

JUSTINE SMITH

THE WAY OF THE GUN



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26 October - 18 November 2011

**WATERHOUSE & DODD**

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All works may be viewed online at [www.waterhousedodd.com](http://www.waterhousedodd.com)  
and are available for purchase on receipt of this catalogue

## Foreword

In my artistic practice I have been working with money since 1998 and it only seems to become more relevant. The power invested in these pieces of paper is immense, and for me, it is like working with an elemental force which impacts upon us in a political, social and moral level. A banknote can be seen as a little piece of propaganda, a cipher portraying specific aspects of a given state. In my work I appropriate these images and re-contextualize them to my own ends. Money as a conduit of political power is a central theme and the work in this show explores the convergence of greed, corruption, conflict, the thirst for power and its consequences in a world of shifting new realities.

*The Way of the Gun* and the *Death Star* series elaborate on the themes of oppression and the abuse of power. A series of kaleidoscopic collages, intended to evoke a quasi - religious appearance of stained glass, a mandala or Islamic design, in fact reveal themselves to be formed of motifs of guns, bullets, grenades and military aircraft. The bank notes used in these pieces come from failed states, conflict zones, dictatorships, and oppressive regimes. The golden guns and bullets used in the collages are gilded with 23.5 carat gold leaf: the gold a pure form of currency as well as a source of conflict in itself. Underlying these works is a sense of illusion and ambiguity; the ordered and harmonious patterns juxtapose with violence and destruction being represented. These ideas are expanded in *Sweat of the Sun*, a work incorporating the same ornate patterns, but rendered just in gold leaf. The title refers to the Inca name for gold, the Sun being the most sacred of all deities, the source of all power.

The wielding of power by the state is explored in *The Judge*, *Instruments of State* sculptures and also in *Crowd Control*. *The Judge* expresses the idea of the US in its self - appointed role as the 'world's policeman' intervening in affairs of sovereign states and the impact of its foreign policies.

The *Instruments of State* weapons sculptures are an ongoing series of works about the illusion of power. They appear to be solid objects, but are actually completely hollow, constructed from just two layers of banknotes. The fact that they can be crushed in the palm of a hand questions the nature of power and suggests it may be more delicate and transient than at first appears, a fact illustrated by recent events in the Middle East. The *Crowd Control* series of collages underline this theory and also show the varied consequences of political opposition. The imagery used is a code, where the eyes are the eyes of the state, and the hands represent protest and the power of the people and the flowers are for the dead and disappeared.

*Enduring Loss* and *The Price* are both statements on the ultimate consequences of war on an individual - death. *Enduring Loss* is intended as a stark reminder of this fact and marks the anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. The wreath is made from paper poppies sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds to support members of the British Armed Forces. In the sculpture some of the original poppy paper has been replaced by Afghan banknotes. The number of poppies that make up the wreath corresponds to the number of UK troop deaths since the start of the invasion. Any further deaths will mean the addition of more poppies until it is completed on 7th October 2011, the 10th anniversary of the War. All profits from the sale of the wreath are being donated to the Poppy Appeal. *The Price* is a protest for Peace: all the poppies have been replaced by international banknotes and have been incorporated into a floral funeral tribute spelling the word 'Son' emphasising the universal human cost of conflict at its most fundamental level.

Justine Smith  
September 2011



1

The Judge

US Dollars & perspex case 8.75 x 5 x 1.5 in / 22.5 x 13 x 4 cm

2

The Way of the Gun II

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 39.5 x 39.5 in / 100 x 100 cm

Bank notes: Afghan, Chinese, Euro, Libyan, Israeli, Iranian, Pakistani, Sudanese, Myanmar, Uzbek & Zimbabwean



3

The Way of the Gun III

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 39.5 x 39.5 in / 100 x 100 cm  
Bank notes: Guinean, Bahraini, Myanmar, Iranian, Pakistani, Syrian, North Korean, Iraqi & Zimbabwean



