

HANNA HANNAH: FRAMES OF WAR

**Focus Gallery and
Cardinale Project Room
Through September 10, 2011**

Mark your calendar!

Join us for an Artist Talk with Hanna Hannah

Thursday, September 8, 2011

7 - 9PM

Admission:

\$10 ICA members;

\$15 non-members.

Pay at the door.

RSVP: Email: [susan\(at\)sjica\(dot\)org](mailto:susan(at)sjica(dot)org)

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ICA

Hanna Hannah: Frames of War

*Frames of War** presents new paintings by Santa Cruz-based artist Hanna Hannah that expose a stark confrontation of terror and beauty. This series is a continuation of the artist's exploration of embedding images of war and destruction into highly decorative motifs. In these works, Hannah creates a startling mash-up of floral patterns with meticulously rendered images of war and aftermath sourced from the media. While the media's proliferation of war-time scenes numbs us to the horrors they represent, Hannah's elaborate hand-painted scrolls and installation implore us to look closer at the images. The result is a jarring experience as we are seduced by the ornamental, domestic and familiar patterns and then boldly confronted by scenes of human suffering and despair.

For the artist, imagery of catastrophe and horror are constantly in her mind's eye. She explains, "The scenes of aftermath, destruction and suffering [of war] that have made their way into the heart of my work are ones that come to us all through the ever-sharper technological acuties of the mass media. These images proliferate to such an extent that, like the air we breathe, they are never not there for me."

As the media delivers its narrative of war to our laptops, televisions, and newspapers, Hannah's paintings provide an alternative perspective, jolting us into seeing these pictures in a new way. As we grapple with the uncomfortable juxtaposition of imagery, we may contemplate the people represented in these atrocities and our own responsibility in what we see – whether it calls us into action or points out our ambivalence.

Hannah was born in El Salvador where her parents lived after emigrating from Germany with the rise of National Socialism in 1939. With multiple cultures and languages, she moved to the U.S. in 1957. She has an M.A. in French studies from Tufts University, and an M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute. Hannah has exhibited her work since the late 1970s with solo

exhibits at the Schmidt/Dean Gallery in Philadelphia; Braunstein Quay Gallery, San Francisco; and Miami University Art Museum, Ohio. Hannah's work can be found in collections at the Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, OH; Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz; and the Palace of the Legion of Honor (Achenbach Foundation), San Francisco.

*In grateful acknowledgement of Judith Butler's book of the same title.



Many of the Hannah's paintings reference the image above by journalist Stephen Farrell, which was published in the *New York Times*. The photograph depicts the aftermath of the attack on Amerli, Iraq on July 7, 2007, when a suicide truck bomb was detonated in a crowded market as families gathered for morning shopping. This horrific incident remains one of the deadliest since the war started in 2003, killing over 150 people and wounding over 300.

Source:

New York Times, Stephen Farrell, "Around 150, Death Toll in Iraq Attack Among War's Worst", July 9, 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/09/world/middleeast/09iraq.html>

Hanna Hannah

Checklist in installation order:

Front of Focus Gallery

(from left to right)

Untitled (Iraqi and American soldiers in Ramadi, Iraq), 2009-2010

Untitled (Lebanon), 2008-2009

Untitled (South African Shanty Town), 2010-2011

Casein on paper

72 x 36 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

\$35,800 each

Wall, 2011

Mixed media on mulberry paper

15 panels, 72 x 28 inches each

Courtesy of the Artist

\$78,000 installation

\$6,500 each panel

(from left to right)

Postcard: Beirut, 2006

Postcard: Earthquake in

Heydarabad, Iran, 2005

Postcard: Five Miles From

Chernobyl, 2009

Postcard: Teatime in Afghanistan, 2008

Mixed media on rice paper

66 x 18 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

\$7,750 each (unframed)

Amerli, Iraq. July 9, 2007, 2010

Mixed media on mulberry paper

38 x 42 inches

Courtesy of the Artist

Not for Sale

Cardinale Project Room

(embedding), 2011

Wallpaper and framed works on paper

Variable

Courtesy of the Artist

Price available upon request

Amerli, Iraq, Site of Suicide Bomb I-IV, 2010

Mixed media on paper

22 x 30 inches each

Courtesy of the Artist and

Schmidt/Dean Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

\$5,900 each

For digital images of works

visit our website:

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Hours

Tues - Fri 10 - 5

Sat 12 - 5

First Fri 10-10

Closed Sun-Mon

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