

POST UP: THE WAR OF IMAGES A BRIGHTON PHOTO BIENNIAL PROJECT



**MAKE LOVE
STOP WAR**



MEMORY OF FIRE
THE WAR OF IMAGES AND IMAGES OF WAR
CURATED BY JULIAN STALLABRASS
03.10.08 > 16.11.08
BPB.ORG.UK





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**BRIGHTON
PHOTO
BIENNIAL
2008**



Poster from the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex Library. The veterans and students looked at a range of material from the Mass Observation Archive including this poster, which illustrates the popular propaganda slogan of the time 'careless talk costs lives'

POST UP:

THE WAR OF IMAGES

A BRIGHTON PHOTO BIENNIAL PROJECT

THE POST UP PROJECT

Post Up is a collaboration between the Mass Observation Archive and Brighton Photo Biennial. Photographer Anthony Lam has been working with veterans and year 9 pupils from Patcham High School in Brighton to increase knowledge and understanding of the impact of contemporary conflict.

Using the archive's WWII material, BPB exhibitions, and participants' personal experiences as starting points, Lam and the participants have been considering the way in which memory of war and media images affect modern day understanding of conflict.

Through research, conversation, writing, art and photography, the veterans and young people have together been exploring media manipulation (propaganda), and the role of photojournalism. The two groups naturally have very different perspectives, but through the exchange of ideas and opinions, they have shared their experiences, and begun to understand better their own and others' feelings about war in the 21st Century.

THE POST UP EVENT

Jubilee Square, Brighton, (Post Up Project Hub at Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton)
Friday 14 November & Saturday 15 November, 10am – 4pm

The *Post Up* project concludes with a free outdoor event in the city centre staged by Anthony Lam with the veterans and pupils. The rally style activities provide an opportunity for members of the public to respond, react and participate in the project.

The activities include a peace wall, balloon giveaway, speakers corner and conversations with young people. Come along! Take part and post up your views!

THE POST UP PROJECT HUB

Lighthouse, 28 Kensington Street, Brighton
Friday 14 November & Saturday 15 November, 10am – 4pm

The *Post Up Project Hub* is an indoor space around the corner from Jubilee Square at Lighthouse, a visual and media arts centre that is currently showing for Brighton Photo Biennial *Why Mister Why?* and *Baghdad Calling* by internationally acclaimed photojournalist Geert Van Kesteren. The hub extends the opportunity for participation with live access to the BPB blog - a platform for ideas and discussion around the theme of photography and conflict, as well as a chance to see what the veterans and young people have been up to.

BRIGHTON PHOTO BIENNIAL

Brighton Photo Biennial is an ambitious celebration of international photographic practice committed to stimulating critical debate on photography in all its forms.

Brighton Photo Biennial 2008, entitled, *Memory of Fire: the War of Images and Images of War*, is curated by Julian Stallabrass and explores photographic images of war, their making, use and circulation, and their currency in contemporary society. Stallabrass presents photography, film and online material produced and circulated in times of war, and explores how images have been shaped by the changing social and political conditions from the early twentieth century to the present.

The ten exhibitions, presented at leading visual arts venues in Brighton and across the South East, include both historical and contemporary images produced by photojournalists, artists and non-professionals.

Stallabrass's bold and challenging theme explores the history and diverse scope of images of war using vernacular, documentary, fine art, montage, historical and contemporary photography. It examines the production and dissemination of images in times of war, especially the changing conditions from the Vietnam era to the present, and seeks to frame and inform new imagery with old (and vice versa).

THE MASS OBSERVATION ARCHIVE

The Mass Observation Archive is a unique internationally renowned institution based at the University of Sussex, which holds all the papers generated by 1930s' social research organisation Mass Observation. Mass Observation carried out a wide range of studies during the period of World War Two and continues to record people's feelings about war in the present day. The material includes diaries, letters, photographs, accounts and artefacts. It is currently working with researchers and University teachers to document and explore the way in which memory of war affects modern day understanding of conflict.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have views you would like to express about some of the themes explored by the project, come to Lighthouse or Jubilee Square on the 14th and 15th November. Various options for recording your views or posting your comments will be available. The material collected at the event will be edited and deposited at the Mass Observation Archive as a teaching resource for future projects.