4  
Sweat of the Sun  
23 carat gold & acrylic on paper 40.5 x 40.5 in / 102.5 x 102.5 cm





5

Instruments of State - Myanmar

Myanmar Kyats & perspex case 5.25 x 8 x 1 in / 13.5 x 20.5 x 3 cm

6

Death Star Astra Peony Nebula

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 29.5 x 29.5 in / 75 x 75 cm

Bank notes: Bahraini, Belarussian, Congolese, Pakistani, Somali & Turkmenian



7

Death Star Green Anaconda Night Hawk

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 29.5 x 29.5 in / 75 x 75 cm

Bank notes: Eritrean, Guinean, Iranian, Israeli, Libyan, Somali, Syrian, Iraqi & Uzbek



8

Death Star Blue Bell x-2 Sky Hawk

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 29.5 x 29.5 in / 75 x 75 cm

Bank notes: Afghan, Iraqi, Pakistani, Sudanese, Yemeni, Syrian, Turkmenian & Zimbabwean



Death Star Remington Purple Mao

International bank notes, gold & acrylic on gesso panel 29.5 x 29.5 in / 75 x 75 cm

Bank notes: Afghan, Chinese, Libyan, Myanmar, North Korean, Pakistani, Somalia & Sudanese



10  
Enduring Loss  
Afghan Afghans & mixed media 31.25 x 31.25 x 4 in / 79.5 x 79.5 x 10 cm

All profits from the sale of this artwork will be donated to the  
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal







12

Crowd Control - Libya

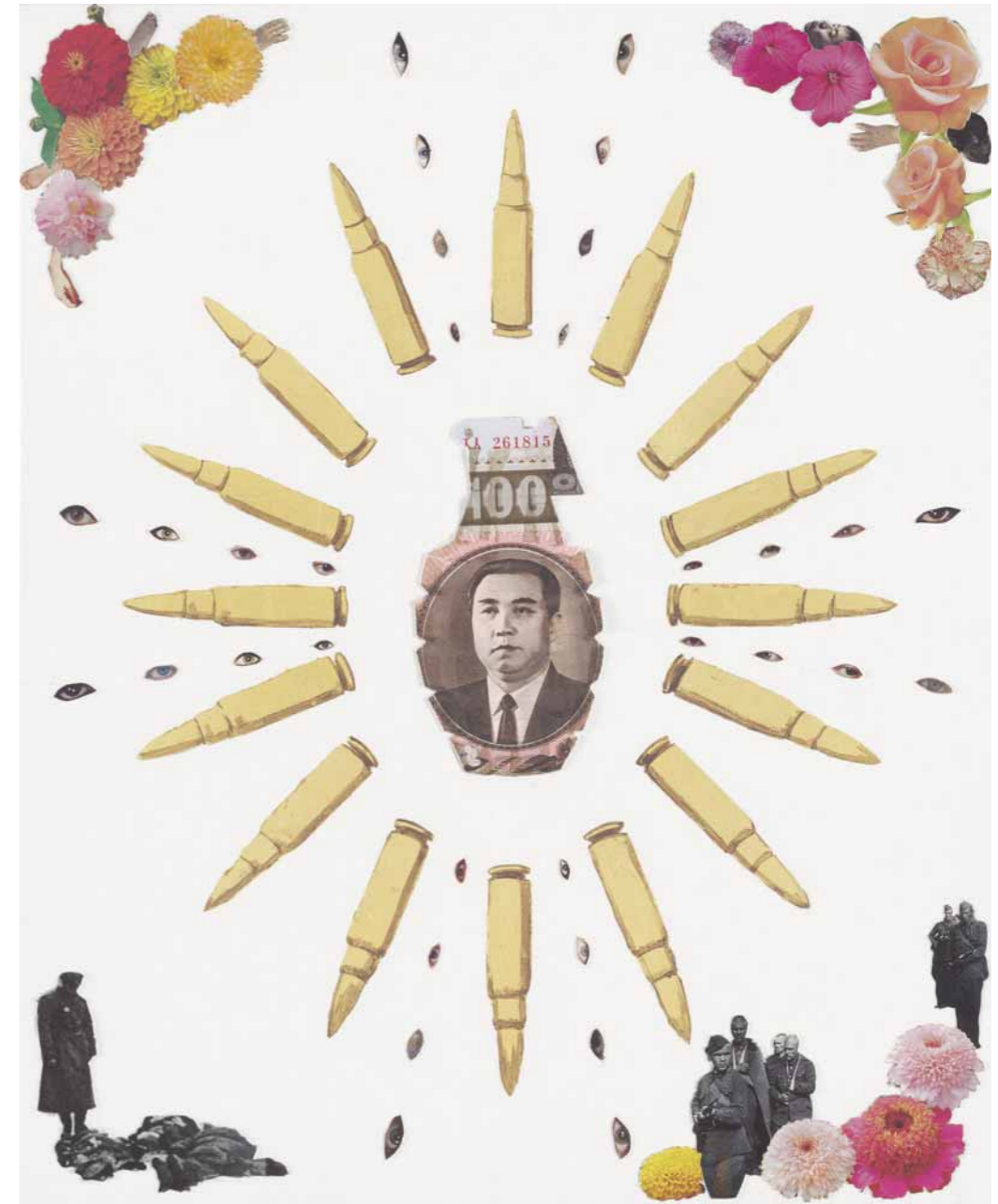
Libyan Dinar, metal leaf & collage on paper 13.5 x 11 in / 34 x 27.5 cm



