



The Wolfsonian–Florida International University Charts Global Ambition with Expansive New Exhibition

Plotting Power: Maps and the Modern Age

On view October 28, 2022 through April 16, 2023

Considers the exploitation of geography in the early 20th century and the effects still felt today

MIAMI BEACH (September 15, 2022) — The Wolfsonian–Florida International University charts global ambition in *Plotting Power: Maps and the Modern Age*, on view October 28, 2022 through April 16, 2023. Drawing from The Wolfsonian’s renowned collection of art and design, *Plotting Power* uses paintings, prints, posters, industrial design, and graphic materials to examine the exploitation of geography through the lens of maps, globes, and political propaganda.

Shortly after entering the Second World War, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered a radio “fireside chat” imploring Americans to “spread before you a map of the whole earth.” Methods, weapons, and geography would differentiate this war, he said, underscoring the relationship between maps and power.

While speaking to the significance of maps in the first half of the 20th century, as ambitions, conflicts, and technologies exploded in scope and scale, Roosevelt’s words ring just as true today. *Plotting Power* explores how maps have informed, expanded, and personified our world. Likewise, as agents of manipulation maps are well-positioned to influence and form global views when driven by economic, nationalistic, or political interests.

Geographic imagery has widely been used as a tool to gather, share, and disseminate information about the world, exploring and interpreting dramatic changes impacting everyday life. Focusing on maps and globes provides a new lens to process the wide-ranging materials found in the Wolfsonian collection and a window to better understand the modern world.

Never timelier and more urgent, *Plotting Power* examines Ukraine, hatemongering, and the creation of political division through cartography. “I was interested in exploring how maps, as uniquely trusted documents, are well-suited for nefarious purposes—for the transmission of ideas, whether truthful or not,” said curator Lea Nickless. “What struck me most as a storyteller is that this powerful narrative continues to be just as resonant today.”

-FIU-

Image

Poster, *La France qui a connu 4 fois l'invasion en 100 ans, ne doit pas désarmer sans être assurée de sa sécurité* [France, Which Has Experienced Invasion 4 Times in 100 Years, Must Not Disarm Without Being Assured of Its Security], 1932. André Galland, designer. Centre de Propagande des Républicains Nationaux, Paris, printer. The Wolfsonian–Florida International University, Miami Beach, Florida, Purchase, 2017.18.9.

Exhibition Support

Plotting Power: Maps and the Modern Age is made possible by the Arthur F. & Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation.

About The Wolfsonian–Florida International University

The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum, library, and research center that uses objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design, to explore what it means to be modern, and to tell the story of social, political, and technological changes that have transformed our world. The collections comprise more than 200,000 items from the period 1850 to 1950—the height of the Industrial Revolution to the end of the Second World War—and include fine arts, decorative arts, graphic design, industrial design, architectural drawings, rare publications, and ephemera.

The Wolfsonian is located at 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL. The museum is open Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–6pm (Fridays open late and free, 6–9pm). Contact us at 305.531.1001 or visit us online at wolfsonian.org.

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.

About FIU

Florida International University is a top public university that drives real talent and innovation in Miami and globally. Very high research (R1) activity and high social mobility come together at FIU to uplift and accelerate learner success in a global city by focusing in the areas of environment, health, innovation, and justice. Today, FIU has two campuses and multiple centers. FIU serves a diverse student body of more than 58,000 and 290,000 Panther alumni. U.S. News and World Report places dozens of FIU programs among the best in the nation, including international business at No. 2. Washington Monthly Magazine ranks FIU among the top 20 public universities contributing to the public good.