SHATTERED

DREAMS

Poem – Brutality.

Upsetting,
Devastation,
Sadness,
Fear,
Real People,
On The Scene,
Not Professional...
This is what we feel.

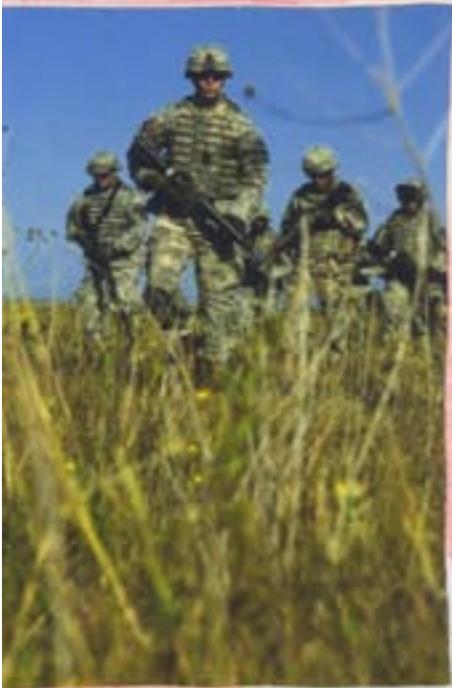
People Trying to live their lives through the war,
Bodies on the side of the road,
Tanks patrolling the city,
Young boys and men punishing themselves,
Huge knives being carried around,
Bodies wrapped up,

Prisoners,
Skulls,
This is what we see.
All in all,

BRUTALITY.

By Robyn Gunn & Tara Bernard.





STOP WAR!

THESE ARE SOME HORRIFIC PICTURES OF THE WAR!



On Monday 18th of October these horrific events took place.

How would you feel if this was you?
Or someone in your family?
Or if you had done it?



Take pride for your country for good reasons!



By
Jack
Gillespie
Calum
Adams
Seaf Bawst

**PHOTOGRAPHER ANTHONY LAM
REFLECTS ON POST UP!**

It has been very interesting and enriching to see how the gap in ages between the school students and adults within the *Post UP* group hasn't hindered genuine collaboration and the sensitive sharing of experiences and views concerning conflicts now and in the past. Over a short period, the group have found much common ground, being constructive, critical and creative.

Working together has been quite profound at times as we explored personal reflections on the effects of war on individuals within the group and looked at archive materials held at the Mass Observation Archive and brought in by the veterans. The intention of this project work has been to open up a dialogue for engagement that bridges the generations and builds a platform for debate around issues and images that affect all of us in these times. We hope that you will be able to join in the debate and that the group's efforts stir you to think beyond the frame.

BLOG

CHARLIE'S BLOG

I spoke to Priscilla about her being a Jew in the war and she was speaking about how they were treated. First of all, Hitler sent his men to knock on peoples doors and ask if their second name was Jewish and if it was, at night their men put a yellow cross on there door and eventually he gave them yellow arm bands and if they were walking down the road and look into a shop window they would get arrested and eventually Hitler had enough and sent his men out to kill them. I believe it was wrong that the Jewish people were treated differently and sent to concentration camps and some of them were gassed and killed. I don't know a lot about the Iraq war because no-one talks about it, but I know English and American men are out there and a lot of them are getting killed and they are trying to kill them to make peace. I want to know if killing people is right to make peace.

