

Sam Kerson
painter, engraver, muralist

**BETRAYED, DOUBLE CROSSED,
LIED TO AND DECEIVED**
a book of linoleum block prints
by Sam Kerson



linoleum block print by Sam Kerson, 2010

ARTIST STATEMENT
Revised March 2016

Betrayed, Double Crossed, Lied to and Deceived... Produced in a limited edition, by Dragon Dance Theatre, 2012..Lino-cut images related to the news of the day, Linocuts by Sam Kerson, artist book making by Katah.

Betrayed... is about the news in 2010. All year long we took stories as they emerged in the press or on line, as we understood them and we represented them in images, usually one image to a story. We were living in Quebec and even though the US news often dominated the press we found plenty of Canadian stories to dramatize.

In 2010 there was the overwhelming earth quake in Haiti taking 230,000 lives; the G-8 meeting in Toronto, revealing an unsettling preparedness and violence by the city, provincial and national police; the Tamil Tigers fled from total destruction in their homelands and arrived in British Columbia; President Obama defended the military's right to keep torture at Guantanamo secret; the Mavi Marmara was assaulted in international waters by the Israeli Defense Forces; "Garzón had opened a groundbreaking investigation in Spain into the disappearance of over 100,000 victims of Franco during the civil war and the long dictatorship. His investigation included the exhumation of mass graves, including one believed to contain the remains of the poet Garcia Lorca" ¹; wars raged in Afghanistan and Colombia, the Deep Water Horizon flooded the Gulf of Mexico with petroleum; Fast and Furious, the US/Mexico gun runner's scandal, happened and by the end of the year Bradley Manning and Julian Assange were in jail for revealing various truths and facts.

We saw assassinations, financial crises, a multitude of immigration problems; anti-ecological strategies were implemented; the German army choosing to take a more or less peaceful role in Afghanistan ended up protecting the opium crop? Many of the events of the year were unbelievable or stunning in the richness of their contradictions.

Our work was to study them and to distil the very different human strategies, or more exactly the blood and tears of the multitude of victims, into a series of graphic images. We read the articles, we looked up the personalities, we followed the stories as they developed.

When Alberta "Bety" Cariño, the director of CACTUS, and Juri Jaakkola, a Finnish observer who was accompanying her, were murdered in San Juan Copala in Oaxaca the whole event was closely detailed on the internet. We had the awful experience of following the events hour by hour and the feeling that we were right there when these people of conscience were murdered.

Once we had the event in our minds, impressed on our hearts, we began to draw. We intended to honour the participants and to memorialize the events. We portrayed them and sought to represent their characters and their courage. We knew we could not say everything in this graphic but we intended to give the essential information so that the viewer could easily follow the image back to its point of origin.

When we first made the book, it seemed very controversial. The events were simply from the press but there were no soap advertisements surrounding the reports and there was no classical music to soothe us after we saw what had happened. The black and white images offered little to ease the pain of the grim day-to-day encounters. As I write this, six years later, the daily violence and suffering have moved on and this series of memories seem to have become historical, they have lost their hard edges, today's crises take our breath away and we can look more rationally at these tragedies of six years ago.

Peace, to those who are remembered here.

Thanks to those of you who have, to this date, collected the book; The University of Vermont, Special Collections, The Library of Congress and the Williams College Library.

A selection of images from *Betrayed...* were exhibited at the Biennale Internationale d'Estampe Contemporaine, in Trois-Rivières, Québec during the 2012 edition..

In this book we used a binding called, Chicago clips, which offers the collector the opportunity to disassemble the book and exhibit the images and then reassemble the book and put it back on the shelf.

For more info please refer to the Tech Sheet for this book
you can reach us at: dragondancetheatre@gmail.com
or
<http://artistbooksbysamkerson.weebly.com/betrayed.html>

1. Quoted from an article by Maria Blanco:
<http://www.albavolunteer.org/2010/08/tribute-to-baltasar-garzon/>