

Ashley Tapia
FIQWS 10108
Prof. Poe
Fall 2018

Politics and Poetry

Many people believe that there is a line between politics and poetry. That there's no way both can be put in the same sentence. Erica Hunt has a completely different view of the relationship between politics and poetry. In the poem "Surplus Future Imperfect", Hunt writes out images about an everyday imperfect future towards the readers, and her poems demonstrate the dialect between personal life and global power that informs the everyday life ritual. Some rhetorical terms/devices that Hunt uses are repetition, imagery, and parallelism throughout the poem to emphasize the features of a dark future. The title of the poem catches the attention of readers by showing that Hunt's writing format is different from the traditional structure, and it's unique to read. The poem has knowledge of the topic and Hunt makes us read and gain information that is important to know about.

To add on, Hunt also uses rhetorical terms in order for the readers to understand the circumstances of where this is taking place, and what's going on all around. At the beginning of the poem, "when the smoke lifted there was no promised land in sight." (Hunt, 90), it shows that when all the chaos and dangerousness is done with, we have nothing left. All that we were promised by many or just one important person doesn't always become true. Then throughout the rest of the poem, we see a lot of repetition with the word "No". That word is used in every sentence, and that's how it formed into a parallelism. Hunt used "smoke" in the poem to write out a metaphor so it could be viewed through many peoples different ways. Hunt shows her political meanings by stating that, "No thought police, we all became deputies, we never let a line blur." (Hunt, 59), and that indicates how she started writing about the social existence in the world and us/anyone being part of the authorities is mobile and it's unfair.

When Erica Hunt was asked if her poetry is about "real things", she replied "I consider poetry a kind of writing about the real, even if it is, as in my case, a kind of speculation based on the "real world" of language practices"(Poetry and Politics, 4). Hunter is brave and I admire her

so much for bringing important issues to us from a different type of perspective on politics and poetry.