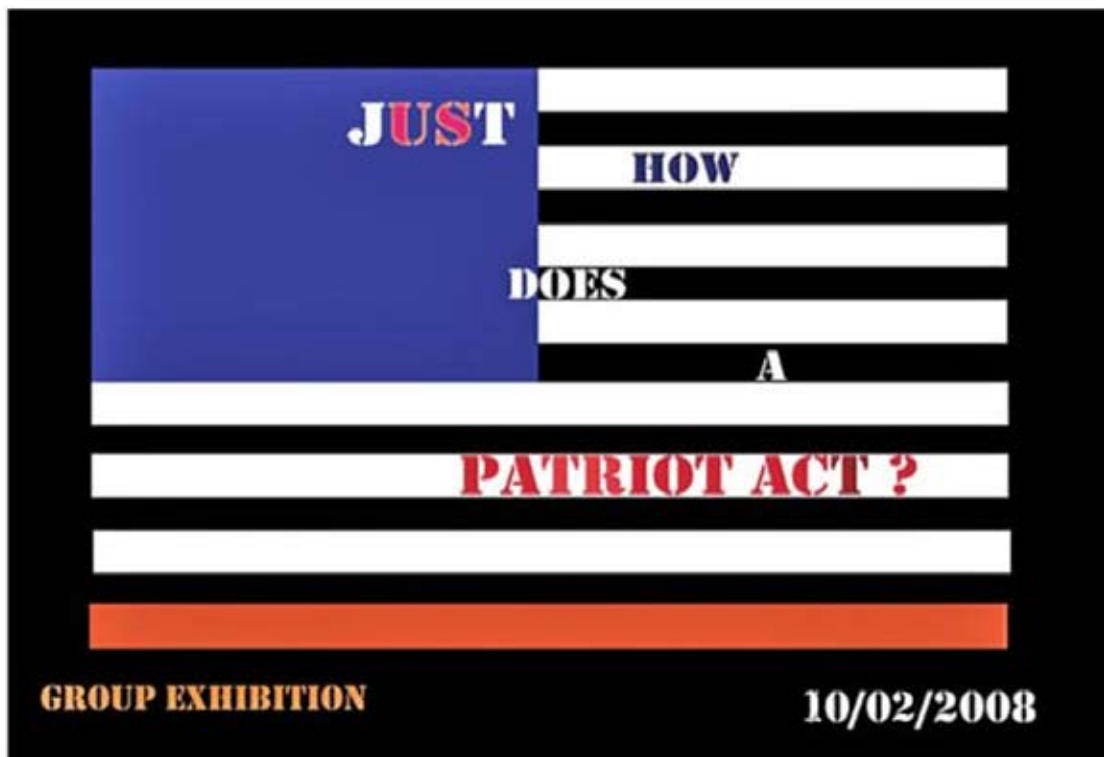


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*The Orange County Center for Contemporary Art Presents :*

**JUST HOW DOES A PATRIOT ACT**  
**A Response to U.S. Policy at Home and Abroad**  
**Curator - Joella March**

**Exhibition runs : October 2nd thru October 25th, 2008.**

**Artists reception: Saturday night October 4th from 6pm to midnite**

**Performance art event: Saturday night October 18th from 8 to 11pm**

*Artists create forum for debate, dialog and dissent on the eve of an historical election....*

SANTA ANA, CA (AUGUST 20th, 2008) The Orange County Center For Contemporary Art (O.C.C.C.A.), is pleased to present: "JUST HOW DOES A PATRIOT ACT ?", a politically charged group art exhibition curated by Joella March. This exhibition is a response to U.S. policy at home and abroad, and will display multi-media works created by emerging, mid career and established artists.

The exhibition runs from October 2nd through October 25th, 2008. The artists reception will be held on Saturday October 4th from 6pm to midnite at O.C.C.C.A, located at 117 North Sycamore, Santa Ana, CA USA 92701.

