



Caricatures of Violence

Representations of Gendered Violence in Philipon's *La Caricature*

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Introduction

La Caricature was a French satirical newspaper published by Charles Philipon in the 1830s.¹ Many images depicted King Louis-Philippe as a danger to freedom or to France. Often, this was represented through violent imagery of the king or his ministers attacking a female allegorical figure. For this project, I analyzed these and other representations of violence against women in *La Caricature*.

Methods

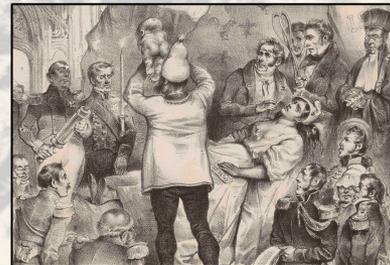
I noted the presence of key themes such as the presence of women and the depiction of violence in each image. I was then able to examine quantitative data on representation. I also selected key images and conducted qualitative analysis of how women and violence against them is represented by caricature artists.

Women as Allegories

Female allegories were often used by caricaturists because they could not be easily mistaken for real political figures (who were all male).² The most frequently represented female allegory in *La Caricature* is Marianne, the figure for the French Republic. She is seen in each of the three images below. Plate 98 is an example of an image in which she is statuesque and powerfully striding across Europe. Plates 134 and 135 show her in the domestic, feminine roles of wife and mother. Here, she lacks agency and is threatened with violence by male politicians.

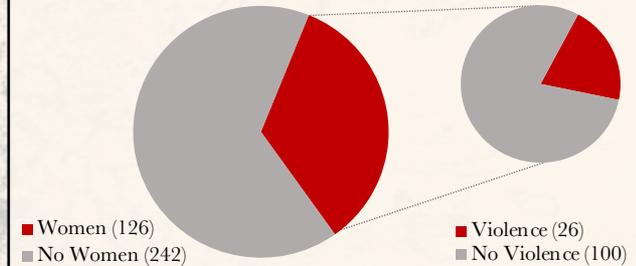


Plates: 98 (above), 135 (top right), and 134 (bottom right)

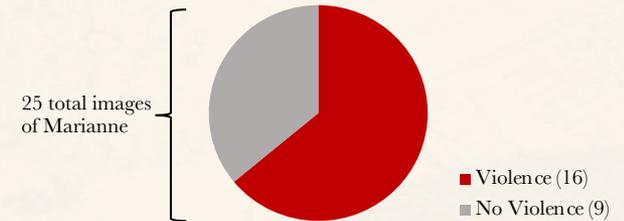


Quantitative Data

How many images include women?
How many of these include violence?



How frequently is Marianne victimized?



Findings

Women in *La Caricature* are regularly victims of violence. Female figures who are granted agency are drawn as less feminine than those who assume domestic or passive roles. Through these choices, artists reproduced and reinforced unequal gender relations from 19th-century France.

References: ¹ Philipon, Charles, and Honoré Daumier. *La Caricature*. Paris: Aubert, 1830-35. Print.

² Childs, Elizabeth C. "Women in the Modern Allegory." *Femmes D'esprit: Women in Daumier's Caricature*. Middlebury, Vermont: The Christian A. Johnson Memorial Gallery, 1990. Print.