13

Crowd Control - Afghanistan

Afghan Afghani, metal leaf & collage on paper 13.5 x 11 in / 34 x 27.5 cm



14

Crowd Control - North Korea

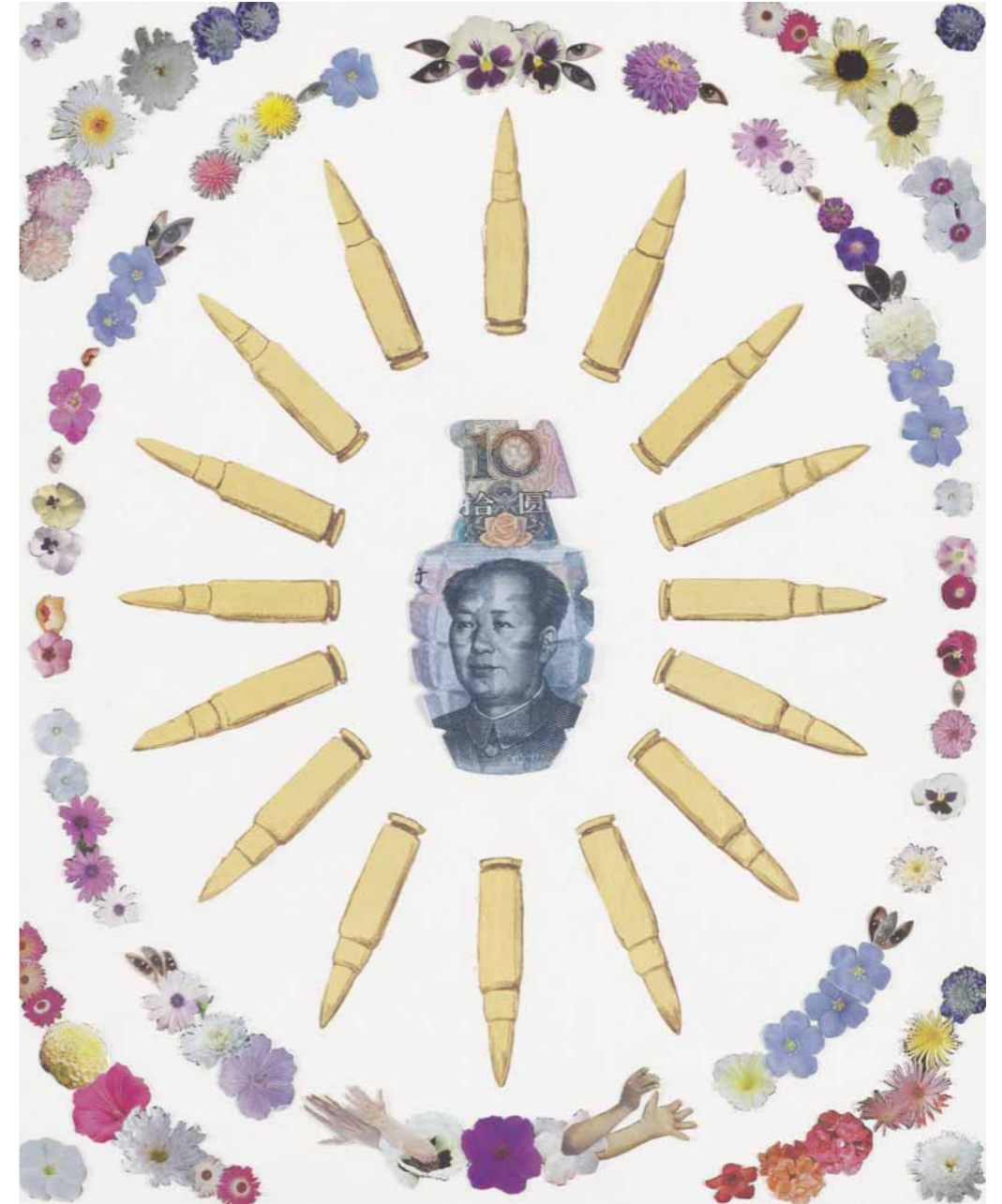
North Korean Won, metal leaf & collage on paper 13.5 x 11 in / 34 x 27.5 cm

