

Exhibition of drawings challenges our disconnect society

by Naima Omar



#icare Nidhal Chamekh, 2016 (Pic: Courtesy of Patrick Heide gallery and the artist

The Graphic Witness exhibition at the Drawing Room in south London is showcasing works from the 1930s up until today.

I wholeheartedly recommend it. The exhibition focuses on work that acts as a <u>political response</u> and a recording of unjust events.

We live in a society that encourages us to be disconnected. Conflict, war and meaningless death have become normalised. This exhibition seeks to make you become a witness to important events.

The theme of disconnect runs through the exhibition.

One drawing by Nidhal Chamekh, #icare, (above) shows

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four men sat on a fence, similar to those in Calais. Around them is a sketch of a blueprint of an antique early flying machine.

Above all the theme of freedom and struggle shapes the exhibition.

The centerpiece is a drawing by Joy Gerrard of a <u>Donald</u> <u>Trump</u> rally in Chicago, USA. With this image, you are no long a disconnected bystander but a part of the moment.

The exhibition has a section where the featured artists have compiled a list of books, sounds and films that have influenced their work. This means you can continue exploring these themes once you leave too.

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