

Holy Wars

By Papo Colo

Holy Wars, 1990

The Cultural Space, New York

I

Every war is holy.
My god is more real than yours.
And the only excuse that saves is the god that takes control.
So every god is right
until proven the contrary
or forced to abdicate
by losing the game of war at the cost of many lives
and the crippling of many bodies,
lost and gained is
the power of playing god.
In some wars that are holy, race is a big issue
formulating the impulses of hate, that ferment stamina
and the competition of bravery, that imposes holiness.
Inventing gods that talk in authoritative loud speakers,
defending borders that is like defending race, a partition,
a mutilation, a confrontation, and ultimately a war.
Holy only for the sake of being profane,
for the reason of defending a small and insignificant group
of people that dance with the rhythms of patriotic diatribes.
But land has no owners, we are temporary.
Holy conscience that we are a living loan to the land
And every day that we wake up is a miracle
unexplainable.

II

Fighting for and against is the history of civilization.
Aggression is holy, it is more than the penetration of sex,
the body borders
and more than the belonging of the flesh
it is the possession of others and their desires,
invading their thoughts with the will of a conqueror.
For and against colonization is also holy,
determining who dominates and who is dominated
who rebels and resists and who gives up.
The cyclical reflections of the contradictory dance
of the ones that are and the ones who want to be.
Holy concept of freedom that is defined by the capacity to impose power.

III

As we know.

The first holy wars were of Christian extraction,
blessed by an actual man, the pope,
god's holy representative,
down here, in this town.

As we all know, we began this holy business
to save the holy from the living man.

The crusades, that all European gusto
that never liberated
and never set those soldiers free.

The choice was made
they came, they died
and were never resurrected until now
and we are again
in the game of saving
not a holy sacred tomb
but a holy black liquid gold
fuel to burn
holy dollars in the dry,
hot, indomitable, peaceful desert.

IV

Hole of holy cultures of the noisy war of aesthetics and influences
bureaucrats that are holy choosers
and gallery store owners that are holy cows,
mystifying when the price is right and the values operational
with an opinion they go up and down like the stock bonds
and the European common market

Yes, is the holy war of critical and influential magazines.

We all know that the intelligentsia is holy,
holy scum that transform the social ways,
or the social ways that transform the rich scum.

Oh theatrical holy poses.

V

So we reach the stage of propaganda
the holy career of politicians that can't tell the truth,
and me,
the performance artist, Manhattan entrepreneur,
manipulator maniac master of all mediums,
disrespectful mulatto instigator of race intercourse
holy sperm son of the holy hybrid of the Americas.

VI

Holy is a long, hard word, is the first word
of the eternal dictionary, the emancipation of any cause,
a fluid incision of the best way to describe superiority.
I know, because I also have holy dreams
and I am the installer of those same dreams.
The one who makes real, touchable, palpable,
those holy radiant invisible ideas
that second and equal reality that is my way of being near
the reality of the holy in which the only war that exists
is the war within me

because I am always at war with my holiness
searching to destroy it, kiss it, teach it, trade it,
and ultimately transform it.
My own holy ethnics, my blessed background,
the weight of my sorrows
of which I never will be free.

Holy Wars is an installation of the immediate response that art can have to re-inform history of its own consequences. Creative news as a form of commenting metaphors through the physical installation of an open conceptual theater of the artist, actor and chronicler of his own historical time. A multi-layer, multi-media scenario.