

Press release:

***Gesture, Posture and Bad Attitude in
Contemporary News Photography***

Curated by:

David Byrne

April 18 - May 19, 2001

Opening reception: Wednesday, April 18, 6-8 pm

featuring photos by:

Jim Gleason
David Handschuh
Harry Hamburg
Srdjan Ilic
Laura Pedrick
Joe Petrella
Susan Regan
Andrew Savulich
Apichart Weerawong
Andrew Wong

These are news photos. Taken by photojournalists as part of their jobs. These particular photojournalists do not, I believe, see themselves as artists - they are, for the most part, given their assignments - a speech or event to cover - and they provide their newspaper or magazine with a usable image. They are working within strict parameters dictated by what is expected in daily press coverage. Self-expression and artistic license are kept to a minimum. In this case, this is good, because they have not, at least in an obvious way, inserted their personality into the image, we receive a sort of purer, cleaner transmission of the events.

The photos I have chosen represent a documentation of a sort of choreographed performance. A dance of politics. The photos reveal a grammar of movement determined by an unseen choreographer, who has worked out an elaborate modern or contemporary dance. Hands hold the head, then the whole company leans to one side, all glance briefly to the upper right corner of the room, then a woman is dragged out from under a tarpaulin, as if a giant creature were giving birth to a full grown human being. It is a dance whose only documentation is in the photos assembled here.

The above might seem to be some ridiculous invention of mine, but maybe there is another kind of truth revealed here. Maybe there is a preferred set of gestures for use in politics - a set of movements that are not written down or described in any book, instruction manual or party pamphlet - but are nevertheless adopted by all who assign themselves to this profession.

Just as singers have stereotypical moves and gestures, so do those whose profession is in the art of politics.

- David Byrne, March 2001

A color brochure containing an essay by David Byrne will be available free of charge.

Please contact Apex Art for further information. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11-6.

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