FRAMING BODIES: Sport and Spectacle in Nazi Germany

FRAMING BODIES: Sport and Spectacle in Nazi Germany explores the relationship between athletics, politics and visual culture during the 1936 Games.

Situated at a midpoint between Adolf Hitler’s election as Chancellor and the outbreak of the Second World War, the 1936 Olympics offer a window into the relationship between sport, politics and visual culture in Nazi Germany. The regime’s racialized physical ideals, projected onto the world stage during the XI Olympiad raises important questions. How did National Socialists understand the body? Alongside their celebration of “Aryan” bodies, how did the Nazis portray and regulate those who were excluded from the ideal? What symbols and characterizations did the Nazis use in propaganda, rituals and films to express the connection between the Olympics and their notion of a “master race”?

FRAMING BODIES explores these questions in four sections.

“Shaping a People” deals with how the Nazi government linked the body and sport to the national identity and racial categories through values of fitness, health and beauty.

“Dangerous Bodies,” explores the Nazis’ portrayal and treatment of those who were excluded from “Aryan” ideals, including Jews and people with disabilities.

“Germany as a Stage,” touches on the use of the Olympics to glorify Nazi Germany including the origin of the first Olympic torch relay and “Aryan” athletic accomplishments, while hiding bodies deemed “unfit” from view.

“The World is Watching,” discusses the connections between Nazi racial ideology and the regime’s efforts to harness new technology – including the first live radio and television broadcasts – to host the first modern Olympics for mass consumption. It also explores the portrayal of the human body in Olympia, Leni Riefenstahl’s controversial documentary about the 1936 Olympics.
EXHIBITION CONTENT

The exhibit consists of 44 cintra wall and shelf panels, a CD player containing 3 radio clips from the 1936 Olympics and a laminated imitation of Olympia Zeitung, the official newspaper of the 1936 Olympics.

Educational resources are available, including a comprehensive teaching website (http://www.vhec.org/1936_olympics/), a downloadable digital teacher’s guide, docent scripts and publicity materials.

MORE THAN JUST GAMES: Canada & the 1936 Olympics is the companion exhibit to FRAMING BODIES. Lenders may wish to consider renting both these exhibits together.

BOOKING INFORMATION

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The exhibit runs approximately 70 linear feet of running wall space (does not need to be continuous).

The exhibit is organized into 5 sections.

INTRODUCTION – 2 PANELS

- 1 36”x55” panel
- 1 23”x55” panel

SHAPING A PEOPLE: SPORT UNDER NATIONAL SOCIALISM – 10 PANELS

- 1 20”x55” panel
- 3 23”x40” panels
- 3 16”x40” panels
- 3 40”x14” shelf panels

DANGEROUS BODIES: VISUALIZING THE “OTHER” – 10 PANELS

- 1 20”x55” panel
- 3 23”x40” panels
- 3 16”x40” panels
- 3 40”x14” shelf panels
CONTACT US

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Supported by: Diamond Family Endowment Fund of the
Jewish Community Foundation, Faigen Charitable Foundation
of the Jewish Community Foundation, Jewish Community
Foundation of Greater Vancouver, Lohn Foundation, Lutsky
Family Foundation, Edward & Emily McWhinney Foundation,
Oasis Foundation, Pekarsky Family Foundation, Al Roadburg
Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Wertman Development
Corporation, Zacks Family Foundation, Chaim Zbar
Foundation

Community Partners: Jewish Community Centre of Greater
Vancouver, Green College UBC Green Visiting Professorships
Program at UBC

Media Partners: 7th Floor Media, Vancouver Courier

GERMANY AS A STAGE: THE SPECTACLE OF 1936 – 10 PANELS
• 1 20”x55” panel
• 3 23”x40” panels
• 3 16”x40” panels
• 3 40”x14” shelf panels

THE WORLD IS WATCHING: MEDIA BECOMES MASS – 12 PANELS
• 1 20”x55” panel
• 1 37”x40” panel
• 4 23”x40” panels
• 2 16”x40” panel
• 1 80”x14” shelf panel
• 1 40”x14” shelf panel
• 2 23”x14” shelf panels

RENTAL FEE
$2,000.00. A deposit of $500.00 is required at the time of the
booking.

INSURANCE VALUE
$10,000.00

SHIPPING
Two-way shipping costs to be assumed by the borrower.
Shipping to be arranged by the borrower. It is recommended
that the borrower check the shipping costs before booking an
exhibit.

SHIPPING SPECIFICATIONS
TBA

LOAN PERIOD
The exhibit may be booked for a 6 to 8 week period. Longer
rental periods are available by arrangement.

SECURITY LEVEL
Low