

Artists explore war

By: Chris Clay

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An inter-disciplinary exhibition that explores the relationship between contemporary art and war comes to the University of Toronto Mississauga's Blackwood Gallery next month.

Signals in the Dark: Art in the Shadow of War opens on Jan. 16. It's curated by Seamus Kealy and runs until March 2.

The exhibition features work from 17 international artists and will be split between Blackwood Gallery and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, located at Hart House at the University of Toronto.

The exhibition is billed as investigating the interstices between perpetual war, dominant politics and military aesthetics while confronting issues of global warfare, how it is imaged, and how it is imagined.

The exhibition features artists reacting to war with art. While many of the artists produced angry pieces, others reacted by challenging the spectacle of contemporary war and its veracity.

Participating artists include Maja Bajevic (Bosnia), Dominique Blain (Canada), Bureau d'etudes (France), Paul Chan (USA), Koken Ergun (Turkey), Harun Farocki (Germany), Omer Fast (Israel), Kendell Geers (South Africa), Johan Grimonprez (Belgium), Jamelie Hassan (Canada), Kristan Horton (Canada), Abdel-Karim Khalil (Iraq), Annie MacDonell (Canada), Anri Sala (Albania), Sonja Savic (Serbia), Sean Snyder (USA) and Ron Terada (Canada).

A symposium designed to expand on the subject of the exhibition takes place Jan. 25 at Hart House. The discussion will include WJT Mitchell of the University of Chicago, as well as Boris Groys, Brigitte van der Sande and Allan Harding MacKay.

For more information, call 905-569-4650 or visit www.blackwoodgallery.ca.

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Seamus Kealy is the curator of the University of Toronto Mississauga's Blackwood Gallery.