In conjunction with the exhibition there will be a night of performance art held at OCCCA on October 18th from 8 pm to 11 pm. (Free event). Featuring "Letters To The President" a multi-media spoken word performance by M.S.Garvey; original performance art by Toni Ivashkov and a spoken word poetry slam performed by local poets, including John Trudell and Douglas Kearney. For Gallery information call : (714) 667-1517 [www.occca.org](http://www.occca.org)

**Exhibition contact: PatriotArt2008@yahoo.com**

# **“JUST HOW DOES A PATRIOT ACT”**

## **Group Art Exhibition**

### **The Exhibition :**

“ Just How Does A Patriot Act ” seeks to create a forum for conversation and debate, extending beyond the current political climate of denial, distraction, and dismissal of the public voice and will.

### **The Artists in this Exhibition :**

The artists in this exhibition work in a variety of media including traditional and new forms : Painting, Drawing, Screen printing, Assemblage, Animated Neon, Kinetic Sculpture, Installation, Fashion Sculpture, Text Art, Photography, Sound sculpture, Digital Media, Conceptual Art, Performance Art and Video. They represent various ages, political, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and are all answering the call to inquire, investigate, analyze and create. Revealing questions, answers and solutions through their own unique process, as they contemplate and respond to U.S. policy at home and abroad, (including Abu Grahیب, War profiteering, 9/11, Over deployment of U.S.troops, Public Apathy, Loss of Civil liberties, Accountability, Environment, Economy Immigration, Homeland Security ) ....

### **Just how does a patriot act in a changing world?**

I invite you all to ruminate upon this query. To begin a discussion that extends beyond gallery walls. To take an active role in the future of this nation and the world. To not loss faith in “the power of the people” or the ability for one voice to make a profound difference.

Knowledge redefines power, use it or loose it!

### **“To dissent is Patriotic” – Thomas Jefferson, founding father**

Tag, you’re it.....

–  
**Curator : Joella March**

### **Participating artists:**

Lunna Menoh

Roman Genn

Dianna Cohen

William Stone

Sheila Pinkel

Matthew Bryant

Noah Breuer

Zig Gron

Cat Gwynn

Ryan Broughman

Francisco Letelier

Andrew Armstrong

Wayne Coe

Mee Kyung Shim

Jason Chakravarty

Rebecca Lowry

Douglas McCulloh

Nicholas Grider

Robin Clark

John Trudell

Dan Van Clapp

John Carr

Karen Fiorito

Joe Biel

Karen Atkinson

Clayton Campbell

Robbie Conal

Michal Garvey (spoken word/performance)

Toni Ivashkov (original performance art)

Douglas Kearney and John Trudell (poetry performance )



*"Michael Garvey's solo show is something different...  
in just under an hour he poignantly raises  
a question familiar to many...  
creates a welcoming place for  
the confused and downhearted citizen."  
--The Chicago Reader*

## **Michael Garvey / Spoken Word Performance Artist**

### **Performance Piece: "LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT"**

M.S. Garvey has composed over 130 letters (and counting) to President George W. Bush. In the mysterious Courtyard's inner sanctum and under the watchful gaze of his cat Mr. Pickles, he writes the letters on his human-powered typewriter and mails the originals to the White House. The letters express Garvey's thoughts on topics from administration policies, the direction of our country and the current wars, to charity, peace and the power of taking baths.

He held the first live readings in the summer of 2002 at O'Brien's Pub in Venice, and then went on to perform selected letters in **Los Angeles, Grand Rapids, Chicago and Berlin**, as well as **various cities in Romania**. M.S. Garvey also participated in the 2004 Republican National Convention by staging readings outside of Madison Square Garden during convention events.

Over time, the show has evolved into a collaborative performance piece that defies description, with a rotating cast of accomplished musicians. Garvey, a charismatic presence and expansive performer, proclaims the letters against a sonic backdrop of improvised music that beckons the sounds of old New Orleans, the Kansas plains and the dark bars of Los Angeles. Full of humor, insight and passion, these rare performances are not to be missed.

In an exclusive two-week engagement (November 29th to December 9th, 2007), **M.S. Garvey's "Letters to the President"**, co-produced by Ice Hat Creative and the Robert Berman Gallery, was performed with The Hootenanny All-Stars at the **Electric Lodge** in Venice, Calif.

