Sketch

View

Soldier

and

Armed Personnel Carrier

A sketch

and

a view

of a soldier

from the back end

of an armed personnel carrier

Destroyed: April 30, 1999

Graveyard

Tank

Artifacts

Archaeological Slice

Horn of Africa

Arms Merchants

Century

Standing

in an arms graveyard

the artist

examines a rusting tank

one of many artifacts of previous wars

an archaeological slice

of how well the Horn of Africa

has been served by the

arms merchants

of this century

Destroyed: June 29, 1999
The Somalia Project

Allan Harding MacKay
physician
spoke out
misdeeds
airborne soldiers
mutilated
inquiry
The physician
who while serving in Somalia
identified and spoke out
about misdeeds perpetrated by
Canadian airborne soldiers
against Somali civilians,
his actions contributed to the
establishment of the
Somali Inquiry.
Dr. Armstrong is now a civilian.

Journalists
holding cell
The image
of the holding cell
in the Canadian military compound
in Belet Feero
the structure
of the holding cell
that housed
the victims of the attack on
the Canadian soldiers
accused of the torture and murder of
Somali teenagers.

Holding cell
The witnessing by the journalists
of the abuses to the Somali
from this holding cell
led to the unfolding
of the Somali Affair
and the establishment of the
Somali Inquiry.
A visual echo of
western images in art
the female image
take their appearance as
three stoic women
in conversation
Images of
stoicism and humor
in a land both
epic and harsh

principal
school
village
country
war
famine
gratitude
peacekeepers
safety
pens
paper
teachers
students

A hasty sketch
of the school principal
whose school was again
functioning
peacefully
in a village
in a country
plagued by civil war and famine
He expressed his gratitude
for the Canadian peacekeepers’
help in securing safety, for the village
and the gifts of pens and paper
to the unpaid
teachers and their young students
blood bath of healing
female blood
his thin glistening body

As dawn
a sick child
experiences an ancient remedy,
a blood bath of healing
carried
by four female hands
who pour the blood
of a freshly killed calf
over
his thin glistening body

woman
refuge road
shields face
inquisitive intrusive
camera
armed personnel carrier

A Somali woman
walking on the edge of a
private excavation
on the road
to the village of
Belel Waar
shields
her face
from the inquisitive and intrusive
camera
that rolls by
sheltered
stop the
armed personnel carrier
Somalia Project cont...

In March 1992 the Canadian Armed Forces Citizen Artists Program commissioned Allan Harding Mackay to document, through works of art, Operation Restore Hope and its human rights and military initiatives, carried out by the Canadian Forces under United Nations direction.

During his travels in Somalia with the Canadian Forces, the artist’s time was spent primarily in the operating environment of the Canadian Armed Forces. His overall, searching impressions are expressed as a series of images throughout most of his work. High tech warfare machinery, war-torn cities, and the systematic destruction of the Somali rural and urban environment, are all part of the artist’s vision. These images are a reflection of the artist’s sense of helplessness in the face of events. It is his way of engaging the viewer in his attempt to understand and express the violence that is happening around him.

Since 1992, the Somalia experience has been featured prominently in Mackay’s art practice, and his “Somalia Yellow” series has produced videos, drawings, collages, magazine projects, and prints. In addition to a theatre collaboration with the One Yellow Rabbit ensemble and images contributed to the Atlas Editions and Rodney Soward’s works, the artist has been selected to participate in the 1999 exhibition Changing Perspectives, which is touring in the United States. Mackay hopes his professional career in Baffin and his current artist-in-residence position at The Baffin Centre for the Arts will provide him with a “different” perspective on the Canadian Armed Forces.

The book “Images of War: Allan Harding Mackay” an extensive monograph by the artist authored by Robert Steacy, has recently been published by the Art Gallery of Mississauga, printed by Coach House Press, and distributed through archives of Canadian Art and Design.

Acknowledgements: Art Direction: Allan Harding Mackay; Design: Jane McCarroll; Typesetting: The Typographer of Art Gallery of Mississauga, Art in Resistant Projects, Ltd.

Canada at War, 1999

Allan Harding Mackay

On April 13, 1999 Allan Harding Mackay announced that he intended to deploy one of his Somalia projects overseas until he is satisfied that the Canadian government’s going on spin war of the military ignores the world’s support for the effective role of UN’s humanitarian effort and pre-empting war home.

This permanent exhibition of video and paper created from his observations in Somalia gained us.

The commissioned works from the assignment are in the collection of the Canadian War Museum, the Department of National Defence, the National Gallery of Canada, Kristiansens Museum, University of Calgary, and the Baffin Art Society.

Currently, the exhibition of Mackay’s recently completed work at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, University of Manitoba will be included in the 1999 biennial of the Baffin Art Society.

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dust machines

A Somalian woman carries on with the domestic chores of the western military personnel amidst the dust and roar of the land-air machines.

woman

military

land-air

Destruction/09/1999
presence
Cpl. Chris Sinclair
Manitoba

abattoir

The animal and reassuring presence
of Cpl. Chris Sinclair
a guardian of the Cree nation
responsible for
securing
our safety
in the blood-soaked
stomach
of the village abattoir

Destroy date: April 17, 1999

The penetrating gaze
from a young Nomal
rising up
the intrusive with the camera
a momentary distraction
from her task
of filling water vessels
and the camels, goats, bird and human
caecophagy
of this desert oasis

Destroy date: June 4, 1999
The camera flash illuminates the face of Capt. Michael Cox as a patrol of soldiers and journalists moves towards the predawn slaughtering ground of the village abattoir.

As dawn's shadows turn to early morning light in the village abattoir, a remnant of post-colonial architecture and the rib-cage of a camel frame the contemplative countenance of an elderly woman.
The Somalia Project

Allan Harding Mackay
Somalia Project cont...

