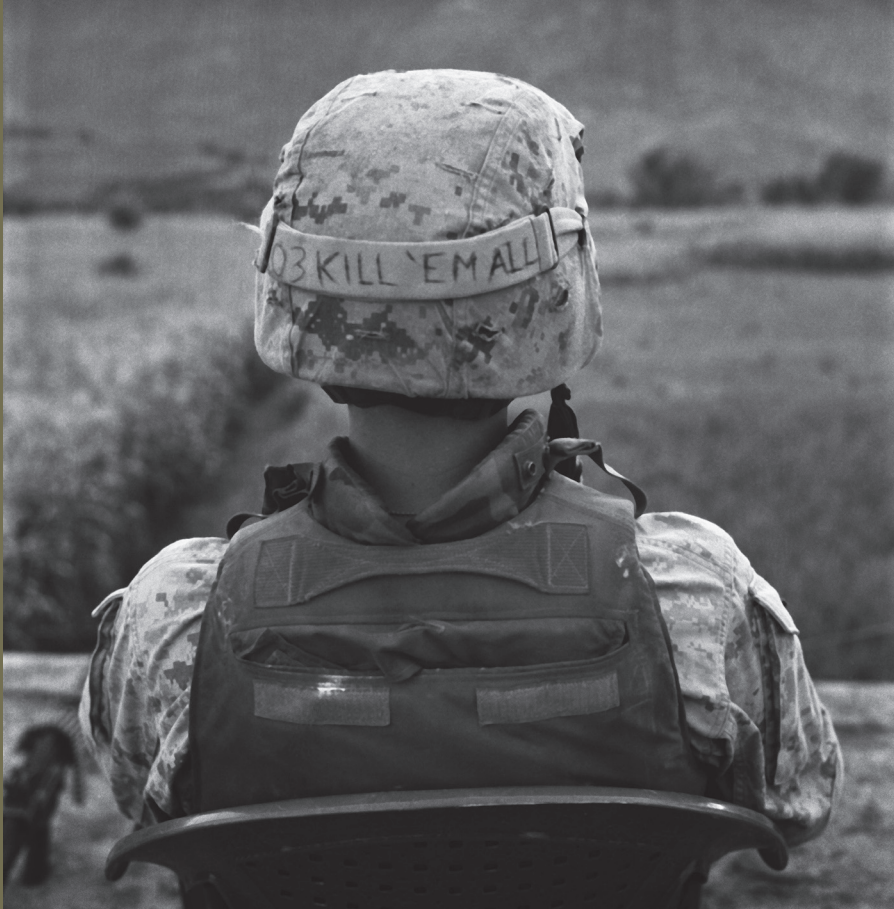


IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS



BUSHWHACKED

BUSHWHACKED

5–28 March 2009

ARTISTS

Robbie Conal
Stephen Dupont
Guerrilla Girls
David Mackenzie
Chris Morris
Abdullah Syed
Wax Audio

(COVER IMAGE) Stephen Dupont *Kill Em All, US Marine, 2ND Battalion, Echo CO. at Watapoor Village, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, September 2005* 2005 C-type photograph dimensions variable

BUSHWHACKED

Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.

George W. Bush, Washington, D.C., Aug. 5, 2004

Capitalism is a marvelous system for creating wealth. On the other hand, unregulated capitalism creates hideous social injustice and promptly destroys itself with greed.¹

Having entered the 21st Century within a neo-liberalist framework—a framework that could be seen as consolidating and perpetuating a new world disorder—we now enter a momentous time ripe for change. The two-term reign of the Bush Administration is over. Where has this positioned us, individually and globally, philosophically and economically? With enduring battles over resources, dubious free trade arrangements, a greed-inspired credit crisis, and an increasing reliance on measuring corporate profits against previous profits instead of mere expenditure, all while prices on basic consumables increase as quality and quantity decline, it seems fitting to question how we got here, and more importantly, where we are going.

Although previous administrations have legislated similar policies, the unilateral and militaristic foreign policy of the Bush Administration whole-sold this new world disorder to a largely insatiable throng bent on decanting their own future of extravagance. Until recently we have been over-fed with symbols of our wealth, but with the World Financial Crisis and our Prime Minister's call for employers "to do the right thing" by their workers (with a colloquial discard of irony), then perhaps, as Alice in her own wonderland retorted, things aren't as they seem. This exhibition aims to highlight the effect and affect the Bush Administration has had on the world via a selection of artistic responses.

