Eugene Delacroix

Liberty Leading the People, which is a sort of political poster, was meant to commemorate the July Revolution of 1830 when the people of France rose up and dethroned king Charles X and allowed Louis-Philippe to then become the new French king. Delacroix took pleasure in portraying himself in the figure on the left wearing the top hat.

Delacroix’s spirit is fully involved in its execution: in the outstretched figure of Liberty, in the bold attitudes of the people following her contrasted with the lifeless figures of the dead heaped up in the foreground, in the heroic poses of the people fighting for liberty.

Allegory helps achieve universality in the painting: Liberty is not a woman; she is an abstract force.

Eugene Delacroix, Liberty Leading the People, 1830.