15  
Instruments of State - China  
Chinese Yuan & perspex case 4.5 x 2.5 x 2.5 in / 11 x 6.5 x 6.5 cm



16  
Crowd Control - Syria  
Syrian Pounds, metal leaf & collage on paper 13.5 x 11 in / 34 x 27.5 cm





17

Crowd Control - China

Chinese Yuan, metal leaf & collage on paper 13.5 x 11 in / 34 x 27.5 cm





19

Time is Money

Inkjet with pearlescent screen printing on 330 gsm Somerset enhanced paper

Edition of 8 43 x 63 in / 109 x 160 cm

*Please note, the image opposite is an unpearlescent proof*

**JUSTINE SMITH**

English Born 1971

**Solo Exhibitions:**

2011 *The Way of the Gun*, Waterhouse & Dodd, London  
*Rise and Fall: Waterhouse and Dodd*, New York

2010 *Rise and Fall: Illusions and Delusions*,  
 Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami  
*A Bigger Bang*, Chelsea Arts Club, London

2007 *Empires of the Sum*, The Air Gallery, London

2005 *Purchasing Power*, Ryder Street Gallery, London

2002 *New Work*, Charlotte Street Gallery, London  
*New Work*, The Chapel Gallery,  
 Plympton, Devon

2000 *The Children of Dog*, Charlotte Street Gallery,  
 London

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

2012 *The First Cut*, Manchester City Gallery  
*The Art of Money*, Pataka Museum, Porirua  
 New Zealand

2011 *Art + Money - The Haupt Collection*  
 Halle Am Wasser, Berlin  
*Art, Money and Dangerous Liaisons*,  
 Monnaie de paris, France  
*Bite*, The Mall Galleries, London (invited artist)  
*Buds, Blooms and Berries: Plants in Science*,  
 Art and Culture, Everhart Museum,  
 Scranton, PA, USA  
 Scope Basel Art Fair, Waterhouse & Dodd  
 The London Original Print Fair, Tag Fine Arts,  
 AAF New York, Tag Fine Arts

