

THE CHURCH  
A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
153 East Main Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: "BETWEEN IRAQ AND A HARD PLACE"

TODAY'S DATE: July 16, 2006

EVENT NAME: "Between Iraq and a Hard Place"

TYPE OF EVENT: Art installation and exhibit

LOCATION: The Church  
153 East Main Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930

OPENING: Saturday, August 19, 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm

EXHIBIT DATES: Friday and Saturday evenings 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
August 25 through September 9

CONTACT: Richard Emmanuel

PHONE 978-283-4816, or email [rev@thechurch.org](mailto:rev@thechurch.org).

GLOUCESTER: The Church, a non-profit community organization, presents an exhibit and installation by artist Richard Emmanuel entitled "Between Iraq and a Hard Place." The exhibit opens with a public reception on Saturday, August 19, from 1:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Regular viewing hours are Friday and Saturday evenings, 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm, through September 9.

"Between Iraq and a Hard Place" expands the hidden images and icons of the Iraq war and critiques the Bush administration's policies and assumptions that led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. This powerful collection of twenty-four monumental sculptures set within a multimedia environment invites the audience to ponder questions including whether American soldiers are dying for an agenda that includes—in the words of artist Richard Emmanuel—"Demonic messianism, Zionist dreams, the stolen faith of the Semitic tribes, or hard, not so hidden weapons of missile envy inspired by the male anatomy."

The sculptures combine the torture imagery of Rome with that of Abu Ghraib, and are mounted on pedestals reminiscent of the towers of 9/11. The gallery-sized installation includes design elements that reference "Hero Boxes," which are the boxes in which real heroes too often sadly come home. "Between Iraq and a Hard Place" exposes "Shock and Awe" campaigns from ancient times to our modern era, and draws a parallel between crucifixion—the "shock and awe" of ancient Rome—and the savagery of the Iraq war.

"Between Iraq and a Hard Place" is recommended for mature viewers. Admission is free. The Church exhibit installation space is not handicap accessible. Private viewings may be arranged by calling artist Richard Emmanuel at 978-283-4816 or email [rev@thechurch.org](mailto:rev@thechurch.org).