In March 1992 the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artists Program, commissioned Allan Harding Mackay to document, through works of art, Operation Restore Hope's efforts humanitarian and military missions carried out by the Canadian Forces in a United Nations direction.

During his travels in Somalia with the Canadian Forces, the artist's time was spent primarily in the operating environment of the Canadian Armed Forces. His overall, revealing impressions in experiencing as a whole throughout much of his work. High tech black and white public media photography was his primary tool, documenting the assignment occurred with the support of the Somali Acrobatic Group, the corporate support of a small business, a Western Horse Events, and the attempted suicide of a Martian (M. Claye) Machines in the Canadian canvas to record them. In addition to creating images depicting this undertaking in conflict, it also captured images of Somalia's interior, its art and culture. Images of Somalia's interior were created to the community of people who were involved in the relief of war-torn people. Since 1995, the Somalia experience has been featured prominently in Mackay's art practice, and his "Somalia Yellow" series has produced videos, drawings, sculptures, and prints, in addition to a theatre collaboration with the "Don Yellow Rabbid" ensemble and images contributed to the Alton towers and Bedouin Shangri-La's series. The Somalia experience is also preserved in "Changing Perspectives", a theme for national television. Mackay hopes his professional career in Ottawa and is currently an artist-in-residence at the National Gallery for the Arts. The book "Somalia: Devotions, Allan Harding Mackay" an extensive monograph on the artist authored by Robert Stone, has recently been published by the Art Museum of Man, printed by Coach House Press, and distributed through archives of Canadian Art and Design

Acknowledgements: Director, Allan Harding Mackay, designer, John Mason, publisher, Alton Towers and the support of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Arts in Rescued Projects, Libya.

Canada at War, 1999
Allan Harding Mackay

On April 12, 1999, Allan Harding Mackay announced that he intended to depict one of the most celebrated events in Canada's history, the Battle of Bull Run, and to create a series of prints based on the Batteau's interpretation of the conflict. The artist's project, "Changing Perspectives" is a series of prints that explore the role of art in understanding and representing events. The project was undertaken in collaboration with the Art Museum of Man and Coach House Press, and was distributed through archives of Canadian Art and Design.

A Somali woman carries on with the domestic chore of hanging the wash of the western military personnel amidst the dust and may of the land-airs machines.

Dust, land, air, machines

woman
military

chore

Destruction/09/1999
A sketch and a view of a soldier from the back end of an armed personnel carrier.

Destroyed: April 30, 1999

graveyard
tank
artifacts
archaeological slice
Horn of Africa
arms merchants
century

standing
in an arms graveyard
the artist
examines a rusting tank
one of many artifacts of previous war
an archaeological slice
of how all the Horn of Africa
has been served by the
arms merchants
of this century.

Destroyed: June 10, 1999
The camera flash
illuminates
the face of Sgt. Michael Cox
as a patrol of soldiers and journalists
move towards the
predominantly slaughterhouse ground of the
village abattoir.

As dawn's shadows
turn to
early morning light
in the village abattoir
a remnant of past colonial architecture
and
the ribs of a camel frame
the contemplative countenance
of an elderly woman.
presence
Cpl. Chris Sinclair
Manitoban

abattoir

The amiable and reassuring
presence
of Cpl. Chris Sinclair
a officer of the Cree nation
responsible for
securing
our safety
in the blood-soaked
stench
of the village abattoir

Died: April 17, 1999

The penetrating
caes
from a young homel
rising up
the intruder with the camera
a momentary distraction
from her task
of filling water vessels
and the caes, goat, bird and human
cacophony
of this desert oasis

Died: June 24, 1999
physician
spoke out
misdeeds
airborne soldiers
civilians

Inquiry
civilian

Sitting
in
a tent
in Mogadishu
Dr. Barry Armstrong
the physician
who while serving in Somalia
identified and spoke out
about misdeeds perpetrated by
Canadian airborne soldiers
against Somali civilians
his actions contributed to the
establishment of the
Somali Inquiry
Dr. Armstrong is now a civilian

Bandages, razor
attempted
soldier
torture, murder
Teenager

Journalists
holding cell
unfolding Somalia

Inquiry
The image
a holding cell
in the Canadian military compound in
Belet Hale
The structure
of bandages and razor cuts
that framed
the act of the attempted suicide
of Corporal Clayton Harris
the Canadian soldier
accused of the torture and murder of
Somali teenager
Shiabas Abdi Aroon
The witnessing by the journalists
of watche's removal
from this holding cell
led to the unfolding
of the Somalia Affair
and the establishment of the
Somali Inquiry

Destroyed: April 15, 1993

Destroyed: May 14, 1993
echo
images
graces

conversation
stolen
humor

irid
enrach

A visual echo of western images in art
the female gaze
select their appearance as
three native women
in conversation
Images of
stolen humor
in a land both
irid and enrach

principal
school
village
country
war
famines
gratitude
peacekeepers
safety
pens
paper
teachers
students

A hasty sketch
of the school principal
whose school was again
functioning
peacefully
in a village
in a country
plagued by civil war and famines
He expressed his gratitude
for the Canadian peacekeepers' help in securing safety, for the village and the gifts of pens and paper to the unpaid teachers and their young students

Destroyed: June 01/1999

Destroyed: April 15/1999
dawn child
blood bath of healing
female blood
his thin glistening body

At dawn
a sick child
experiences an ancient remedy,
a blood bath of healing
carried out by four female hands
who pour the blood
of a freshly killed calf
over his thin glistening body.

A Somali woman
walking on the edge of a private engagement
on the road
to the village of
Beled Maar
shields her face
from the inquisitive and intrusive
camera that rolls by
sheltered
by the armed personnel carrier.

DESTROY-DIARY/04/1999