**In 2008 Michael Garvey will be performing "Letters to The President" in conjunction with the group art exhibition: "Just How Does A Patriot Act", curated by Joella March.**



There will be a night of performance art held at OCCCA on *October 18th, 2008 - 8 pm to 11 pm.* (Free) Featuring "Letters To The President" a multi-media spoken word performance by M.S.Garvey (see above) this event will also present original performance art by Toni Ivashkov and a spoken word poetry slam performed by local poets, including John Trudell and Douglas Kearney.

## **CURATOR:**

**Joella March is an artist and curator living and working in Los Angeles. She has exhibited her kinetic sculptures in many galleries including the Museum of Neon Art. Joella has curated group and solo exhibitions throughout Los Angeles.**

## **ARTISTS:**

**The following pages represent works by several of the artists participating in the exhibition. Higher resolution images for print/press are available upon request.**

**Contact: [PatriotArt2008@yahoo.com](mailto:PatriotArt2008@yahoo.com)**



**John Carr**

“War is Peace”

*screenprint*

John Carr has been a graphic artist since 1990, working across various industries doing art direction, design, illustration, production, color separation, retouching and new media projects. His work has been featured on/in music packaging, books, periodicals and in exhibitions nationally and internationally. He is also the curator of a traveling peace/anti-war poster exhibition titled [Yo! What Happened to Peace?](#) and a co-founder of [konschious.com](#). He is also an organizer and curator for [Transport Gallery](#) in Downtown Los Angeles.