You only have to type 'George W. Bush' into youtube or google with the adjectives of your choice to reveal a gaggle of independently edited and posted featurettes of the former 'leader of the free world'. This wealth of content shouldn't surprise us: Bush was after all the President of the United States of America. But as for his actions, what else might we expect? ... more? More than opaque 'bushisms' and fear encumbered rhetoric? More than a man who led an administration to decrease federal regulations on occupational health and safety, and to reduce educational reforms to mere product- and profit-driven assessments. More than a man and government that failed to adequately respond to the devastation of natural and economic events in low socio-economic regions, while generally perpetuating and inflating the excesses of capitalism—as highlighted by insider trading such as in Harken, or unevenly weighted tax-cuts and dividend breaks for wealthy investors,

coupled with decreased federal regulation of the finance sector—rather than looking towards reform in the wake of Enron et al. Did I mention the war? Iraq? Afghanistan? Or the war on drugs and terror where US military led interventions are now providing security for multinational oil operations in Colombia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and West Africa?

With their crusade to ensure US hegemony in the 21st Century, the efforts of the Bush Administration have contributed to political, social, economic, ethnic and religious disorder in many regions of the world.² Driven by meaning and message, the artists represented here have devoted much of their artistic endeavours to elucidating such points. Artists to feature include: Stephen Dupont, an Australian photojournalist who chronicles global turmoil and change; Abdullah Syed, a Pakistan-born installation artist and printmaker; Americans Robbie Conal, a guerrilla poster artist, and feminist masked avengers, the Guerrilla Girls; UK satirist Chris Morris; and Australians David Mackenzie, a time-based artist, and Wax Audio, a mash-up DJ complete the mix. Whether documenting or recording, protesting and installing, or simply creating, these artists have responded to the Bush Administration's disconnect. To borrow a line from Barack Obama, "it's what fills the spaces in between", that is, us, that shapes our world. We should feel empowered by this. The protest made by the works in *Bushwhacked* remind us to keep firmly in mind the fact that elected governments are merely regulatory bodies for how we want to live.

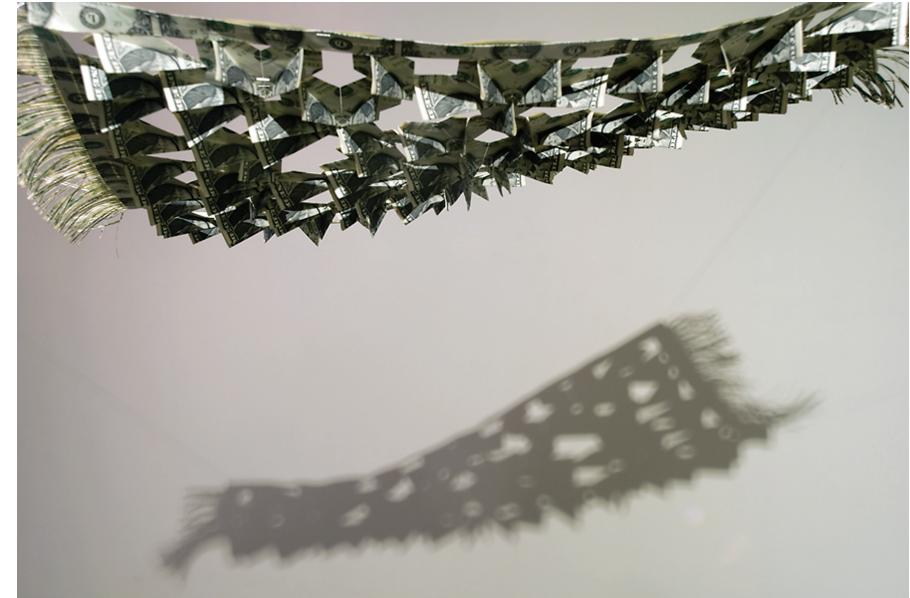
Adrian Davies, Curator, February 2009

¹ Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose, *Bushwhacked*, Random House, New York, 2003, p. 15.

