

MISS MAO

>> PAT SMITH

Giant statue of Lenin and Mao the talk of Richmond

BY RANDY SHORE, VANCOUVER SUN

DECEMBER 27, 2009

Giant Lenin/Mao bust at corner of Elmbridge and Alderbridge ways in Richmond is provoking discussion.

What Do You Think?

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Score: 0

anonymous

2:36 AM on February 9, 2010

Brad

Plain and simple, to tear down this "Freedom of expresion" is to believe in the same oppression that made these men who they are.....Canada is a free Nation and i hope it stays this way!

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Score: 0

anonymous

12:20 AM on February 3, 2010

Danya

Lenin is not the same person as Stalin. Anyone blaming the Great Purges on Lenin clearly has no idea of what they're talking about, and Lenin's (brief) period of rule in the Soviet Union was far, far less autocratic than many states even today.

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Score: 0

anonymous

3:00 AM on February 2, 2010

Xena

Canada is a country of free speech and the Gao Brothers live in a country where their art is being oppressed. The fact that they had the chance to display their provocative art in Canada is fantastic. People have to realize that this is not a commemorative statue, it is not about a love of communism. The Gao brothers suffered many losses during these two mens' reign and are showing that to the world through their art. Of course it's controversial, all good art is. I hope you realize feminizing Mao is not a compliment and can look at all points of opinion not just your own. The people who brag about our free speech and then demand that the statue be taken down because of the topic it portrays are hypocrites. This is just one opinion.

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Score: 0

anonymous

12:27 AM on February 1, 2010

PW

The level of ignorance among the Chinese about Mao and his policies is regularly disheartening. To say that he did some good things is merely to trivialize all the evil he his responsible for. Like all dictators before and after him. his disdain for the people he lorded over knew no bounds.

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Score: 0

anonymous

10:25 AM on January 24, 2010

Seriously?

Are you kidding Him? These statues were all around the two communist countries and are symbols of oppression and tyranny nothing more. Why are the good people of Vancouver allowing this? With the world coming to your city even more disturbing! Seems the Shadow governments i.e world banks are erecting structures (under the cover of art) to get the world used to what is about to happen to them in the very short term! Stop being sheep time for people to wake up.

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Score: 0

anonymous

6:19 PM on January 21, 2010

Terry

There is no humour in hearts of those who've been affected by these men. The mere image of Lenin alone has triggered horror and dismay by many who have taken refuge in Canada. Art has a place...maybe it is still too soon for this piece...too shocking a reminder. It would be like putting up an "artistic" representation of Robert Picton on Main Street, or Clifford Olson in a kids park. People of Richmond...Take it down now...before the world gets here!

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Score: 0

anonymous

4:47 AM on January 19, 2010

David

Lenin was not Stalin. In as much as thic sculpture plays with the Image of Lenin, he was not a Dictator in the sense that Stalin or Hitler were.

A flawed human being, faced with the bloody and chaotic results of the First World War, he was never the less a revolutionary leader which brought Europe's biggest country out of Feudal servitude. Stalin and his Fascists of course later Perverted Communism and discredited the ideals of Marx and Engels.

As a Piece of Art, it is thought provoking and cheeky, in one word: Great.

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Score: 0

anonymous

7:57 PM on January 17, 2010

mr higgers burg

as long as I avoid that road entirely I'm fine.

Feel sorry for everyone there though.

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Score: 0

anonymous

6:15 PM on January 15, 2010

Stefana

I disagree with those who try to compare a statue of Lenin with one of Hitler or Stalin or even Mao.

The point is that in this piece Mao is portrayed as “Miss Mao” which is supposed to be thought-provoking. It is obvious that the art installation does not expect people to believe these figures are ‘honourable’.

Young minds can educate themselves (if they aren’t already by History 12) about what communism is, what it stands for, and (most importantly) for what reasons it doesn’t work.

And, it IS ‘just’ art. Most of the time, people cannot understand that art is meant to be hated as much as it is meant to be loved.

We don’t live in an era of landscape paintings. Everyone should understand the crimes committed by past political figures and this piece hopefully will make a few people interested in forming their own opinions.

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Score: 0

anonymous

3:08 AM on January 15, 2010

casey

I wouldn’t want to look at that everyday ! Wish it was something nicer. WOW !

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Score: 0

anonymous

2:15 AM on January 14, 2010

RB

The statue of hitler with mussolini probably would be allowed, which doesn’t mean it would be ‘tasteful’. In this country we are allowed freedom of expression. It must be frustrating for people in other countries who do not share this human right.

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Score: 0

anonymous

11:49 PM on January 13, 2010

niraj

this statue is a eyesore and a plague on our countries soil it should be torn down immediately

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Score: 0

anonymous

5:26 PM on January 12, 2010

Mark

I would like to see the statue of Hitler with Mussolini balancing on his head. Would that be allowed ?

This country is always ready to provide pathetic excuses for all the left wing murderers, but to celebrate them with public display crosses the limits of any common sense.

Couple of months ago there was a big debate about allowing the statue for the victims of communism in Ottawa, but this garbage was put in without question. I never thought I would really feel to be ashamed to be Canadian. Today I am.

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Score: 0

anonymous

2:13 PM on January 12, 2010

Bernie

I agree with Andy(jan. 11)

These 2 characters perpetrated the worst systematic mass exterminations of their OWN People in the 20th century.

Estimated casualties were 50 to 100 million souls!--more than died in both world wars!

They made Hitler look like an amateur.

I would be curious what the reaction to a statue of Hitler with Moussolini dancing on his head would be.

I also wondered what a reception the statue would get in Beijing.

I am personally offended that Richmond citizens should have symbols of tlast century's worst mass genocides shoved in their face.

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Dear Zhen and Quiang,

I am an emerging writer based in Vancouver, Canada hoping to understand the philosophy behind your Miss Mao/Lenin installation in Richmond, Canada. I know you both hold a humanistic philosophy and are not pro-Mao.

Can you enlighten me as to why Mao is balancing on top of Lenin's head and why he is feminized? Is this meant to be derogatory or is he seen as a lesser partner of Communism?

What is the philosophy behind the gigantic bust of Lenin? I know art is meant to be interpreted in the eye of the beholder but I am hoping to write creatively about your sculpture and felt it fairest to obtain your viewpoint first.

Looking forward to your reply.

Regards,

Pat Smith

Re: Miss Mao and Lenin sculpture installation in Richmond, BC, Canada

From: **Gao Brothers** (gaobrothers@gmail.com)
Sent: January 3, 2010 2:21:59 AM
To: Pat Smith

3 attachments | [Download all attachments](#) (3.3 MB)

[The Execu...jpg](#) (465.9 KB), [Mao's Gui...jpg](#) (210.1 KB), [The Forev...jpg](#) (2.6 MB)

Hello Pat Smith,

Thank you for your interest in our work.

The Chinese communist revolution was a copy of the Russian Communist revolution. The crazy communist system broke up in Russia in 1991, but in China, Miss Mao, the variation of the Russian communist system, is still trying to keep balance in the communist nightmare...

<http://www.missmao.co.uk/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/25/world/asia/25china.html?_r=4&hp

We hope our work can let people pay attention to the history and actuality of the Communism, let people remember the great human misery and suffering the Communism caused.

By the way, enclosed some images of our other work.

We wish you a happy new year!

Sincerely

Gao Brothers

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Gao Brothers Studio

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