

“Reimagining Orozco”

a five minute animated film

by Judith Goudsmit and Daniel Pearle

(We see the image of the original Orozco painting. The image appears to be static until perhaps one figure blinks. Another turns his head. A moment. Another looks at his watch.

The scene then appears to “fast forward”. Over the next thirty seconds or so, guests at the table come and go: old ones get up and leave and new ones appear. It happens very fast. Some are indistinguishable; others are instantly recognizable. Several of the more famous figures bring with them a book or other offering, which they place on the table when they come in. These figures might include: ADOLF HITLER (who brings Mein Kampf), MUSSOLINI, FDR, TROTSKY, STALIN, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., POPE JOHN PAUL II (who brings a Bible), CHAIRMAN MAO, JFK, JOHN LENNON and YOKO ONO, CHE GUEVARRA (who brings a diary), MARGARET THATCHER, RICHARD NIXON, ALLEN GINSBURG (who brings Howl), TRUMAN CAPOTE (who brings In Cold Blood), BETTY FRIEDAN (who brings The Feminine Mystique), FRIDA, ANDY WARHOL (who brings a painting of a Campbell Soup can), RONALD REAGAN, SADAM HUSSEIN, IDI AMIN, BILL GATES (who brings a large computer.)

Time begins to gradually slow down. At this point, the table is completely covered with books and other offerings. We can no longer see the original table or book. As the fast forwarding comes to a halt the following figures are seated at the table: THE POPE, a POWER FEMINIST, a LIBERAL ACADEMIC, an ENVIRONMENTALIST, a RIGHT WING CONSERVATIVE, a REFORM JEW, A TRANSGENDER FEMALE, A MUSLIM, and a STUDENT. These figures represent different races and genders. THEY stare at the pile of books in front of them. A moment.)

TRANSGENDER

Wow. That's a lot of...stuff.

LIBERAL ACADEMIC

It does pile up.

REFORM JEW

Like cow shit in a barn.

FEMINIST

You mean bullshit in a barn.

LIBERAL ACADEMIC

My, you're feisty.

FEMINIST

Anyway. Can we talk about what's on the agenda?

POPE

Agenda? I would prefer to turn to god.

FEMINIST

Really? God? With the priests and the boys and the-

POPE

Could we please not talk about that? Thank you.

(HILLARY CLINTON and BENEZIR BHUTTO enter, throw down two more books and exit. The conservative rolls his eyes)

(AL GORE walks in, drops off a book. Exits.)

ENVIRONMENTALIST

It's warm in here. Hot really. I think we should start with that. These past twenty years it's all just been talk, talk, talk...

(The floor is slowly filling up with water, like a stream or wave, it appears and disappears)

And now my socks are wet. Great. I'm telling you, in a few years we will all be treading water.

CONSERVATIVE

I don't know what you're talking about. All this talk about the weather. First it's too warm, then it's too hot. This is exactly the kind of aimless left wing granola bar banter that distracts us from the real issues: babies are being killed and terrorists are taking over the world.

(Some of the guests at the table glance at the Muslim, but it should be subtle.)

ENVIRONMENTALIST

Like the Texas board of ed.

LIBERAL ACADEMIC

This is hopeless.

STUDENT

What is?

LIBERAL ACADEMIC

All of this! What's the point? This whole idea doing anything in a group is archaic. We live in a world of independent thought and skepticism, I mean, look at you. Your generation doesn't feel the need to justify anything to anyone or anything, spiritual or otherwise. Instead you're making sure your next twitter states all the ingredients of your breakfast.

(BARACK OBAMA enters, leaves a copy of The Audacity of Hope on the table. Leaves.)

STUDENTS

If you were actually on twitter you'd know that we're not all that cynical.

(Meanwhile a group of Iran protesters, all wearing green walk by.)

FEMINIST

Okay. Twitter is not on the agenda. What I have been wondering about is why am I still on this side of table? What do I have to do? Bomb a subway?

(Silence. Sirens can be heard in the distance.)

CONSERVATIVE

That was inappropriate.

FEMINIST

I know. Sorry. No actually I'm not sorry. You should be sorry. We're done apologizing for wanting a seat at the table. So.

Feminist leans back.

MUSLIM (To the CONSERVATIVE)

And I take offense to that comment about terrorists taking over the world. I saw your glances. I did. I see it all the time. And the silly thing is I take offence to it, but only because you all probably think I might take offence to a comment like that. Truth is I don't relate to terrorists. I don't even think we believe in the same god.

(Ayaan Hirsi Ali drops her book INFIDEL on the table)

REFORM JEW

For some reason I feel like you and I should be talking about Israel. Shouldn't we?

LIBERAL ACADEMIC

Can people please shut the hell up about that crappy piece of land? I mean, this idea of a monotheistic meta-narrative has absolutely no redemptive possibilities-

(The ground starts to shake.)

STUDENT

What's that?

POPE

God has spoken.

ENVIRONMENTALIST (rolls his eyes)

It's an earthquake.

REFORM JEW

Maybe were being punished for something. Why do I always feel like were being punished?

A MULSIM

Don't look at me.

STUDENT

Maybe we should do something. Maybe we should stop talking, stop sitting around, and get up. Like the song. Get up, Stand up for your-(Student stands up)

FEMINIST

That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

(A crowd of Chinese Businessmen run by talking on their blackberries. A TECHNOLOGY WHIZ enters holding an ipad. EVERYONE at the table looks up.)

TECHNOLOGY WHIZ

Isit.

(EVERYONE looks, interested. TECHNOLOGY WHIZ takes the last remaining seat, does something with his Ipad. Does not participate in the conversation.)

POPE

What is that?

WHOLE TABLE RESPONDS

Ipad.

POPE
lwhat?

FEMINIST
lquit

(Sound of rumbling. It gets louder. We hear someone from a distance shriek "Tsunami!". We see a large wave in the distance.)

ENVIRONMENTALIST
Oh God. Is that oil or water?

CONSERVATIVE
It's nothing.

ENVIRONMENTALIST
You can't keep ignoring the changes in the world, melting ice caps, massive storms, ...

(AL GORE walks by wearing life vest, shaking his head in dismay.)

REFORM JEW
Maybe it's the messiah. An angry messiah. .

CONSERVATIVE (angrily)
Look I just think we have more important things to discuss.

FEMINIST (responding in anger)
Let's stick to the agenda.

MUSLIM
I haven't even said anything yet.

LIBERAL ACADEMIC
Don't bother. No one is listening.

REFORM JEW
Would everyone stop yelling, please?

There is a moment of silence

(Until:)

STUDENT (sees, yells)
TSUNAMI!!!

(A wave hits. EVERYONE at the table is swept away. Chaos. We see water flood the space. . The water subsides. THE table, previously covered in books is now completely empty. A laptop falls from above, lands on the table, opens.)