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## **David Cotterrell: Engines of War**

Venue: Gasser and Grunert Gallery, New York

Curators: Cynthia Mulcahy and Charles Dee Mitchell

Date: 28th March 2013

Co-exhibitors:

Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Heather Ainsworth, Lisa Barnard, David Cotterrell, Benjamin Lowy, Christopher Morris, Eugene Richards, Jamel Shabazz, Anthony Suau and Teun Voten.

Engines of War, was curated by Charles Dee Mitchell and Cynthia Mulcahy at Gasser and Grunert gallery, New York. It was open from March 28 May 4, 2013.

Extract from Press Release:

How does the United States of America conduct war in the 21st century? That was the question we asked ourselves when first considering the exhibition Engines of War. We were thinking largely in terms of high tech materiel and we envisioned that the photographic record of the past decade of our involvement in the Middle East would provide images of that materiel in action. But although there are images here of drones and of other state of the art military equipment, the reality that comes to the fore is that the human body of the men and women who serve in the armed forces remains the primary, highly trained yet fragile weapon of the United States military.

The images in Engines of War interweave three themes surrounding the United States as a nation at war and the realities faced by soldiers on the ground in the wars of past decades.

First we look at a nation undergoing the process of preparing its will for war and the inevitable resistance that process also provokes. These images show the roles played by politicians, the media and the population itself in gearing up for the assaults on Afghanistan and Iraq. They range from the sloganeering of a small town restaurant in the American South, to an address by President Obama to the graduating class of West Point, to a video game produced by the U.S. Army that has proved to be the most effective recruiting tool the armed services has had since World War II.

Then there is the actual conduct of the war. Drones dominate much war news and we look at the industry behind the building of drones and their effectiveness in the field. We go with soldiers on patrol and see the landscape through the windows of Humvees or under the green tints of night vision glasses. We see the aftermath of a U.S. helicopter attack on a street in Baghdad.

And constantly we see the men and women who carry out the war. We see them as recruits and we see them in the field. We see how we, as a nation, honor their service and how we deal with the devastating physical and psychological damage done to so many of them.

Contributing artists to the exhibition Engines of War employ a wide range of approaches from research-based practice artists Lisa Barnard and David Cotterrell and New York City street photographer Jamel Shabazz, to war photographers Benjamin Lowy and Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, and documentary photographers Eugene Richards, Anthony Suau, Christopher Morris, Teun Voeten and Heather Ainsworth.



**KLEMENS GASSER & TANJA GRUNERT**  
32A WEST 19TH STREET, NY 10011  
CONDOMS CHARLES DE MITCHELL AND CYNTHIA MULCAHY  
**ENGINES OF WAR**  
ONE VEVY MANON ZAS - PARK 4, 2013 OPENING RECEPTION THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH, 6 - 8PM  
INFORMATION WWW.DISEMBRIMENTAL.COM/CONTACT 0603442197

Gateway I Credit: David Cotterrell (2013)