

# UAM CSULB

"Anything is a legitimate area of investigation."  
— Jenny Holzer

*Sandow Birk*

*The Depravities of War*

November 8 – December 16, 2007

University Art Museum  
California State University, Long Beach  
College of the Arts  
1250 Bellflower Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90840-8401  
T: 562.985.5761  
F: 562.985.7602  
www.csulb.edu/uam

## Sandow Birk (American)

"Birk is pursuing one of the most fascinating, unpredictable careers in Los Angeles art." - *New Times Los Angeles*

"Sandow Birk emerges from the same just-left-of-the-mainstream school that bred [other] latter-day artists and he offers a further testament to the insight, intelligence, and wit with which the post-baby boomer generation is utilizing its pop-culture saturation." - *LA Weekly*

**"This version of the "Inferno" is God's face in a Groucho mask, a triumphant cathedral that will bring new readers to Dante... and new converts to the growing church of Sandow Birk." - *S.F. Chronicle***

"Birk has got at the parts of L.A. that recall Piranesi, not David Hockney, the sinister noir terrain of freeway overpasses and cuttings and drainage ditches that create a stacked-up, tangled vertical landscape far from the flat, sunshiny L.A. of the usual iconography." - *London Review of Books*

Raised on the beaches of California and currently living and working in Los Angeles, Sandow Birk is well traveled and a graduate of the Otis/Parson's Art Institute. A winner of the J. Paul Getty Fellowship for Visual Arts, a Fulbright Scholarship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Birk's work has been exhibited internationally, and has been featured in recent years at the San Diego Museum of Art, the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, (SUNY/New Paltz, NY), Katzen Art Center (Washington, D.C.), the San Jose Museum of Art, and the Laguna Art Museum (Laguna Beach).

He has been featured in *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times*, the *London Guardian*, *ArtNews*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Details*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and on National Public Radio.

Art critic Ray Zone notes, "Birk's drawings are somber, filled with a dark somnolence. But there is great wit in small details and, as with all of Birk's oeuvre, a fine and dry satire quietly evident.

"For over a decade, Birk has revisited historical genres and come up with satirical contemporary turns on age-old human foibles. In Birk's busy and capable hands, everything old is new again and it all takes place in a post-apocalyptic California littered with the remains of popular culture.

"Whether he's ridiculing fascism with his *Prisonation* series or aping bellicosity with his *Historical Works on the Great War of the Californias*, Birk is Southern California's preeminent artist of dystopia."