said in *Representations of the Intellectual*.

HOW DO WE DEFINE AN INTELLECTUAL?

Intellectual: a person with a highly developed ability of reasoning and understanding objectively, especially with regard to abstract or academic matters



TWO CLASSIFICATIONS OF INTELLECTUALS



PROFESSIONAL INTELLECTUALS:

TEACHERS, DOCTORS & PRIESTS – THOSE FOR WHOM KNOWLEDGE REMAINS STABLE, STEADY, EASILY TRANSMITTABLE



“ORGANIC” INTELLECTUALS:

THOSE CONSTANTLY INTERACTING WITH SOCIETY AND STRUGGLING TO CHANGE MINDS AND EXPAND MARKETS

A man in a dark jacket is painting a portrait on a canvas in a cafe. The background shows several people sitting at tables, eating and talking. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a daytime setting. The text is overlaid on the image.

ARTISTS MAY BE CLASSIFIED AS THE ORGANIC INTELLECTUAL.

- THEY ARE GENERALLY DEFINED AS “INNOVATIVE, DARING, AND PUBLIC IN RE-PRESENTATION OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH THE WORLD”.
- THEY ARE HELD TO NO FIXED BODY OF KNOWLEDGE AND TO THE RENEGOTIATION OF IDEAS AS IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

There is a widely accepted image of the artist in American society.

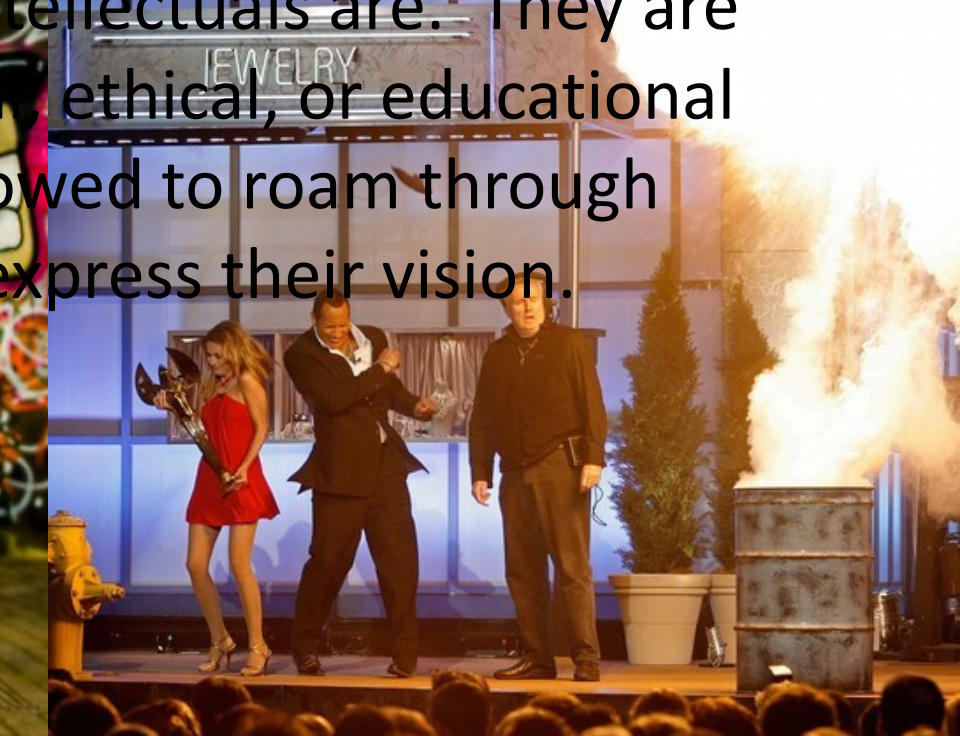
--The artist is generally viewed as “somewhat irresponsible, less than adult, immersed in the pleasure principle, who at times makes something truly extraordinary and at times fools the general public with work that passes for art”.



A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy pattern. The flag is the background for the text.

Criticism of artists can be found throughout society, especially within the conservative American public.

--The works of art that have been targeted for public denunciation was art that took on “serious societal issues, crossed borders, and took a powerful stance, risking upsetting the moral status quo by exposing hypocrisies” in traditional American values.