² This statement is paraphrased from Gary Leech, *Crude interventions: the US, oil and the new world (dis) order*, Zed Books, London, 2006, a book that explores these issues in detail.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Chris Morris and Jo Beasy, Cartel Communique, Wax Audio aka Tom Compagnoni, John Callaghan, Robbie Conal and Melise, Kathe Kollwitz and all the Guerrilla Girls, Stephen Dupont, David Mackenzie and Abdullah Syed. Thanks to all the staff of the Ivan Dougherty Gallery, and my extended family of friends at the College of Fine Arts; to Deborah West, Sally Robinson, and the invaluable assistance of Margaret Farmer, not forgetting the inspirational John Pilger, and, of course, Felicity Fenner and Nick Waterlow for their ongoing encouragement and enthusiasm; and finally to Bella, Pepper and Tex for riding out a summer of art, politics and cricket.



ABDULLAH SYED

The Flying Rug I 2008 US one dollar bills and staple pins dimensions variable
photography by Mahmood, Karachi



ROBBIE CONAL

Tower of Babble (Ashcroft, Ridge, Dubya) 2002 off-set litho 91.5 cm x 56 cm



STEPHEN DUPONT

US soldiers of the 173rd Airborne burn the bodies of two dead Taliban fighters for what was explained to this photographer, for 'hygiene purposes' while an attached PsyOps unit broadcast inflammatory words on a loudspeaker to the Taliban and local villagers, Gombad Village, Shawali Kot, Kandahar, Afghanistan, October 1st 2005 2005 C-type photograph dimensions variable

"You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and burned. You are too scared to come down and retrieve the bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be."

A PsyOps broadcast in Gombad Village, eastern Afghanistan

THE U.S. HOMELAND TERROR ALERT SYSTEM FOR WOMEN

SEVERE

PRESIDENT CLAIMS WOMEN **DO** HAVE RIGHTS:
CAN JOIN ARMY, FIGHT UNPROVOKED WAR,
KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE

HIGH

PRESIDENT DECLARES ABSTINENCE HIS
FAVORITE FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL AND
THE ANSWER TO AIDS EPIDEMIC

ELEVATED

PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES RESULT IN
LARGEST JOB LOSSES FOR WOMEN
IN 40 YEARS

GUARDED

PRESIDENT APPOINTS MAN TO FEDERAL DRUG
ADMINISTRATION WHO BELIEVES PRAYER
IS THE BEST TREATMENT FOR PMS

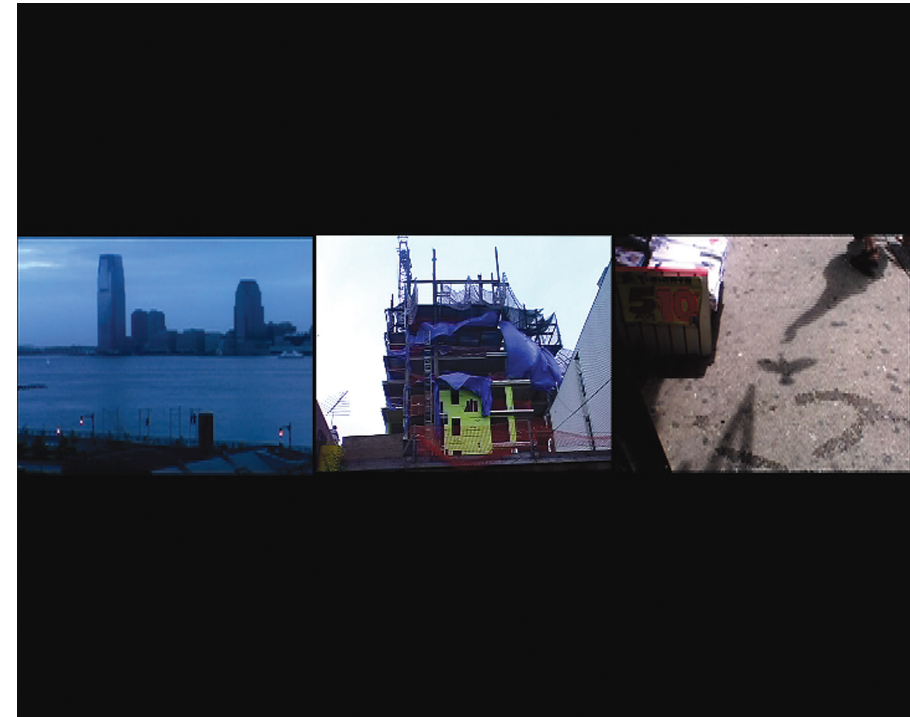
LOW

PRESIDENT RIDES AROUND ON HORSE,
CLEARS BRUSH ON RANCH

www.guerrilllogirls.com

GUERRILLA GIRLS

The Women's Terror Alert 2003 print dimensions and medium variable



DAVID MACKENZIE

American Dream (Suspended), New York 2005–2008 three channel DVD video loop 4 min 15 sec

