

Curated by Dan Monet and Allan Harding MacKay

Art Against War

June 18-26, 1999

Art Against War is a spontaneous event organized by artists concerned about the effects of war.

"The artists taking part in this show are Canadians who resent being represented and implicated in the current military action in Yugoslavia, and in all wars where bombing civilians is being used in the name of making peace," says Ottawa artist and curator Dan Monet. "We all felt a compelling need to say something. To do something."

The art represented in this show covers a range of issues associated with many wars taking place around the world: the use of Canadian bombs against a civilian population and civilian infrastructure in Yugoslavia and Iraq; the plight of the victims of Serbian war crimes; the further subversion of the UN general assembly as a political body; the immoral use of depleted uranium tipped bullets in Iraq and in Yugoslavia; Canadian support for food and medicine embargoes in Iraq; and the simple suffering of the innocent who are the true targets of any war.

Mr. Monet says "I started with a couple of phone calls, not really knowing if anyone would want to take part in this show. Then the phone started ringing with calls from across Canada. This theme has obviously touched a raw nerve within the national arts community."

Note: Allan Harding MacKay is the former Canadian War artist who initiated daily destruction of his own work in response to the Canadian government's active participation in the bombing of Yugoslavia. His work is in a number of prestigious public art collections across Canada, including the National Gallery and the Canadian War Museum.

"Wii Muk'willixw (Art Wilson) is an hereditary chief (Wold) the Gitksan people in Northern British Columbia. He has chronicled in a combination of ancient and modern images, the struggles of people around the world. His book of illustrations recording injustice and resistance "*Heartbeat of the Earth*" was released in 1996.

