



William Ayton The Rise of Fascism Acrylic on board 16" x 12"

This painting is an earlier version of the central section of one of the triptychs that make up a larger series entitled "The Holocaust". A series of four triptychs narrates the story of the Nazi holocaust more or less chronologically, using fairly straightforward images and metaphors. I felt that it was necessary to be as clear as possible in dealing with this subject matter, as it's very easy for people to mistake one's intentions (which, in this case, are not to glorify or sympathize in any way with fascism or genocide).

The palette is purposefully dark and devoid of warmth — using blues mixed with ochres and Naples yellow. The central, monstrous head is an interpretation of the

concept of fascism, with needle-like teeth, hollow, sightless eyes, and a head full of holes, which are, in this case, vents, exuding noxious vapors and spores — the poisonous ideas and propaganda of fascism. The neck and body connected to the head are hidden from view under the ground, no doubt extending through the lower reaches underpinning all levels of society.

This painting is in no way a comment upon contemporary society. I don't know where people get these ideas."

William Ayton