Blog Poem – Brutality

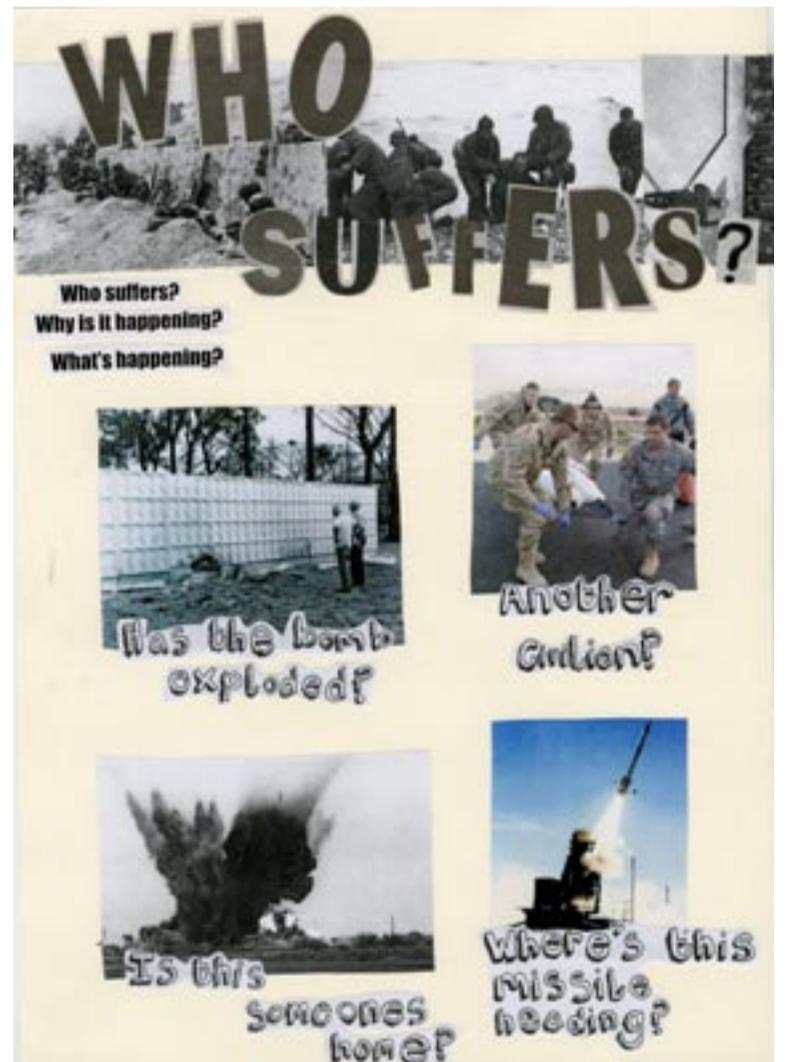
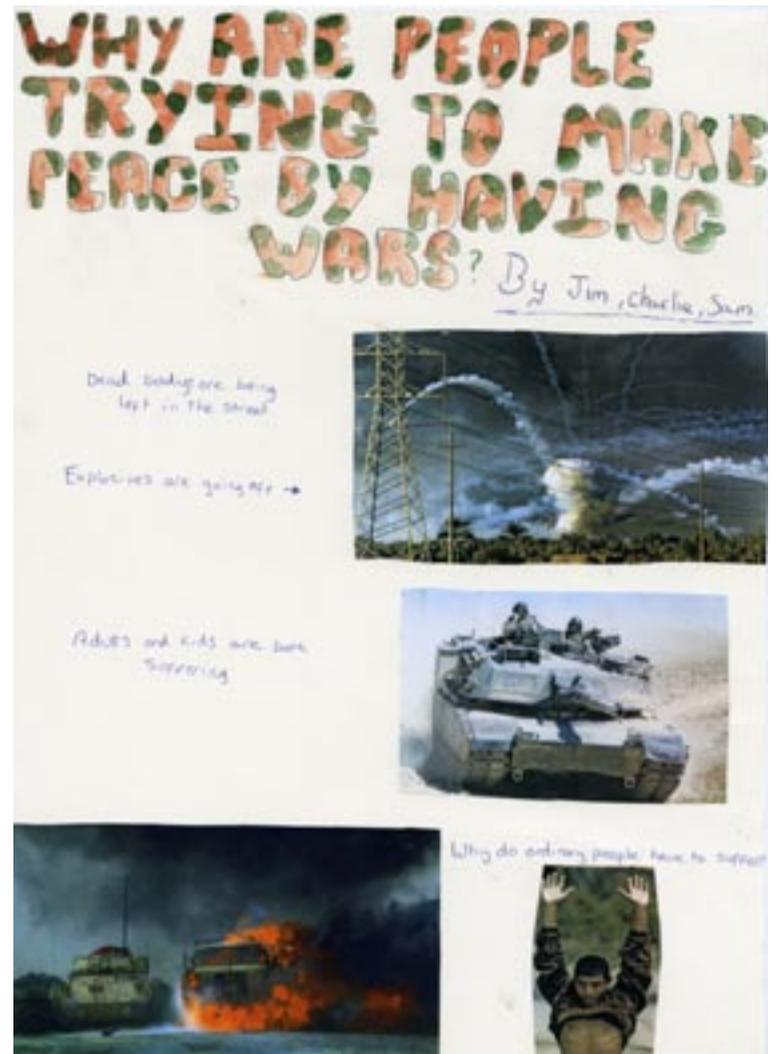
