

Kill War

Jon Carapiet

This work was produced for the exhibition “Kill War” which featured work by Bruce Mahalski and Jarad Bryant, and examined our responses to the horrors of war in Iraq and elsewhere, which we see each night on our TV screens.

Since undertaking a Masters degree at Elam School of Fine Arts I had been using appropriated images from the media to explore political and spiritual themes through photo-installations. My Anglo-Armenian heritage has given me a personal connection to genocide and holocaust which came through in this earlier work as I sought to subvert the pictures and question the numbing effect on the viewer of a visual diet of war provided by the mass media. For ‘Kill War’ my aim was not to reiterate such imagery but rather to provide an antidote to it, and to war itself. I wanted to cross the boundaries of “Christian”, “Buddhist” or “Hindu” arts and draw on a range of spiritual traditions. Together these images are of ‘collaborators’ against war, who act as a counterbalance to guns, blood and pain, and instead speak of compassion and love.



Jon Carapiet is an Auckland-based researcher, writer and artist. Born in Ghana in 1963 and raised in England he studied Anthropology and Art History at St John's College, Cambridge, and Fine Arts at Auckland University. His career encompasses work in the commercial fields of advertising and research as well as in the visual arts, consumer rights and green politics.)