

Wartime

By GILLIAN McCAIN

"Wartime"/Graham Metson
GRAHAM METSON IS A London-born artist who has resided in Halifax since 1972. His work has been exhibited internationally and his most recent exhibition, "Wartime", is currently being shown at the Centre for Art Tapes.

"Wartime is a multi-media exhibition that combines paintings, drawings, photographs, sound tapes and readings. The work is based on Metson's memories of war when he was growing up in London during World War Two.

"I walk the streets
Looking at the moss invading the territory of the paving stones
Chased by leaves like endless puppy's chasing tails
Follow to a doorway-
Factory smell
Inhale the sweet odor of ribbons of milk embracing the spinning, milling, blades making bits for hand-grenades
Metal shiny spinning spirals
Grease black floors
Clack clog of clogs
Headscarfed women floral aprons
Music Chatter Machine
Noise"

"Veteran Head" is a beautiful portrait done in oil pastels. It brings to mind Warhol's portraits of Leo Castelli, Franz Kafka and Mick Jagger in the way that the color is splashed on, different colors over different features of the face. Metson used a stunning combination of lime green, lavender, orange, black and white with blood red around the mouth and as tears around the eyes. The result is a portrait that is not only visually appealing but also evocative of the pain, misery and anguish of the post-war experience.

"Hard Rain" is a mixed media art piece on graph paper. The focal point is the head of a young frowning boy, his features pasted on like a collage. Different sized images of a tank and of a boy wearing a flight hat and goggles blend into the focal point as if omnipresent memories in the boy's mind. On the opposite side of the art piece is a collage of small cut-outs of child-oriented drawings (they look like they were freebies from a 1950 box of Corn Flakes) — soldiers, ships, tanks and planes. The entire piece is covered with kindergarten-like scribble in green, red, lavender, orange and lime green.

Although these two pieces are colorful there are several others done in smoky greys, blues, greens and black which gives the viewer the sense of impending doom. As Metson writes in the supplement to the exhibition —

A
DADA
poem of
WAR
— Ahghhheh
agggggaijhhehhegrrrrrr
eeeeearrrrrrrrheehheerherehere-
ererer
erere...cecececececececececeit-
ititititititititititit
raaraattttaatttatbbbbbgrgeren-
pjpcp
AA
hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

"Wartime" is not only a statement of the artist's memories of the war but also the effects of war

media on the public. It will be shown at the Centre for Art Tapes until January 31st.

The Center for Arts Tapes is a non-profit organization that provides audio and video equipment to the Halifax community. It sponsors lectures, performances, art exhibitions and ongoing workshops. There is an archive of video and audio work that has been produced at the Centre as well as documentation of performances, lectures and readings. The centre is located at 2156 Brunswick Street and is open from Monday to Saturday, 1:00-6:00 p.m. From more information call 429-7299 or 429-6399.

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MISSA night

ADDING DIVERSITY AND contrast to Dalhousie students' way of life, the Malaysian Indonesian Singaporean Students' Association will be featuring dance, cuisine, and music at MISSA night this Saturday.

MISSA night is the highlight of their social and cultural activities. It is an evening of pageantry and music underlying a mixture of arts and popular culture of Southeast Asia.

This year, the programme includes a Bali dance, Chinese Ribbon dance, Indian dance and a traditional costume show.

The evening is prepared by the MISSA students themselves, and a banquet featuring Southeast Asian cuisine will be served.

Tickets are available right now. If interested please feel free to contact the following: Su Kar Hawk — 422-2532 or MISSA's office at 1394 Edward St.

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