

HOPE

in the Midst of War, Death, and Destruction

Over the past 25 years I have created images that define humanity's fundamental, yet tenuous relationship to the natural world. In opposing portfolios such as "The Death of Urban Humanity," the artwork moved from the beauty of nature, to the devastation of life, and the barren complexity of the urban world. My offering for Day of the Dead 2003, combines these two irreconcilable visions to create a political/ecological image to united the beauty and tranquility of nature with the violence and carnage of war.

War, Death and Destruction have proven an inevitable aspect of humanity's presence and legacy. Each day, century after century, mothers and fathers, families, communities, and nations loose yet more young lives through the devastation of war. How can we live a life of peace, balance and beauty in the midst of this horror, grief and loss?

This offering is a reminder of this question and includes drawings in memory of the great Spanish painter Goya and his "Desastres," tragic images of our many war dead, and finally at its heart, symbols of HOPE in the midst of this war, death and destruction.

Linda Vallejo

There will be no lasting peace either in the heart of individuals or in social customs until death is outlawed.

Albert Camus

Modern man likes to pretend that his thinking is wide-awake. But this wide-awake thinking has led us into the mazes of a nightmare in which the torture chambers are endlessly repeated in the mirrors of reason. *Octavio Paz*

In the arts of life man invents nothing; but in the arts of death he outdoes Nature herself, and produces by chemistry and machinery all the slaughter of plague, pestilence, and famine. *George Bernard Shaw*

History seems to us an arena of instincts and fashions, of appetite, avarice, and craving for power, of blood lust, violence, destruction, and wars, of ambitious ministers, venal generals, bombarded cities, and we too easily forget that this is only one of its many aspects. Above all we forget that we ourselves are a part of history, that we are the product of growth and are condemned to perish if we lose the capacity for further growth and change. We are ourselves history and share the responsibility for world history and our position in it. But we gravely lack awareness of this responsibility. *Herman Hesse*

How can one not speak about war, poverty, and inequality when people who suffer from these afflictions don't have a voice to speak?
Isabel Allende

All futurity Seems teeming with endless destruction never to be repelled; Desperate remorse swallows the present in a quenchless rage.
William Blake

It is in these acts called trivialities that the seeds of joy are forever wasted, until men and women look round with haggard faces at the devastation their own waste has made, and say, the earth bears no harvest of sweetness-calling their denial knowledge. *George Eliot*

I can only see death and more death, till we are black and swollen with death. *D.H. Lawrence*

All nations have blood on their hands. *Robert John Knapp*

What the horrors of war are, no one can imagine. They are not wounds and blood and fever, spotted and low, or dysentery, chronic and acute, cold and heat and famine. They are intoxication, drunken brutality, demoralization and disorder on the part of the inferior ... jealousies, meanness, indifference, selfish brutality on the part of the superior. *Florence Nightingale*

There are flood and drought, Over the eyes and in the mouth, Dead water and dead sand, Contending for the upper hand. The parched eviscerate soil Gapes at the vanity of toil, Laughs without mirth. This is the death of the earth. *T.S. Eliot*

This we know: the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. *Seattle, Chief of the Duwamish, Suquamish and Alli*

Those who have been immersed in the tragedy of massive death during wartime, and who have faced it squarely, never allowing their senses and feelings to become numbed and indifferent, have emerged from their experiences with growth and humanness greater than that achieved through almost any other means. *Elisabeth Kübler-Ross*

As I came to power peacefully, so shall I keep it. *Corazon (Cory) Aquino*