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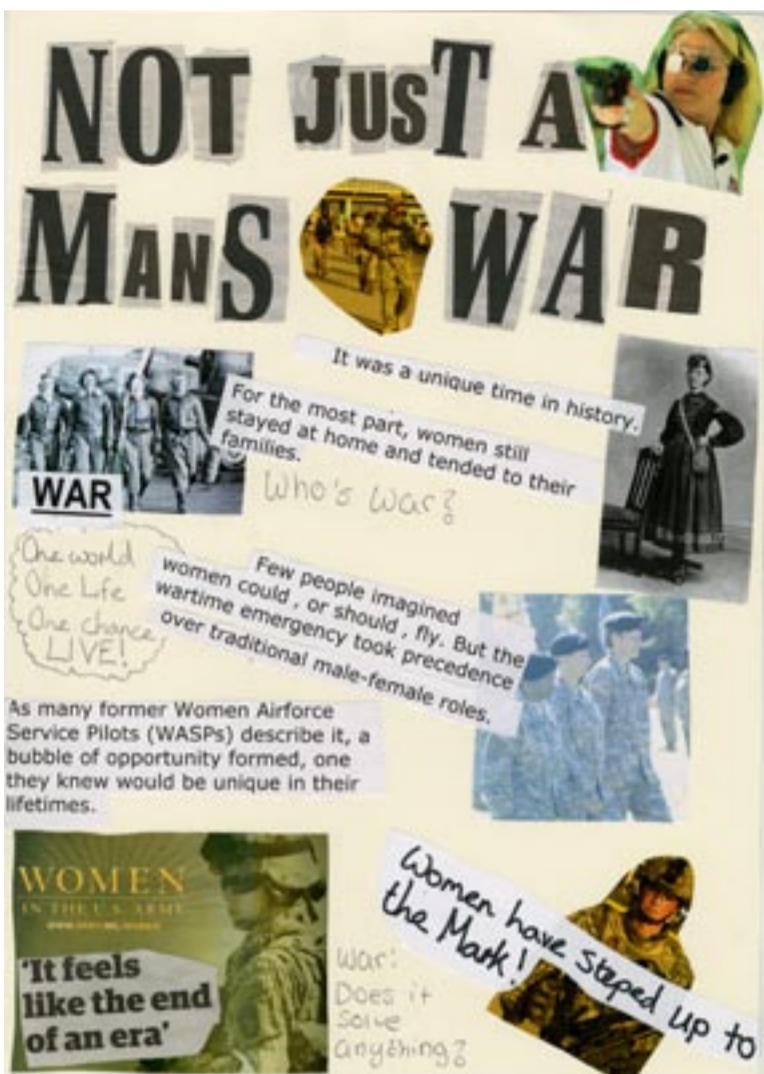
BRUTALITY.

