

August 9 2008



Soldier Billboard Project

Portraits of Soldiers by Suzanne Opton

Sponsored by: Atlanta Center for Contemporary Art, MCA Denver, Forecast Public Art, St Paul Minnesota, DiverseWorks Artspace, Houston; Museum 21c and the International Foundation for Art, Louisville, Kentucky

100 days or more as Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan - who are these men and women and what were their experiences? Of course, we can never know what these young people have gone through or how the experiences have affected their lives. The artist Suzanne Opton has been photographing soldiers as they returned from tours of duty from both war zones. She has made portraits of young men and women who have seen the unthinkable and have returned to Fort Drum in upstate New York to train for another tour of duty. Opton has put a face on these soldiers.

Five arts organizations are sponsoring the Soldier Billboard project starting in Denver August 25 during the Democratic National Convention and then Forecast Public Art in St. Paul Minnesota during the Republican National Convention. DiverseWorks will sponsor boards in Houston that will be up in September and the Atlanta Center for Contemporary Art is sponsoring a board that will be up in September through to the elections in November. Museum 21C in Louisville and the International Art Foundation will sponsor a billboard and an exhibition of the artists photographs of more soldiers and exiled citizens from Iraq.

This is a unique project of collaboration between organizations and the simultaneous presentation of Soldier Billboards in five different states.

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