

On war and art

Symposium and exhibition at MiST Theatre showcases modern-day fear of war through art

MEGHA KUMAR
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, January 25, an exhibition exploring the relationship between art and images of war took place at the MiST Theatre, garnering an audience of over 50 people. The exhibition began with a lecture on the fear of war and its representation through images by Professor W.J.T. Mitchell, followed by two panels of discussion with different speakers on their experience with war-related projects.

In the first panel, Allan Harding MacKay presented an array of images called 'Double Bind' from his visit to Afghanistan. He showed images of the airfield that questioned the boundaries between photojournalism and art.

Brigitte van der Sande's discussion on her future project 'Amsterdam at War' played with the prediction of war in her city, how citizens would react to it, and how the society in Netherlands has gone from being a curious, open city to one of high surveillance and increased fear of terrorism. This was followed by Irene Loughlin's literary analysis on the post-war art of Naufus Figueroa.

One of the more provocative presentations involved Stephen Eisenman's analysis on images of waterboarding-which is a form of simulated drowning that is used as a torture technique.

"Some lectures were definitely better than others. I liked 'Amsterdam at War' the best - it was scary to see how our society may be and how it can affect our privacy," said Joanne Fernandes, a fourth-year visual culture and communication student.

The symposium ended with Boris Groy's questioning of European identity in art and 'otherness' and an open debate on the lectures, prompting several audience members to think about the impact of art in the twenty-first century.