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Honore' Daumier

830 Words

In the period of nineteenth-century, there was a French artist who had made great changes for underprivileged through his work. He was a famous painter, sculptor, and especially as the caricaturist of French politics and society. His name was Honore' Daumier. He was born on 26 February 1808. When he was young, his father was intended to try his hand on poetry by moving to Paris, but fail to succeed. Because he had a poor childhood, he was force to quit school at the age of twelve.<sup>1</sup> So he had such a deep sympathy for the lower classes. After learning the new lithography techniques from Alexandre Lenoir, he used his skills in several cartoon satirical publications to oppose the government and society. His satirical arts towards French government were one of the most important influences that affected the equal liberty of the world.

Daumier was passionate in his artistic respond to political events. He also acted a role as one of the left wing in French politics, Republican. After the abdication of Charles X, Louise-Philippe was elected as the king. He had created a new monarchy

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<sup>1</sup> Nicolas Pioch contributors. " Daumie , Honore' ." *WebMuseum, Paris*. 7 Sep. 2012.  
<<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/daumier/>>

called July Monarchy, which did little to democratize political life.<sup>2</sup> The republican was so disappointed in him. In 1832, the best-known work he had created was *Gargantua*.<sup>3</sup> Daumier represented the French king, Louis-Philippe as *Gargantua* who took advantages from people by extorting the gold from them. He was sentenced to imprisonment for his inappropriate caricature of the king for six months at Ste Pelagie. It is one of the most famous examples of the prosecution of an artist by the state. This incident caused immediate boundary to the artist and a strict censorship law was given to the press. There was an Economic problem which caused by the dissatisfaction with the regime. Because of the lack attention of the July Monarchy, the decade's depression and unemployment had occurred. Eventually, people started to support the abolition of the capitalist economic system, which decided to have political reform. This revolution led to the demise of Louise-Philippe period and brought up the Second Republic period instead. Amid such changes, the temporary government of republic gave freedom back to the press and reelected an assembly to draft a new democratic constitution. There were a number of workers addressed to be unemployed, affected from the ignorance of July Monarchy, the government

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<sup>2</sup> Marquette University contributors. "Honore Daumier: Political Caricaturist of the Nineteenth Century." *Marquette University*. 9 Sep. 2012  
<[http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty\\_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3E](http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3E)>

<sup>3</sup> The File Room contributors. "Honore Daumier's caricature" *Gargantua*" censored by French Government." *The File Room*. 7 Sep. 2012

established the National Workshop in Paris.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the working-classes had appreciated this thoughtful and responsible action.

In the aftermath of the revolution, the new capital was Napolen Bonaparte. He was disappointed the republican by the way of his ruling was most likely to dictate for almost a decade. He also was trying to reform the regime as a limited monarchy. Unfortunately, his Second Republic was not last very long as the result of suffering from a blundered defeat with the Prussian of French. During the last year of Daumier's life, the last step in the creation of the Third Republic occurred. His arts recorded much of the political unrest that finally produced the stability of the Republican Institution.

Daumier's arts had also brought major effects on social and economic changes during the era of French industrialization.<sup>5</sup> The government not only provided the employees with low wages, but also gave them none of the social welfare that their lineage might be needed from the economic impacts of sickness, accidents, and disability of old age. Ile-Saint-Louis was a district where working class had an increasing population. Daumier lived here when he was moved to Paris, so he knew a lot of workers well. Then he was allowed to do an observation on the way of living of his neighbors' life. He could notice both the financial difficulties the industrial

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<sup>4</sup> Marquette University contributors. "Honore Daumier: Political Caricaturist of the Nineteenth Century." *Marquette University*. 9 Sep. 2012  
<[http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty\\_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%26](http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%26)>

<sup>5</sup> Marquette University contributors. "Honore Daumier: Political Caricaturist of the Nineteenth Century." *Marquette University*. 9 Sep. 2012  
<[http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty\\_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%26](http://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=haggerty_catalogs&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.th%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%26)>

workers had to face and the unusual developed industrial age. Those facts were depicted by his famous painting called *The Third Class Carriage*<sup>6</sup> that he could express the emotion of great compassion through his work nicely.

Even though, he was quite a well-known person with some admirers, his work was only received little attentions during his living period. Therefore, he had to face poverty throughout his life. He became blind in old age. A few months before his death of stroke, his friends gathered up his painting to be shown at Duran-Ruel's gallery.<sup>7</sup> However, his work were not much accepted or known until his death. In his life time, he produced over 4,000 lithographs.<sup>8</sup>

As shown from above, it is quite obvious that his art works had played significant roles in political, social, and economic changes in France. He was one of the straight forward people who were brave enough to express his true feelings and thoughts without caring others, especially, powerful people. Because he did not feel fare for the poor to be disadvantaged by the government and he wanted to gain back the rights they deserved, he used his special skills of art and sacrificed himself to make the differences for humanities.

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<sup>6</sup> Nicolas Pioch contributors. "Daumie , Honore' ." *WebMuseum, Paris*. 7 Sep. 2012.  
<<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/daumier/>>

<sup>7</sup> AllPosters contributors. "Honore Daumier." *AllPosters*. 8 Sep. 2012  
<http://www.aaronartprints.org/daumier-honore.php>

<sup>8</sup> Artble contributors. "Honore Daumier." *Artble*. 8 Sep. 2012  
<[http://www.artble.com/artists/honore\\_daumier](http://www.artble.com/artists/honore_daumier)>

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