

Gallery 400 (M/C 033)
School of Art and Design
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"WEAPON" "Arresting Images"

The works in this exhibition are a response to the growing concern by artists over the use and abuse of weapons in our society. Many of the works in the exhibition confront the violence and aggression of todays society while others react to the powerlessness and senselessness of the system which they are a part and still others relay information in a narrative format. Weapons emerge as symbols and symptoms of social, cultural, economic and psychological dysfunctions and become metaphors for the profound disparities of the human condition. This exhibition addresses the dialogue around weapons, their uses and meanings as well as their relationship to our culture.

Weapons have existed as cultural artifacts since the beginning of time. Traditionally, museums make available presentations of these objects as cultural artifacts and testaments to a society. They are objects stripped of their context and tastefully exhibited as individual specimens in isolation. The weapons in this exhibition would be recontextualized in of a socio-cultural context and taken out of a neutral position.

"Weapon" will investigate issues about weapon control, power vs. weakness, position/status, the psychological state (hysteria and paranoia vs. authority and command), the mass media connection, identity, stereotyping, space (public and private: domestic vs. community), resistance vs. acceptance, and the role these weapons play in our culture. In some cases the artists work does not support a "positive image" but an in-your-face, non-apologetic acceptance of the state of weapons in our society and in other cases the works may act as a signifier or interpreter of this era. Weapons will be examined at the micro (psychological/private) and on the larger macro (political, social, cultural) levels of analyses.

Karen Indeck
Curator