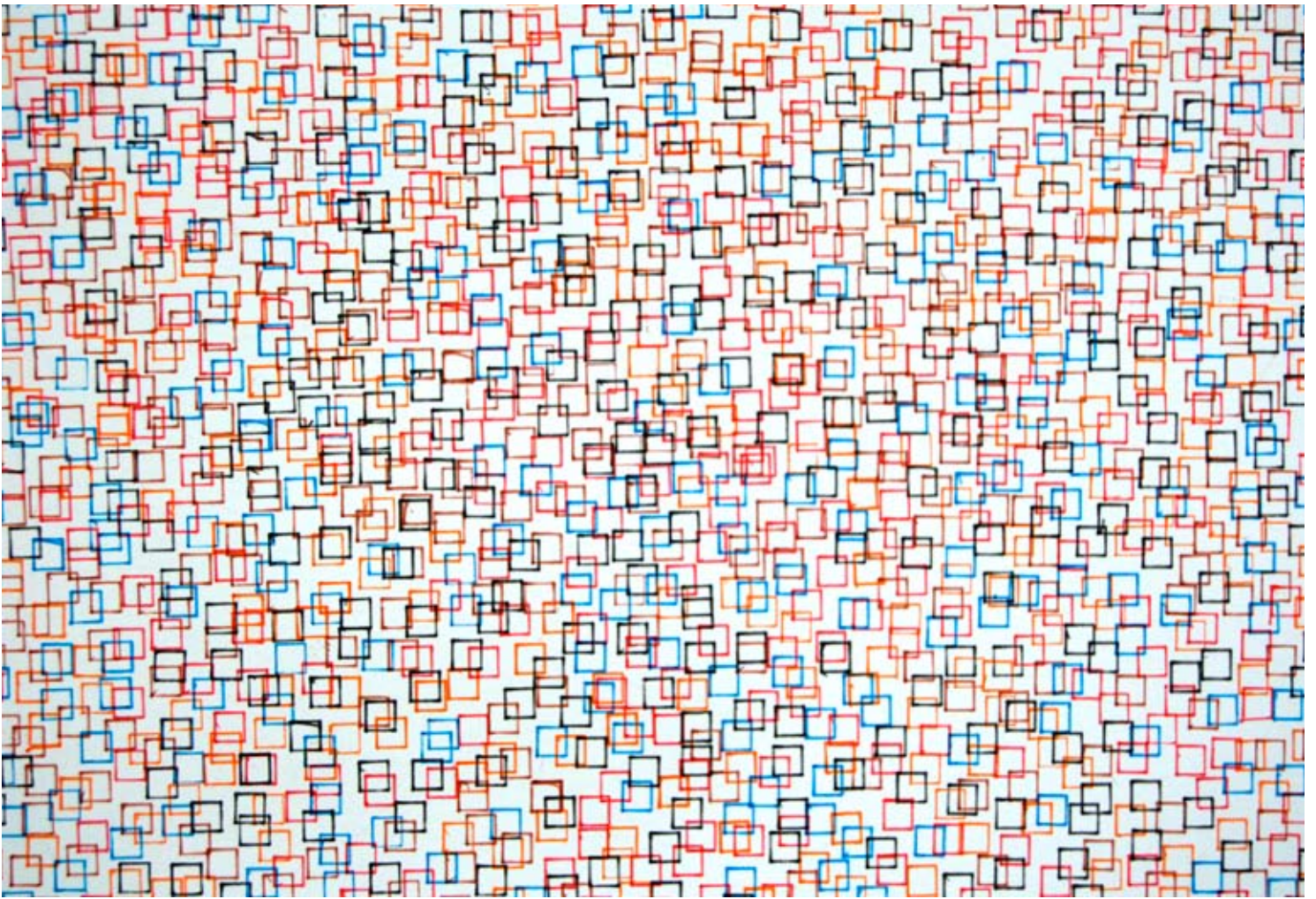
**Ryan Broughman**

*"The Grab"*

*Manipulated currency/Digital Print*

Utilizing currency as his raw canvas Ryan explores questions of corporate authority, addiction, control and war profiteering.

"As a sculptor to marble, I assist the realization of forms from the dollar, from America, from the world. Pornographic Economics is the perverse relationship between mankind and money." -RB



**Matthew Bryant**     *"34,452 Civilians Killed in Iraq During 2006"*     (detail)

Conceptually, I am interested in how we consciously and subconsciously interface with each other and our environments through the negotiation of systems, structures, and materials that we create as a result of our fears and desires. Our daily lives and experiences are constantly mediated in one way or another from an infinite number of sources, either by our own doing or from someone else's. These mediations might involve technology, architecture, language, socio-political systems, fashion, information flow (or lack of it), or any variation of communication and exchange. I am drawn to the points where these systems, structures, materials, and exchanges bump against each other, where things start to break down or contradict one another, where there are gaps, and where the idealized and controlled do not line up neatly with the chaotic and the real.

Information About: 34,452 Civilians Killed in Iraq During 2006

(34,452 squares equals the 34,452 deaths)

This piece is from a series of works in which I try to map and visualize headlines found on various internet news sources. The headlines chosen are about information that is extremely difficult or impossibly to visualize or map, usually relating to catastrophic, very complex, or elusive ideas and events on a global scale. These drawings are deliberate gestures of taking news that is usually presented to the public in a very clean, automatic, authoritative, and ubiquitous way, then re-interpreting and re-presenting it physically by the human hand. It is an attempt to visualize these ideas in ways that teeter between familiar references and poetic abstraction. These drawings also reference our obsession with mapping, measuring, tracking, and analyzing information from the world around us, but also an acknowledgement of the flaws, limitations, and questionable usefulness of disseminating this information.



