



Diego Rivera

In 1933 the Rockefellers commissioned Deigo Rivera to paint a mural for the lobby of the RCA building in Rockefeller Center. The mural "Man at the Crossroads" was to depict the social, political, industrial, and scientific possibilities of the twentieth century.

In the painting, Rivera included a scene of a giant May Day demonstration of workers marching with red banners. The clear portrait of Lenin leading the demonstration inflamed the patrons. When Rivera refused to remove the portrait, he was ordered to stop and the painting was destroyed.

That same year, Rivera used the money from the Rockefellers to create a mural for the Independent Labor Institute that had Lenin as its central figure.**

http://www-tc.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/files/2008/08/610_rivera_intro.jpg

** <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/diego-rivera/about-the-artist/64/>

Feb 26, 2012 3:35 PM



The huge mural had many parts including: society women drinking alcohol, pictures of cells, Leon Trotsky and finally the famous Lenin portion (depicting communism) which upset Rockefeller.^[2]

The patron asked Rivera to change the face of Lenin to that of an unknown laborer's face as was originally intended^[citation needed] but the painter left it as it was. The work was paid for on May 22, 1933,^[citation needed] and immediately draped. People protested but it remained covered until the early weeks of 1934, when it was smashed by workers and hauled away in wheelbarrows.**

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/15/Detalle_de_Lenin.jpg

** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_at_the_Crossroads

Feb 26, 2012 3:30 PM