



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong
Research Online

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts - Papers

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

1984

Soft Attack: Artists Against Militarism

Jonathan P. Cockburn

University of Wollongong, jon@uow.edu.au

Denis Mizzi

George Alexander

Publication Details

G. Alexander, J. P. Cockburn and D. Mizzi *Soft Attack: Artists Against Militarism* 1984 Artspace Surry Hills, Sydney Artspace 04-22 July

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:
research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Soft Attack: Artists Against Militarism

Abstract

The image of the work is the death's head, the skull. A universal and extremely familiar if not hackneyed symbol. One that continues to pop up in such places as: Shakespeare's HAMLET ... Hitler's EUROPE ... Truman's JAPAN ... Kissinger's CHILE . . . Kissinger and Nixon and Mao and Frazer's VIETNAM and KAMPUCEA ... Sukarto and Whit lam's TIMOR ... Reagan and Breznev's AFGHANISTAN ... Reagan's EL SALVADOR and HONDURAS and GUATAMALA and NICARAGUA and GRANADA .

Keywords

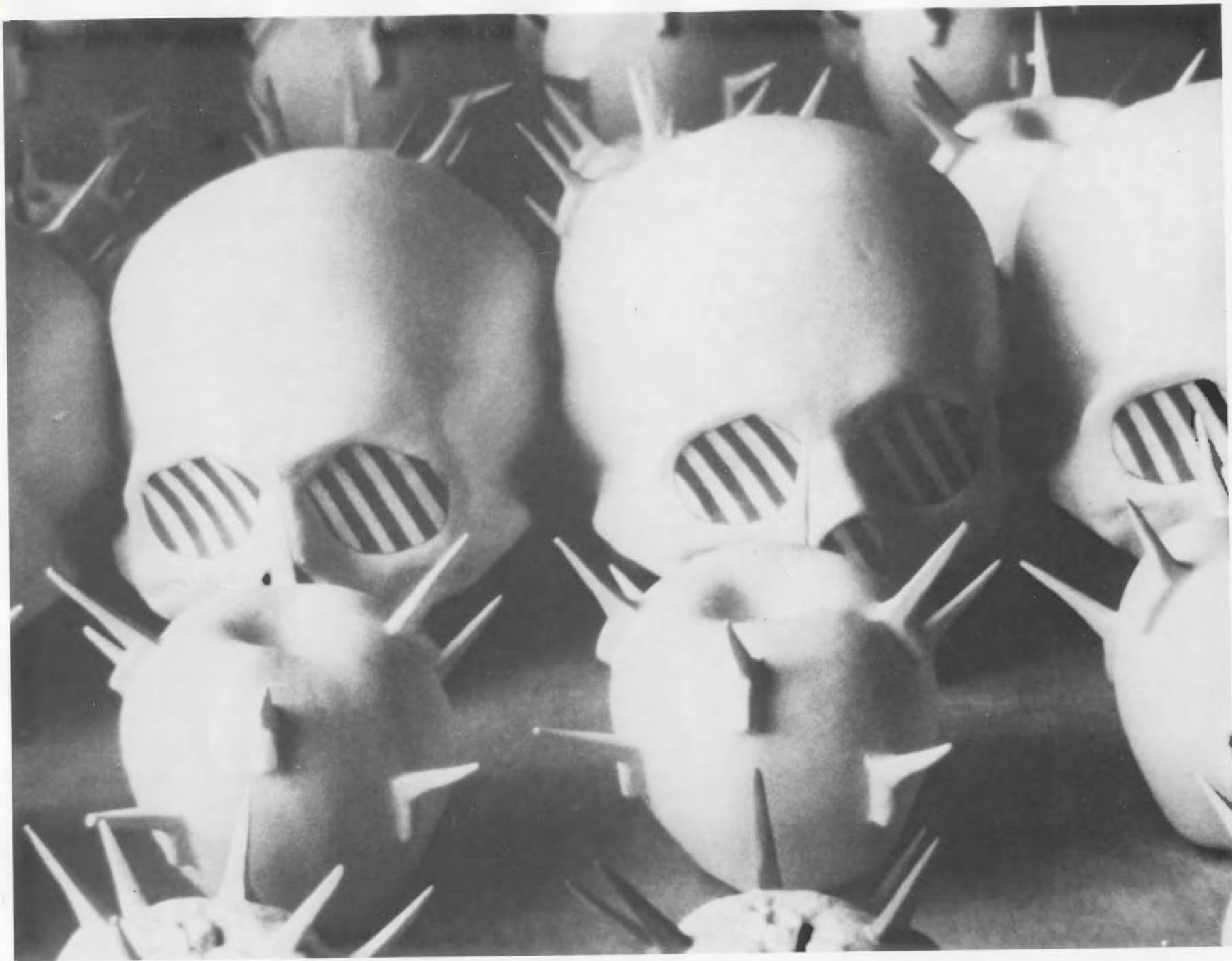
soft, attack, artists, against, militarism

Disciplines

Arts and Humanities | Law

Publication Details

G. Alexander, J. P. Cockburn and D. Mizzi Soft Attack: Artists Against Militarism 1984 Artspace Surry Hills, Sydney Artspace 04-22 July



INSTALLATION (Detail)

Jon Cockburn

NAME: JON COCKBURN
TITLE: INSTALLATION
DIMENSIONS: Approx. 1 metre x 2 metres
70 cm at highest point
MEDIUM: MIXED

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WORK:

The image of the work is the death's head, the skull. A universal and extremely familiar if not hackneyed symbol. One that continues to pop up in such places as: Shakespeare's HAMLET...Hitler's EUROPE...Truman's JAPAN...Kissinger's CHILE... Kissinger and Nixon and Mao and Frazer's VIETNAM and KAMPUCEA...Sukarto and Whitlam's TIMOR... Reagan and Breznev's AFGHANISTAN...Reagan's EL SALVADOR and HONDURAS and GUATAMALA and NICARAGUA and GRANADA...

The work will also include spiked apples and mandarins in an attempt to push an analogy between the affluence of the above-mentioned agents of misery and their actions. The mandarin, being a fruit that originated in China, has a double life, referring to the Chinese bureaucracy and power systems, as well as being a source of food, nourishment and life. The apple has a long-standing in Western mythology and symbolism, not least of which has its antecedent in the Old Testament.

Description of Work: The work will be composed of the skulls, spiky apples and mandarins, I have made in white, stoneware clay. At the moment I envisage them being installed on a bed of white pebbles and blue-metal over a canvas ground sheet. The skulls will be accompanied by wrapped and bound lengths of stick. It is also likely that selected skulls will be wrapped in cloth

dipped in black and red slips, and other skulls
being carefully broken with impact fractures.

NOTE: A great deal of the aesthetics of this work
will be thought through at its installation, as is
the nature of installation.
