



EDDO STERN, Fort Paladin [America's Army], 2003. 229 x 269 x 152 cm.

NEW YORK

## Eddo Stern at Postmasters

Gunfire mingled with the muffled voices of a cathedral choir in "GodsEye," Eddo Stern's second solo show at Postmasters Gallery.

The sound effects emanated from four sculptures that cleverly connected power structures of old — church and feudal state — with present day instruments of control — information and technology. A gothic cathedral, constructed from altered computer housings and decorated with flags, banners, and cute gargoyles displayed a jumble of 'biblical' words on two karaoke screens. Nearby, a castle with four turrets housed a screen showing battle scenes from a video game.

In the gallery's back room, Stern showed *Vietnam Romance*, a video composed of clips from computer games like *Nam*, *Vietcong*, and *Delta Force*. The storyline leaves room for interpretation, but seems to follow a dockworker on a tour of duty in Vietnam and then home to a life of flashbacks. As in previous work, Stern implicates the viewer by putting us at the center of the action.

He constructs new meaning from supposedly harmless game content just as he alters the ultra-familiar look of a PC to subtly make his point that our entertainment is closer to reality than we think.

—Merrily Kerr

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