

HIPPOLYTE BAYARD

CHI HA INVENTATO LA FOTOGRAFIA?

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010

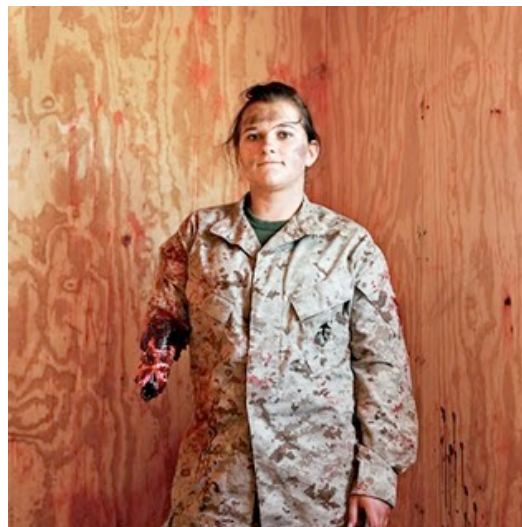
Training days



Army Private Dan Floyd at Basic Training, Fort Knox, KY, 2007

There have been some works about people dressing up like soldiers, playing with toy guns, reenactment, etc in the last few years, the one shining above all the others being An-My Lê's Small Wars. The last chapter of that book is made with images of the training of the U.S. military in the American desert, in preparation for maneuvers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Claire Beckett chose to explore the same world: same training camps, same scenery, same enemies. While An-My Lê almost dissolved the tiny soldiers in the monochrome landscape of the desert near Twentynine Palms, Beckett stays closer to them, walking through the cartoonlike middle eastern roads of the camps, portraying the soldiers with their sometimes blank stare behind their impeccable mujaheddin disguises or their fake severed legs.



CONTACT

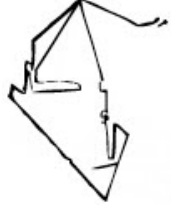
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Civilian Krista Galyean playing the role of an American Marine injured in an IED blast, Wadi Al-Sahara, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, CA, 2008

Negli ultimi anni ci sono stati diversi lavori che ci hanno mostrato persone mascherate da soldati, armi giocattolo, simulazioni di guerra, e tra questi forse il più significativo è *Small Wars* di An-My Lê. L'ultimo capitolo del libro era composto da immagini dell'addestramento dell'esercito americano nel deserto californiano, in preparazione alla guerra in Iraq.

Claire Beckett ha scelto di esplorare lo stesso mondo: stessi campi di addestramento, scenografie, stessi nemici. Mentre An-My Lê quasi dissolveva i minuscoli soldati nel deserto monocromatico di Twentynine Palms, Claire Beckett sceglie di restar loro vicina, camminando attraverso il mondo di cartone dei campi, ritraendo i soldati e il loro sguardo a volte vuoto, dietro le loro impeccabili vesti di mujaheddin o trucchi hollywoodiani per gambe maciullate credibilissime.

(thanks to Andrea Calabresi)



Civilian Joshua Osborne playing the role of an Iraqi civilian, Wadi Al-Sahara, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, CA, 2008

All images © Claire Beckett

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LABELS: PAESAGGIO UMANO/HUMAN LANDSCAPE

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