

**Twenty-one Artists Contemplate the Actual Cost of War  
Exhibit Opening Memorial Day Weekend at  
Kennedy Heights Arts Center**

Cincinnati, Ohio – War, and all its myriad faces: including death and honor; greed and patriotism; suffering and devotion; will be illustrated in an art exhibit fittingly scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center, 6546 Montgomery Road.

The exhibit entitled **Shattered Myths – Twenty-one Visions Contemplating the Actual Cost of War**; is the brainchild of a consortium of artists led by veteran photographer Gordon Baer, 67, of Pleasant Ridge. “I have brought together some of the region’s finest artists who are each interpreting the enormous human and financial cost of the current war in their own way,” Baer said.

Baer and others involved in the project envision this exhibit as a means of speaking both to and on behalf of all War veterans in much the same way as the Vietnam Wall spoke for many Vietnam War vets. This exhibit is also an opportunity for both the artists, and those attending, to explore the many conflicting emotional states which arise in all wars; as well as a chance to consider how wars, throughout all generations, have invariably generated divergent social and political thought.

Displays include an installation representing the many limbs lost by American servicemen and women who have participated in the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gershon Gurin-Podlish of Florence, Massachusetts, a sculptor and one-time employee of a prosthetic lab, is constructing from plaster castings 748 limbs to represent the total number of amputations that have taken place thus far in both war theaters. This number will be updated to match real time losses.

“I had an uncle who stepped on a mine and lost a leg in Italy in World War II,” said Gurin-Podlish. “Every time I make one of these casts I consider it a memorial to someone who lost a limb to war.”

The exhibit will include a “living room” featuring a television showing interviews with veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as actual news reports from the two war-torn countries. Also on display will be photography, sculpture, woodcuts and graphic art by 20 artists, as well as the work of editorial cartoonist Jim Borgman.

The work in the exhibit does not represent one single message, but rather 21 different artists’ points of view. “Our objective is to compel thought,” says Michael Kearns, one of the contributing artists. “We aren’t telling anyone what to think. We just hope to get people thinking.”

Contributing artists include: Tony Arrasmith, Gordon Baer, Jim Borgman, Christopher Cone , John Cooper, Bruce Crippin, Lynn Dobson, Ronald Dreffer, John Engelman, Robert Flischel, Sr.

Alice Gerdeman , Saad Ghosn, Melvin Grier, Gershon Gurin-Podlish, Erin Heitsche, Tom Hubbard, Michael Kearns, Bob Kling, Laura Schaber, Gregory Thorp and Leigh Waltz.

**All are invited to a free opening reception on Saturday, May 24 from 6-9 pm.** At 7:00, there will be an artist talk in which many of the exhibition artists will share about their work. The exhibit will run through Flag Day, June 14. Gallery hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-7 pm and Saturdays 10-4 pm. For more information, call 631-4278.