

Parker's Box 193 Grand Street Brooklyn NY 11211

**Parker's Box is delighted to present:**

## *Up In Arms*

**Carmen Alvarado, Andisheh Avini, Chris Burden, Bill Burns, Jacques Flèchemuller, Susan Graham, Charles Krafft, Tim Laun, Claire Lieberman, Philippe Meste, Kurt Novak, Donald O'Finn, Sylvie Réno, Samuel Rousseau, Casey Ruble, Tom Sachs, Peter Zangrillo,**

**Opening Reception, Friday February 28, 6-9 pm**

Exhibition dates: March 1 – April 7, 2003

Gallery hours: Friday to Monday 1 to 7 pm

Extended Williamsburg hours: Saturday March 8: 1pm – midnight  
Performance *Fire!* by **Patrick Martinez** and **LAPÍN KULTÄ** 10pm - 10:30pm

The United States is a peace-loving country. Our President has stated this many times, since it is a natural result of the deep American commitment to Democracy.

That there has not been a military conflict on the US mainland since the Civil War, is further testimony to the achievement of this peaceful position. However, it has unfortunately also been the case that in order to protect itself and to maintain peace internationally, the US has been forced to wage war in other parts of the world. In fact, as a result of its onerous international role as global promoter of peace and democracy, the US has been actively involved in a military conflict somewhere on the planet, every year for the last fifty years. For the same reasons, it also sadly holds the heavy responsibility of being the only nation ever to have used nuclear weapons against a civilian population.

On a happier note, the policies that protect this great nation, and the international economic advantages they have secured, have contributed to the development of a strong economy. This has nurtured a society in which the essential elements of true civilization, such as the Arts, are allowed to flourish. Artists in the US work in an enormously privileged position in comparison to many places in the world, benefiting from the protection that the first amendment affords to their freedom of speech and artistic expression. Artists here have more freedom than many, to evoke whatever imagery their expression desires.

It seems to be a pertinent proposition to explore artists' representations of weapons at this time. We can do this because we have the luxury to do so, in this relative haven of peace, where war is not occurring. We wish to do this because of what it might say or reveal, and in doing so, we also hope to avoid some of the habitual decadence and indulgence of an art world that, even at times like these, is so tied up in its own economics that outrages happening on the other side of the world have little impact.

Along with some video works, *Up in Arms* is primarily an exhibition of objects that are representations of various guns, bombs, grenades and small artillery, made from materials as diverse as wax, chocolate, porcelain, sugar, foam-core, the Sports section of the New York Times, glass, cardboard, styrofoam, etc...

Parker's Box would like to thank the following for their help in making this exhibition possible: The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Gagosian Gallery, I-20 Gallery, Schroeder Romero, 31 Grand, and with special thanks to Tim and Nancy Grumbacher