

COVER STORY

BARRY BLITT'S "A WEIGHT LIFTED"

By Françoise Mouly Art by Barry Blitt

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PRICE \$8.99

JAN. 25, 2021

THE NEW YORKER



On January 20th, if all goes according to plan, Donald Trump will depart the office of the Presidency. Barry Blitt, who has spent much of the past four years studying, drawing, and riffing on Trump's antics and demagoguery, recently spoke with us about his latest cover, and about the pace and density of the news.

What visual metaphors for America—other than the eagle—come to mind? Do you have a list you turn to when searching for ideas?

Visual metaphors for America: well, you've got your Statue of Liberty, your Uncle Sam. Also, anything with stars and stripes on it. Babe Ruth, apple pie. And maybe, now, a fur-wearing QAnon shaman. I confess that I do actually keep a folder of potentially useful metaphors on my desktop, but it's mostly crazy, obscure stuff: photos of bowling-alley accidents, drinking bird toys, police lineups, etc.

Political cartoons often comment on fleeting news events, so they can have a short shelf life. Are there images you did a while back that now puzzle you?

The density of ephemeral news events in the last few years—hell, in the last few weeks—has left me with piles of drawings I can barely recall or understand

today. I just came across a drawing of a distinguished, impeccable Robert Mueller, seated at a kitchen table—that's incomprehensible to me. He looks familiar, but I'm drawing a blank. Was he a TV chef? A game-show host?

You're from Canada. Could a figure like Trump emerge there?

I guess anything is possible. Italy had Berlusconi; Brazil, Bolsonaro. Maybe there's an up-and-coming Canadian politician who is a narcissistic, closed-minded, intolerant bully, but perfectly polite enough to get elected there.

For more of Blitt's recent covers, see below:

