

Art of War

[Laura Duquette](#) 11 years ago

A relevant and exciting exhibit opens at CEPA Gallery tomorrow, Saturday, June 19th. [Art of War](#), is an ambitious summer exhibition that features an international group of artists whose work addresses global conflict through conceptual art. The artworks explore violent tensions around the world, from the U.S. presence in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Lebanese Civil War and the Israeli/Lebanese conflicts, the 1995 East Timor political revolution, and the creation of counter-insurgency schools in Panama, as well as broader realities such as global terrorism, and the application of surveillance, interrogation and incarceration.

[Martha Rosler](#) will showcase her series titled, *Bringing the War Home: House Beautiful*; an electrifying montage of elegantly arranged Iraq War photos and living room interiors taken from national magazines. Rosler poses the question, just how closely tied are advertising, journalism, politics, sexism, and violence? Since 1967, Rosler has confronted conflict and in this 2004 work, she has attempted to re-connect these two sides of human experience – overseas war and America's family space.

Also part of this worldly showing is [Walid Ra'ad](#), founder of [The Atlas Group](#), an imaginary foundation whose objective is to research and document Lebanon's contemporary history primarily through lectures that include films, photography exhibitions, videos, and a variety of documents from the group's archives. One such archive, *Files Type A*, a video named after its owner, contains a man who tells his story of twenty-seven weeks in captivity with five wanton Americans, desperation and hopeless nights. Although it has not been revealed what work Ra'ad will exhibit, this artist continually pushes the boundaries

between public and private to capture the attention of all civilians.

Plan on spending a good portion of the evening at CEPA, the two artists above will be accompanied by the “tactical media practitioner” [Daniel Joseph Martinez](#), artist and author Tom Nicholson, [Trevor Paglen](#), who has set out to map the darkest corners of the U. S. national security apparatus, and multi-media artist [Carlos Motta](#). Motta works primarily with video, installation and photography, and uses strategies from documentary film, journalism and sociology to engage with specific political events in an attempt to observe their effects and suggest alternative ways to write and read those histories.

These photographs, installations and videos are not graceful depictions of destruction or dutiful collages of war hero photos. The familiar symptoms of this “war condition” include sudden and unforeseen acts of violence against innocent people; the effect of that violence on individuals and traditions; the repression of civil liberties; censorship of the media and the arts; the free-market abuse of limited natural resources; and the development of protest, counter-insurgency, and resistance fighters. “We are not putting forward any specific opinions on global conflict, but rather allowing viewers to see, through unique expression, the common symptoms of all conflict. Our hope is to create new launching points for thought and communication that will allow viewers to gain not conclusions, but insight,” states Sean Donaher, Interim Executive Director.

Opening Reception

Saturday, June 19, 7 – 10 PM

Exhibition

runs through August 21.

[CEPA Gallery](#)

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***Laura Duquette** is a former ballerina who now dances with words and punctuation. She has a knack for asking questions faster than the speed of sound, and her interviews are often off the cuff and personal. She is Co-Owner of [12 Grain Studio](#), a Buffalo based creative firm that gives typical web design a kick in the ass.*