

MODERN PAINTERS

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ART & WAR FIVE YEARS ON

PERSPECTIVES FROM:
Liam Gillick, Jorie Graham
Jenny Holzer, Maryam Jafri,
Jon Kessler, Steve McQueen,
Ara H. Merjian, Richard Meyer,
Naeem Mohaiemen,
Martha Rosler, Collier Schorr,
Jalal Toufic, Tirdad Zolghadr,
and others

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MARYAM JAFRI is an artist based in Copenhagen and New York. This work is from "Siege of Khartoum, 1884," a series of 27 photcollage posters in which iconic images from the Iraq war are combined with archival newspaper articles covering earlier colonial interventions. For this poster Jafri took an article from a 1917 edition of the *Times of London*, when Baghdad was first "liberated" by the British from the Ottomans, and juxtaposed it with the image of Saddam Hussein's statue being pulled down by US Marines on April 9, 2004. Also depicted is the flag design proposed by the Coalition Provisional Authority in 2004, which was quickly rejected by the people of Iraq.



THE BAGHDAD OF THE FUTURE



TO THE PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD

In the name of my _____, and in the name of the peoples over whom he rules, I address you as follows:

Our military operations have as their object the defeat of the enemy and the driving of him from these territories. In order to complete this task, I am charged with absolute and supreme control of all regions on which _____ troops operate, but our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators. Since the days of Halaka your city and your lands have been subject to tyranny of strangers, your palaces have fallen into ruins, your gardens have sunk into desolation, and your forefathers and yourselves have groaned in bondage. Your sons have been carried off to wars not of your seeking, your wealth has been stripped from you by unjust men and squandered in distant places. O people of Baghdad! Remember that for 26 generations you have suffered under strange tyrants who have ever endeavoured to set one Arab house against another in order that they might profit by your dissensions. This policy is abhorrent to _____ and her Allies, for there can be neither peace nor prosperity where there is enmity and misgovernment. Therefore, I am commanded to invite you, through your nobles and elders and representatives to participate in the management of your civil affairs in collaboration with the political representatives of _____ who will accompany the _____ Army, so that you may be united with your kinsmen in north, east, south, and west in realizing the aspirations of your race.

FREEDOM FOR THE ARABS

Maryam Jafri
Poster from "Siege of
Khartoum, 1884," 2006
27 photcollage posters,
24 X 35 in. each
Courtesy Maryam Jafri