2010 Inaugral Exhibition, Metropolis Art, Bournemouth  
 The London Art Fair, CCA Galleries  
 20/21 International Art Fair,  
 John Iddon Fine Art, London

2009 *Cut & Fold - The Art of Paper*,  
 New Brewery Arts, Cirencester  
 Art London, John Iddon Fine Art, London  
 Scope Miami, Opus Art Gallery  
*Cash Flow*, White Trash Contemporary, Hamburg

2009 Bridge Art Fair, Opus Gallery, New York  
 20/21 British Art Fair, John Iddon, London  
 Coriander Studio Prints, Innocent Fine Art,  
 Bristol

2008 *Kounter Kulture*, Truman Brewery, London  
*It's The Money, Stupid*, Sherry Frumkin Gallery,  
 Santa Monica  
 Coriander Studio Prints, Jill George Gallery,  
 London  
 Scope Art Fair, Light Contemporary, London  
 Art London, John Iddon, London  
 20/21 British Art Fair, John Iddon, London  
 Whitespace Gallery, Totnes, Devon

2007 *Wunderkammer*, Bluecoat Display Centre,  
 Liverpool  
*Art for Life*, Christies, London  
 Art London, John Iddon, London  
 20/21 British Art Fair, John Iddon, London  
*Form*, John Iddon, London  
 London Art Fair, CCA Galleries, London  
*Guitartown*, 02 Centre, London  
 Coriander Studio Prints, Jill George Gallery,  
 London

2006 *Artists of Mass Distraction*, Opus Gallery,  
 Newcastle  
 Master Printmakers, Royal Automobile Club,  
 London  
 Eyestorm Gallery, London  
*Art for Life*, Christies, London  
 Scope Art Fair, Light Contemporary, London  
 Art London, John Iddon, London

2005 Art Palm Beach, Russeck Gallery, USA  
 Art Miami, Russeck Gallery, USA  
*The ART Show*, Menier Chocolate Factory,  
 London

2004 The London Art Fair, Rebecca Hossack Gallery,  
 London  
 Art Miami, Rebecca Hossack Gallery

2003 *Mystery Postcards for Macmillan Cancer*,  
 Tate Britain, London

2003 Toronto Art Fair, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 20/21 British Art Fair, Rebecca Hossack  
 Gallery  
 Art London, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 Art Miami, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 Art Palm Beach, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 Art 2003, Rebecca Hossack Gallery

2002 British Art Fair, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 Art London, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
 Art 2002, Rebecca Hossack Gallery

2000 *Transformations*, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford  
*The Flower Show*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
*Holy Cow- The Second Coming*,  
 Clapham Art Gallery, London

1999 *Reclaimed* (British Council exhibition, touring  
 internationally until 2003),  
 Townhouse Gallery, Cairo  
*Holy Cow*, Clapham Art Gallery, London  
*Humans Being*, New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham  
 Brewery Arts Centre, Cirencester

**Residencies:**

June 2009 South Florida Arts Center

**Selected Commissions:**

The Portland Collection  
 The Conran Shop  
 De La Rue Currency International  
 Crosby Street Hotel, New York  
 Paul Smith  
 Tullett Prebon

**Collections:**

The Government Art Collection  
 The British Council  
 Banque Internationale A Luxembourg  
 Sir Peter Blake  
 John Rocha  
 Prestbury Investment Holdings  
 Charles Russell LLP  
 Duet Asset Management  
 Apollo Management  
 CASE Europe  
 Ruffer LLP  
 Sidley Austin UK LLP  
 Agnes B  
 Ed O'Brien (Radiohead)  
 Nick Mason (Pink Floyd)  
 The Manic Street Preachers  
 One Aldwych Hotel, London  
 Christiane Amanpour  
 The Pigozzi Collection  
 A.A. Gill  
 The Haupt Collection

Catalogue written and published by Waterhouse & Dodd  
Printed by ArtQuarters Press  
Photography by Prudence Cumings Associates  
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