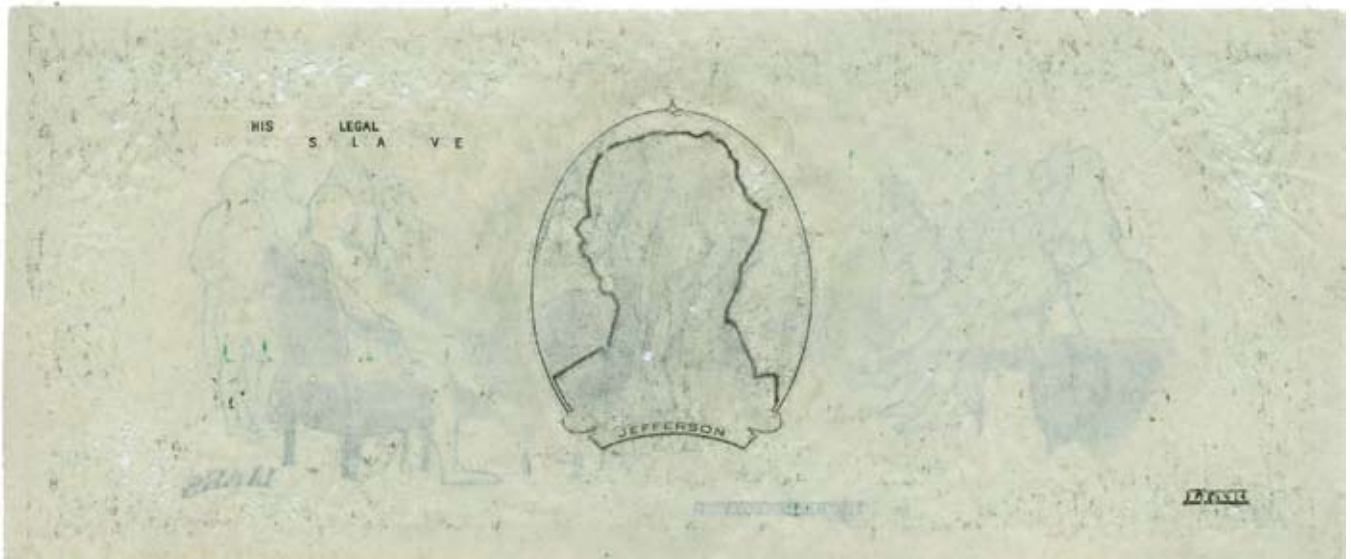


**Noah Breuer**

**"Blood On Our Hands"**

*silkscreen print*

My current work has been made in an effort to understand and empathize with childhood friends serving in the military. I have been working with an archive of their photos, which were taken using digital cameras, cell phones, and night vision cameras. The soldiers' images reveal human beings filled with excitement, hope, naiveté, uncertainty, fear and fantasies. Corresponding with my friends and making art using their photographs, I enact my deep ambivalence about our generation's role in the current war.



**Robin Clark**

**“Declaration of Liars”**

*altered currency*  
from “Money Works” series

Robin Clark is an internationally exhibited artist, living in Washington DC, San Francisco and Italy. His recent series “Money Works” reveals symbols, icons, myths, fables and dismissed truths through his technique of currency erasure and illustration. Utilizing American currency, specifically in bill form, Robin delicately scrapes off the ink to unveil hidden text and imagery. In larger installations such as “Washington’s Wig”, Robin used 116 dollar bill to create a 3 and 1/2 x 4 and 3/4 foot image of George Washington’s wig, reapplying currency dust to create a new image. Themes of authority and identity and power are explored in this unique combination of legal tender and artistry.



**Dan Vann Clapp**

**"Fountain of Carnage"**

*assemblage fountain*

Dan Vann Clapp is a multi-media/assemblage artist, who has been perfecting the fine art of faux found object art. His works give a whole new meaning to "fool the eye" ("trompe-l'oeil"). His artworks have been collected and exhibited throughout California, since 1986. His most recent work of both assemblages and faux found objects/sculptures takes a gruesome and sometimes whimsical look at war and its spoils. Upon first glance his works may appear as vintage weapons of mass destruction, but upon closer inspection one discovers that most of his art was made from recycled materials, kitchenware, and children's toys. Van Clapp's work questions objects of reverence and pledges of nationalism with a healthy cynicism, simultaneously exposing their absurdity and our own hypocrisy. In his simulations of military inventions and prototypes, he exposes the insanity of the Genie behind the curtain.



**Clayton Campbell**

**"After Abu Ghraib"**

*Digital Print Series*

"The 'After Abu Ghraib' project is undertaken to stimulate a conversation about human rights violations and the widespread use of torture. By manipulating the original images, my intention is to make them more accessible than they are in the straight forward horror they evoke. I have watched too many persons turn away from these naked and reprehensible acts, and in our forgetting, we give away our core sense of goodness and humanity. We all owe a profound apology and debt to the victims depicted in these images." –CC



**Wayne Coe**

“Fuselage”

*2 image lenticular*

Wayne Coe is a painter and multi-media artist living in New York. His recent works employ themes that present a chronology of how young Americans are educated to war via pop propaganda. Through his war model boxes, war film advertising and war (nose) art, he recontextualizes his own contemporary historical painting into pop art forms. If media presents war as fast, fun and sexy; through satire, he disagrees. The commercialization of U.S history, news as entertainment and government propaganda inspire him to create and reflect these new millennial wartime mythologies back to their source and audience.