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HE SWITCHED ON AND IN 2 SECS THE WORLD HAD CHANGED FOREVER. WE SAT DRIVING ALONG TO THE HOUSE WITHOUT SPEAKING AND WHEN WE GOT IN WE SWITCHED ON THE TV AND SAW APOCALYPSE BEFORE OUR EYES, RIGHT THERE IN OUR LOUNGE. (C2570, woman, aged 87 from Northern Ireland)

Mass Observation Archive (University of Sussex): Replies to Autumn 2001 Directive: The impact of the war after September 11.



Juliette Buss, BPB Education Consultant

Brighton Photo Biennial's education programme delivers a year round programme of artist led activities that encourage people to engage with historical and contemporary photographic practice. Education has a very particular role to play in this Biennial, which looks uncompromisingly at the ethical and political issues that arise when we view images of human suffering. The education programme, which includes *Post Up*, has been crucial in providing opportunities for comment, contribution and participation. The key feature of *Post Up* has been discussion and dialogue, and the final event in Jubilee Square extends this opportunity for debate.

The *Post Up* project is supported through *Their Past Your Future 2 (TPYF2)* programme funded by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. The two day event is also part of this year's *Celebrating Age Festival* programme.

BRIGHTON PHOTO BIENNIAL, AN EXHIBITION REVIEW BY AMY-JANE PATRICK AND LYDIA CHAMPION

On Thursday 16 October we went to the *Why Mister Why?* and *Baghdad Calling* exhibition by photojournalist Geert Van Kesteren at Lighthouse in Brighton.

Some of the images we saw were disturbing, but some made you think. There were pictures of peoples' homes destroyed, and of them living on the streets and all over the place. We looked at the exhibition with Jim, a veteran, and this made it a lot easier to understand the pictures, because if we were unsure about anything we could ask him. We were talking about how some of the images made you feel upset and sorry for the people in them, and that they are real images, and these things are actually happening. They're not made up.

We thought that *Why Mister Why?* was a better exhibition because the pictures were much stronger and you could really understand what was going on in them. It makes you think about how silly our everyday problems can be, compared to the things that they are facing. The *Why Mister Why?* exhibition was split into three sections. The first section was called 'raids'. There were pictures of peoples' homes being raided and people being taken out of them. Some being kidnapped. They made us feel really angry that people would want to do that to innocent people. In section two you saw the effects of war, 'Mass graves'. There were pictures of bodies in long lines and wrapped up in white sheets. Most of these were quite disturbing. The final section was called 'Ashura'. There were pictures of people harming themselves because of what they have done, and trying to show that they are sorry for doing all of their sins and are harming themselves to show that they really mean it.



Geert Van Kesteren, August 4, 2003. (near) Tikrit, Iraq © Geert van Kesteren

Why, Mister, Why? and *Baghdad Calling* Geert Van Kesteren, at Lighthouse until 16.11.08

Geert Van Kesteren has established himself as one of the most innovative photojournalists working today. His book, *Why, Mister, Why?* is one of the few photographic books to attempt a synthetic view of the Iraq war. It tracks the brutal tactics of the coalition forces, the many humiliations ordinary Iraqis endure under the occupation and the unearthing of mass graves of victims of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. In his new book, *Baghdad Calling*, Van Kesteren worked with Iraqi refugees, millions of whom have been driven away by the conflict. He became fascinated by their exchange of phone images with those who remained in Iraq. These images, from mundane shots of family life made poignant by circumstances of separation to images of violence, are contrasted with Van Kesteren's own photographs of the refugees.

Lighthouse
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28 Kensington Street
Brighton BN1 4AJ
T: +44 (0) 1273 647197
www.lighthouse.org.uk
Wednesday-Sunday
11am-5pm

I'M ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS, IS THIS REALLY GOING TO GET OUT OF HAND? ARE TERRORISTS GOING TO BOMB THE CHANNEL TUNNEL? IS THERE ANY POINT IN SPENDING A FORTUNE ON A NEW FIRE, NEW CARPET ETC. WILL WE BE HERE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR?

(E743, female housewife, aged 57, from Cheshire)

Mass Observation Archive (University of Sussex): Replies to Autumn 2001 Directive: The impact of the war after September 11.

REPENT



"ARE WE TOO LATE?"

"Who sent them in?"

"Should we send them?"

"we sent them to death."



"Would SHE Forgive him?"



IN HONOR OF
THE AIRBORNE TROOPER
WHOSE COURAGE, DEDICATION AND
TRADITIONS MAKE HIM THE

WHY IS THE

WORLD

TURNING

AGAINST

EACH OTHER

?