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JULY 27, 2015

THE NEW YORKER

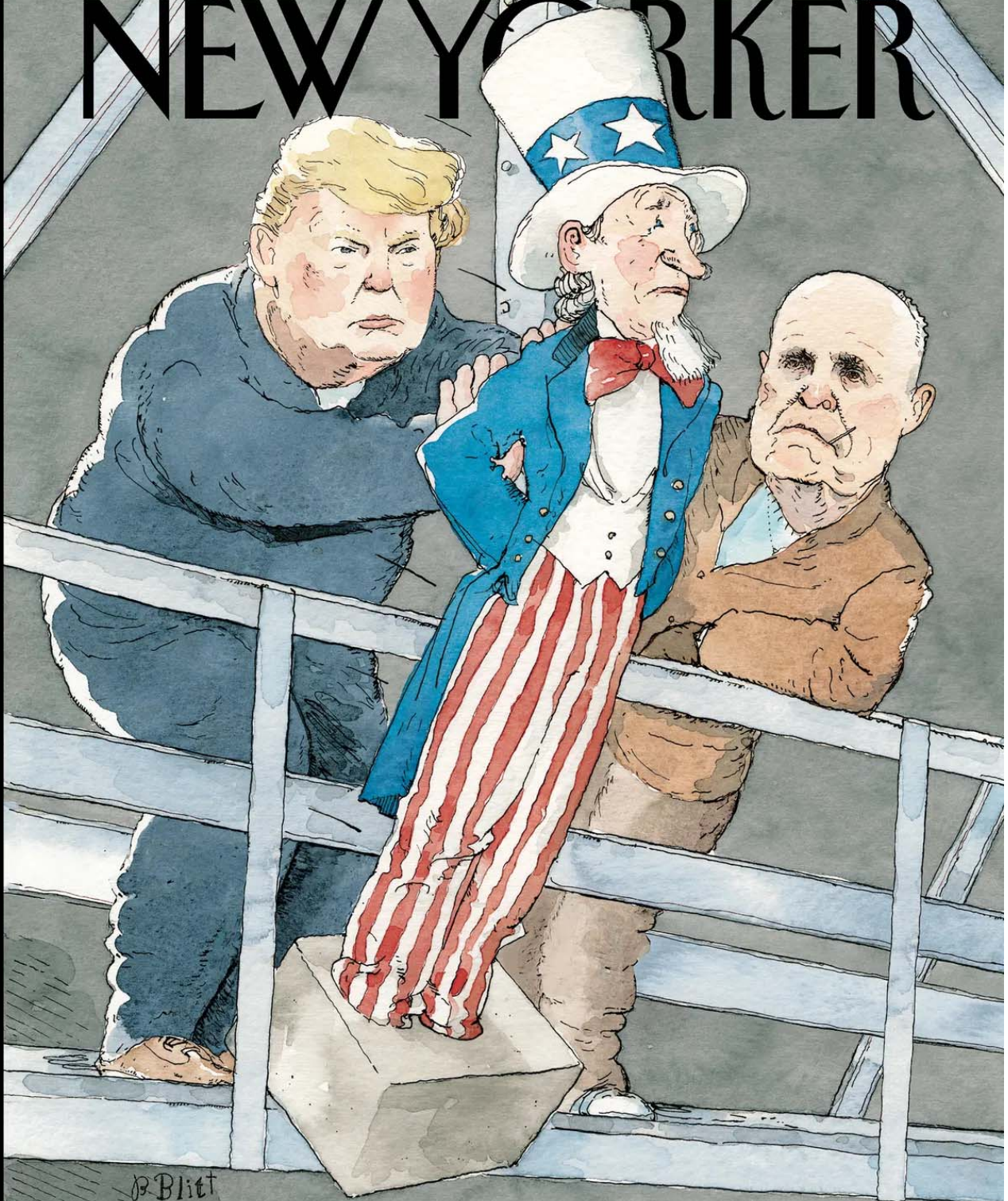


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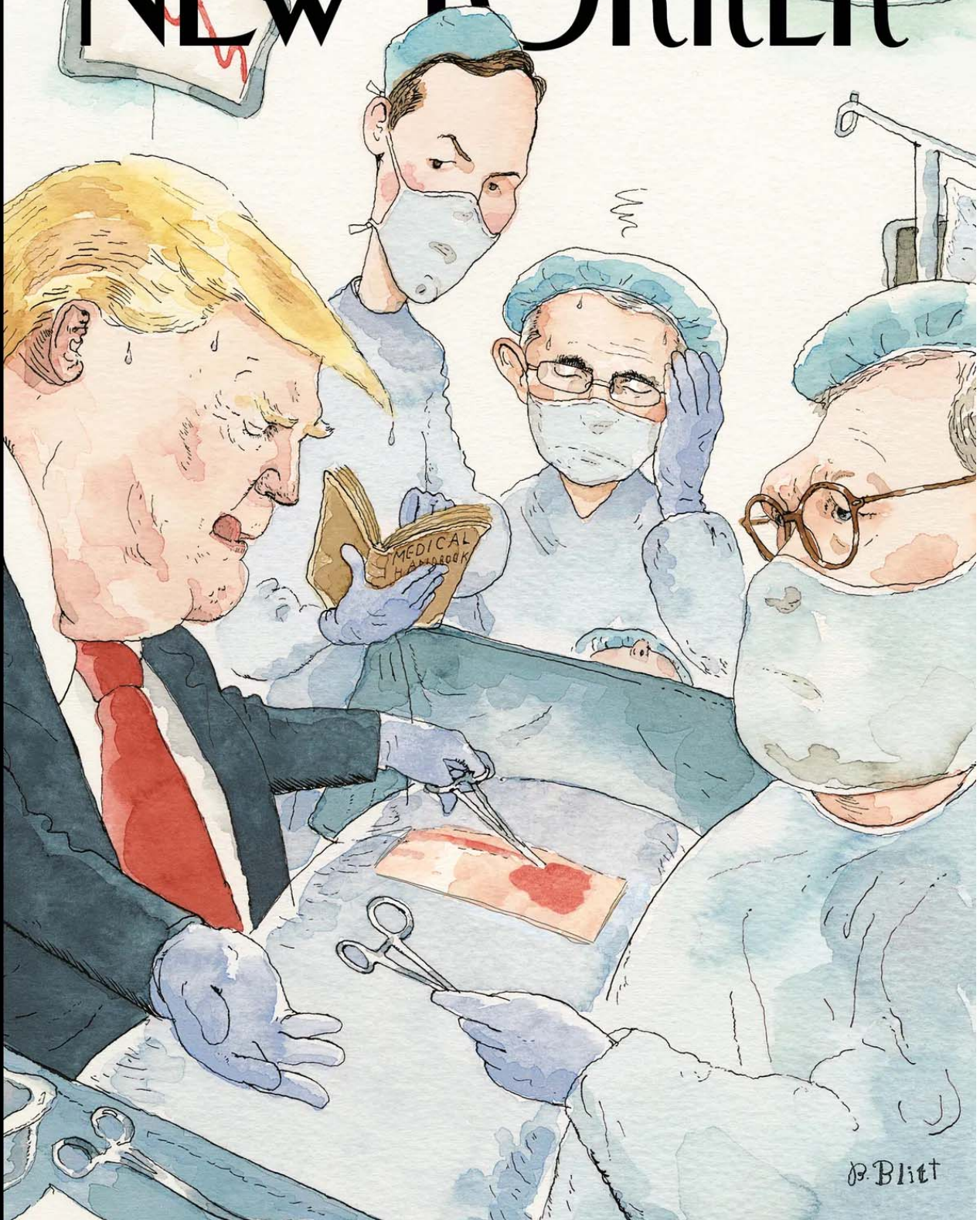


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“Natural Ability”

Find Barry Blitt's covers, cartoons, and more at the [Condé Nast Store](#).

*Françoise Mouly has been the art editor at *The New Yorker* since 1993.*

*Barry Blitt, a cartoonist and an illustrator, has contributed to *The New Yorker* since 1992. In 2020, he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning.*
