

## PROPOSAL FOR EXHIBIT

Two South African women tell their war stories: both raised during the dark days of the Apartheid era, and both raised in a time when violence and war were seen as necessary to obtain peace, irrespective of the disruptions to all lives, hopes, and fears.



Sandra Muzzy



Anne Kaese

Sandra Muzzy and Anne Kaese are two white South African women now living in the quiet suburbs of Bloomington and Fargo. They have put together 2 works (books) to illustrate the dichotomy of their lives in South Africa with what was really going on in the world around them. In the 3rd book Sandra documents her fears for her son as he spends a year deployed with the US Army in Afghanistan.

Both Anne Kaese, a calligrapher now living in Fargo ND and Sandra Muzzy, a Bloomington Mn watercolor artist took the opportunity to leave their country and move to Minnesota to avoid the terrorism and trauma of a violent country and yet, have found it again.

Now comes the time to take those experiences and reflect them back on society. In this collaborative venture the first book of words and images are reflections of their home outlook - the abnormality of their environment is reflected in a personal timeline of their idyllic lives being played against the events of the war and terrorism of apartheid on the world stage and their lack of awareness for many years of the atrocities being committed all around them. The watercolour art and calligraphic text show the connectedness and dissonance of living in a country that was resolved to keep people separate and apart, creating a violent culture of domestic terrorism, savagery and yet reconciliation at the end of the line.

The second book in this narrative of lives in war and peace is a collaborative accordion book featuring the words of the leader of the New South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who was born not far from Anne and Sandy's birthplaces. We will use excerpts from his speech to the Nobel Peace Prize committee, among other sources. This project uses the subtlety of text against drawings done in subtle shades of metal - using an 11th century technique called metal point or silverpoint, the images and words are written with metal tools. The lead of bullets, the copper and brass of a shell housing are used alongside pure silver to create contrasts in colour but more importantly, contrasting the purity of resolution against the destructiveness of the tools of war against others.



The third book was completed by Sandra when she found her life turned on its head when her son enlisted for the Army and in short shift, found himself heading to the battlefield in Afghanistan. She has captured her hope and fears in this journal, even including dirt from the parade ground when he left for a War Not Wanted. This book has foldouts with original art and

reproductions to create a narrative standing 10" high and some 100" long. This third book in the trilogy completes the circle.