

Abstract

This diploma thesis is a reflection on the role of performance at the time of increasing media coverage of violence in society since the late 1960s to the present. Most chapters are set against a backdrop of two armed conflicts, the Vietnam War and what is called the war against terrorism. In this, a major or main role has been played by the United States, but the consequences have to be dealt with not only by American society, but also the entire world. While the horrors of war in Vietnam were brought to American television through the war coverage not yet fully under control of the US government, the second conflict was started by the terrorist attack on the *World Trade Center* on 11 September 2001 taking place in plain view of a large part of the world's population in live broadcast. The diploma thesis examines how these violent events affected society and its approach to art and what they caused within the artistic community itself. Can a performance still elicit a response these days? The thing is that in particular the latter conflict, followed by the American invasion to Afghanistan, has become one of the main symbolic images of the 20th century. Given the links of these conflicts to the USA, the thesis interprets mainly the American art scene, which through its metropolis of contemporary art in New York controls in a way also the art of other continents.