

2. De-construct the meaning of an artwork in relation to politics of representation from the perspective of gender studies, the postcolonial condition or the visualisation of violence.



After looking at Kathleen Fox's work I found a quote that strongly links to her works and the from the book *Regarding the Pain of Others* by Susan Sontag "war is a man's- game that the killing machine has a gender, and it's male" (page 3) how it links to Kathleen Fox's work and the question itself because in the drawing there's a little man on top of the hyenas that's dictating everything which shows how war is a man's game of dictating everything that people do. This quote also links to her work because of the hierarchy of men today society outlook on war where they stand on top of everything with no remorse and don't care how it effects the people that are suffering because of the conflicts. Looking into the body of work where the image I selected is from where it says "my initial response- nothing has changed – yet" where even the artist has shown through her work that the world will never change because of the animalistic mentality the human race has when it comes to war even the amount of people that die as long the human race is on top nothing can go wrong in the eyes of the male ideology of war. "Violence can exalt someone subjected to it into a martyr or a hero" (page 9) This quote from *Regarding the Pain of Others* by using the word 'martyr' is pointing out that most violence is caused by different beliefs but comparing the subjective of violence can either turn a person into a 'martyr' or a 'hero', shows that violence effect people differently but putting it that there is only two things you can become but the fact due to the politics of war the outcome is that you will always be seen as a murder. With Kathleen Fox's work it shows how there only one outcome to war and violence and that is everything fall eventually but there is death and destruction before it gets to that point.

While looking into Kathleen Fox's work it made me think about it from a politically standpoint because her uses of hyenas in her work where hyenas are scavengers. The reason that I see it as political is that she draws the hyenas with human counter parts which can be seen as most governments across the world, and where from the general public pointer views are swept under or not even considered. The reasoning why the government can be seen as hyenas as in the Kathleen Fox's imagery is that hyenas benefit themselves by scavenging for scraps so where the government is that the government tries to benefit themselves with money because they try get every penny out of people for their own selfish gain. I decided to cover Kathleen Fox's work is because it can almost be linked to the book *Truth to Power* because of the way the writer Jess Phillips M.P put the government into perspective and how the western media portrays things, but going back to Kathleen Fox's work she was drawing to get a reaction out of the public to make them think about what's going on in the world and how the UK government disregarded everything that going on in

the world because unless it has something to do with money there ignore it till it become an issue that makes them look bad. With linking the truth to power to Fox's work you can see that there trying to provoke people into see what's truly wrong with the world and how everything is swept under the rug which is what Kathleen fox's work is trying to represent. While reading I came across the chapter two "feel the fear" where it talks about how fear is used you can see this in the quote "fear is often used to control and curb are liberty" this quote can lead back to Kathleen fox's work because of the violent nature that she is trying to portray in her work that can link to the fear that people have of war that it can control how people react to things and how the government tries to keep it away from the general public eye. "They will kill you before you before even have a chance to start" this quote can be taken into different accounts because of how she's wrote it about the American government and how there gun laws are and her mother was telling her that they would kill her before the gun laws will be changed they would kill her but the way that could link to Kathleen fox's work because she drawn a pill of human which could represent how the government don't care how many people die or suffer so they can keep something that they even know that's killing people. "How could you possibly stay silent against that oppressor?" (page 53) The quote I've chosen was said by the writers mother which states that no one should be 'silent' when it comes to oppressors which Kathleen fox's work calls out what Russia did to Ukraine so she is not being silent when it comes to it she was calling out the oppressing government because it wasn't just the politics of it, it was pure violence the show that their on top at the end of it all, but throw out history we have seen how trying to be on top has left entire people live in ruin.

While reading the book on photography by Susan Sontag I realised that her book can also link to Kathleen Fox's work Susan Sontag quotes from the chapter 'America, seen through photographs, darkly' "He tried to see beyond the difference between beauty and ugliness, importance and triviality". This quote can link to Fox's work because it shows the ugliest side of war showing how there is always someone dictating but also not caring how war can affect people's lives. I chose to link Susan Sontag's book on photography is because she talks about "Whiteman's America" but even in her own words she describes even the Whiteman falls which is show in Kathleen Fox's work were even the man on top of it all falls from his high pedestal because of the violence he's inflicted onto society for his own selfish gain and that even people in the seat of power can fall to their own demise because the power goes to their head.

"The consequences of lying have to more central for photography than the can ever can be for painting" This quote from Susan Sontag on photography from the chapter heroism of vision (page 90) which talks about the consequences of lying through photographs which is what the western media does when it comes to violence and conflict because if they don't their seen as the bad guy so instead of being seen as the bad they portray one of the sides of the fight as the victim. In Kathleen Fox's work she centralises who the bad guy is which is the man on top but the people around him does his dirty work because if the man on top get his hands dirty, he will be consumed by the violence he inflicted on the people because of the fact that their doing the right thing but instead of helping people during conflict and violence they print it so that the conflict looks significant like everything is fine but it truly isn't.

In my conclusion from four different sources politics and violence go hand and hand with each other shown in art and in writing, how Kathleen Fox shows in this drawing how the man on top dictates everything but that's the same for Jess Phillip M.P. and Susan Sontag which both write how violence and politics can be the ultimate down fall of any government. The way that Kathleen shows it by having the heynas having animalistic is the same way that susan Sontag describes how war is a man game which shows that most people in government see war as an game and the only way to win is

through violence not democracy but in some government not all violence is democracy. Which is how in truth to power (Jess Phillips M.P.) writes how she would be killed before she could change any kind of gun laws which shows that in American government that they rather have violence on the streets than no guns, which brings back to Kathleen Fox's work where she shows the man on top would rather have violence than peace that clouds his own judgment because behind politics there is always violence to get to be on top that we have always seen through history which I have said in the paragraph above. So violence and politics go in hand and hand with each other because we've seen through out history you can have one without the other.

### **Bibliography**

**Truth to power- Jess Phillips M.P.**

**Chapter feel the fear.**

**-Page 55**

**-Page 58**

**On photography- Susan Sontag**

**Chapter America, seen through photographs, darkly**

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