



Gonçalo Mabunda, *Voodoo Bullet*, 2017
Metal and recycled gun parts
Image courtesy of Ethan Cohen Fine Arts

The Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery
at John Jay College of Criminal Justice
proudly presents the exhibition

WEAPON OF CHOICE

Curated by Isabela Villanueva

May 5th, 2017-July 21st, 2017

Opening Reception:

May 4th, 2017
5:30-8:00pm

Violence - and the threat of it- is a pre-political manner of communication and control. Since the beginning of time, man has depended on weapons to impose hierarchy of some kind in his surroundings and society (and fundamentally to undermine equality).

From the axe over 1.5 million years ago to today's killer drones, mankind's use of weapons has been varied and incredibly inventive. Weapons have changed history and helped in the rise and fall of civilizations. For example, gunpowder, a Chinese invention, led to the development of cannons and guns—revolutionizing warfare in the Middle Ages and beyond. In the last century aerial weapons and the atomic bomb altered the course of the second world war and of the globe's history; shifting the way battles are fought and won, and leading to the unmanned aerial vehicles used nowadays.

Weapons are not limited to inflicting bodily harm, they are also used to obtain power, eliminate adversaries and control opponents. Religion, for example can be considered one of the oldest weapons of mass destruction in human history. Words and insults, economic sanctions, embargos have all been acknowledged and used as weapons as well. The artists featured in *Weapon of Choice* have generated a wide-ranging body of work that ponder about different types of arms; what they represent and how they affect the way we interact with our opponents and alter our lives. Using a variety of media and approaches these artists consider the role of weapons in areas as diverse as domestic violence, politics, video-games, fashion and warfare.

As long as weapons continues to function as a symbol and a status of power and oppression—a dual role it is not likely to shed in the near future—artists are sure to reflect on their impact, conveying

messages that may help gauge a variety of social responses to the use, abuse, and proliferation of arms worldwide.

Weapon of Choice will feature works by Shay Arick, Alessandro Balteo-Yazbeck in collaboration with Media Farzin, Natalie Baxter, Detext, Harun Farocki, Patrick Hamilton, Jessica Kairé, Goncalo Mabunda, Priscilla Monge, Edwin Sanchez and Roberto Visani.

For more information please contact:

The Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

860 11th Avenue

New York, NY 10019

gallery@jjay.cuny.edu

212-237-1439

www.shivagallery.org

Gallery Hours: 1- 5 PM, M – F

About John Jay College of Criminal Justice: An international leader in educating for justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University of New York offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum to upwards of 15,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 135 nations. In teaching, scholarship and research, the College approaches justice as an applied art and science in service to society and as an ongoing conversation about fundamental human desires for fairness, equality and the rule of law.

For more information, visit www.jjay.cuny.edu.