

JAMES TURRELL | A LIFE IN LIGHT

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## **NEWS & FEATURES**

October 31, 2006



"Kids in Zafariniya, Baghdad, Oct, 2004, scramble for candy tossed by soldiers from the Washington National Guard.' Steve Mumford

## Art News: Illustrations of Iraq on Display in Boston

BOSTON, Oct. 30, 2006-Six years ago, Steve Mumford was set to become one of the many painters in New York City. He had graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, begun exhibiting in galleries and garnered favorable reviews. However, Sept. 11, 2001 changed everything, The Boston Globe reports.

Mumford decided to go to Iraq and pursue the path of an oldfashioned combat illustrator. Throughout four trips between 2003 and 2004, he immortalized gun battles, crowded street scenes, landscapes, local citizens, prisoners behind bars and images of U.S. troops.

Forty one of those drawings, plus eight from a recent series about injured troops in a rehabilitation center, are display in "Baghdad and Beyond: Drawings by Steve Mumford," at the **Tufts University Art** Gallery.

The drawings, which do not hint at Mumford's political stance on the war, include captions such as "Staff Sergeant John Jones, 1/7 Marines, Charlie Company, lost both legs below the knee," accompanying a picture of a man riding a stationary bike with American flag-patterned fabric around one of his prosthetic legs.

"You may find yourself thinking about the differences between drawing and photography," writes the Globe. "That photography can capture and represent things that a human draftsman can't is obvious. Do Mumford's drawings do something that a camera can't?"

The Boston Globe: A combat illustrator captures the view from the ground in Iraq

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"Staff Sergeant John Jones, 1/7 Marines, Charlie Co, lost both legs below the knee." Steve Mumford



into the Tigris at dusk from one of Saddam's palaces, Tikrit, Feb, 2004. Steve Mumford

"Soldiers hitting golf balls

All works courtesy of Postmasters Gallery, New York from "Baghdad & Beyond: Drawings" by Steve Mumford at Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA.





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