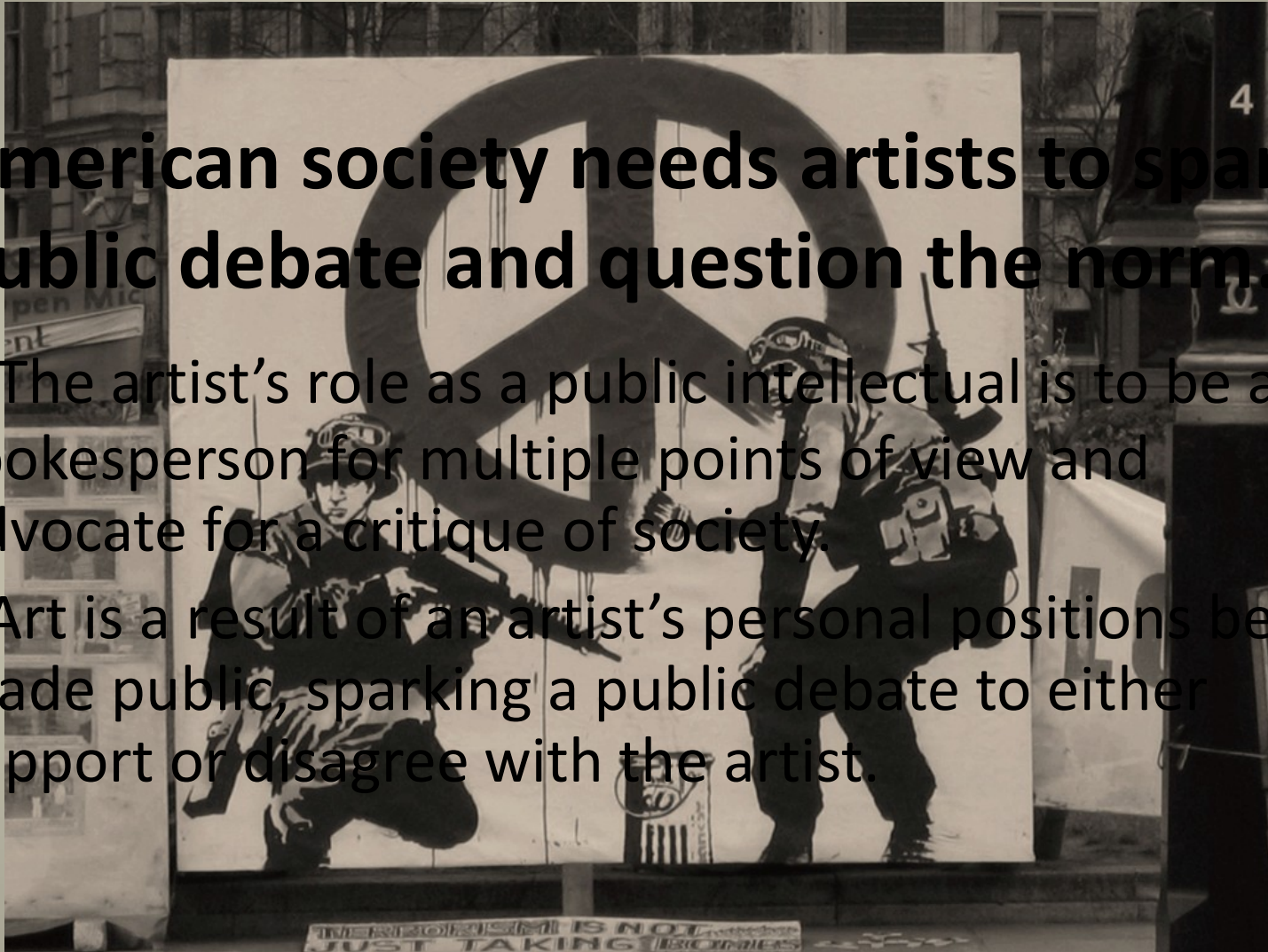
American society does not look to artists for “traditional” intellect.

— Artists are not asked for their opinions on national matters as professional intellectuals are. They are not held by the same legal, ethical, or educational boundaries – they are allowed to roam through disciplines and media to express their vision.

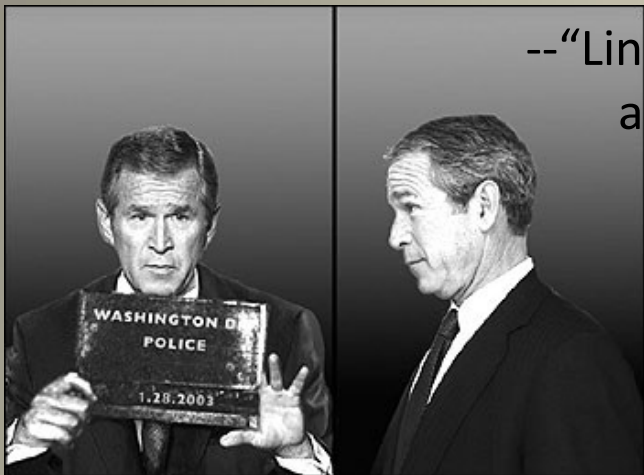
American society needs artists to spark public debate and question the norm.

--The artist's role as a public intellectual is to be a spokesperson for multiple points of view and advocate for a critique of society.

--Art is a result of an artist's personal positions being made public, sparking a public debate to either support or disagree with the artist.



--“Line Up” by Nora Ligorano
and Marshall Reese,
photography



“W Button” by Angela Singer, --
recycled taxidermy, mixed media



-- “Wake Up,
America” by
Jacquelin Bond,
painting



-- Unknown artist,
photography