LIST OF WORKS

ROBBIE CONAL

A Bombin' Nation 2005
off-set litho
100 cm x 56 cm

Climate Change (Obama) 2008
off-set litho
61 cm x 46 cm

Emission Accomplished 2008
off-set litho
91.5 cm x 56 cm

*False Profit (Jimmy and
Tammy Faye Baker)* 1988
off-set litho
61 cm x 46 cm each

*It Can't Happen Here
(George Bush Sr)* 1988
off-set litho
61 cm x 46 cm

Patriot InAction 2005
off-set litho
95 cm x 61 cm

Read My Apocalips 2004
off-set litho
91.5 cm x 61 cm

*Robbie Conal's Guerrilla Etiquette &
Postering Guide* 2002
single channel DVD loop
7 min 30 sec

*Secretary of Offense (Donald Rumsfeld
and Dick Cheney)* 2002
off-set litho
86.5 cm x 61 cm

*Tastes Like Chicken/The Other
White Meat (Al Gore/George Bush;
Presidential Campaign 2000)* 2000
off-set litho
61 cm x 40.5 cm each

The Second Scumming 2001
off-set litho
46 cm x 61 cm

*Tower of Babble (Ashcroft, Ridge,
Dubya)* 2002
off-set litho
91.5 cm x 56 cm

Watching, Waiting, Dreaming 2002
off-set litho
61 x 46 cm

www.robbyconal.com

STEPHEN DUPONT

*Kill Em All, US Marine, 2ND Battalion,
Echo CO. at Watapoor Village, Kunar
Province, Afghanistan, September
2005* 2005
C-type photograph
dimensions variable

*US Marines, 2ND Battalion, Echo CO.
on patrol in Asadabad, Kunar Province,
Afghanistan, September 2005* 2005
C-type photograph
dimensions variable

*US soldiers of the 173rd Airborne
burn the bodies of two dead Taliban
fighters for what was explained to this
photographer, for 'hygiene purposes'
while an attached PsyOps unit
broadcast inflammatory words on a
loudspeaker to the Taliban and local
villagers, Gombad Village, Shawali Kot,
Kandahar, Afghanistan, October 1st
2005* 2005

C-type photograph
dimensions variable

www.stephendupont.com

GUERRILLA GIRLS

*I decide, You decide, We decide, They
DON'T decide* 2004
printed signs and documented image of
GGs
installation
dimensions variable

Letter to Santa 2002
print dimensions and medium variable

The Women's Terror Alert 2003
print dimensions and medium variable

www.guerrillagirls.com

DAVID MACKENZIE

*American Dream (Suspended), New York
2005–2008*
three channel DVD video loop
4 min 15 sec

CHRIS MORRIS

Bushwhacked 2, 2003
easter egg on *The Day Today* DVD,
BBC2
4 min 7 sec
DVD image created by Cartel
Communique

ABDULLAH SYED

Buzzwords 2009
photoetching, hard-ground, aquatint and
colour roll on 2 hexagonal plates
set of 7 each 18.25 x 21 cm
edition of 12

Printed in collaboration with CICADA
Press, COFA, UNSW

The Flying Rug III 2009
US one dollar bills and staple pins
dimensions variable

*"The Flying Rug I, 2008" photography
by Mahmood, Karachi*

Tender Words 2009
letterpress on various banknotes
edition and dimensions variable
Printed in collaboration with
Jesse O'Neill, Sydney

WAX AUDIO

A Day of Horror 2003
audio file
2 min 31 sec

Bushbeats 2004
audio file
7 min 40 sec

God 2007
audio file
4 min 14 sec

Happy Xmas (War is Over) 2007
audio file
4 min 21 sec

Imagine This 2005
4 min 35 sec
DVD and audio file
DVD image created by John
Callaghan
<http://www.cal-tv.net/>

Peace 2007
audio file
1 min 19 sec

War 2007
audio file
1 min 56 sec

WMD – American Justice 2003
audio file
2 min 41 sec

All audio files courtesy of the artist
www.waxaudio.com.au

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