

Paint & Politics

political satire by Kaya Mar



29 May - 2 June 2018

Exhibition catalogue

Paint & Politics

Gallery 8 is proud to host an exhibition of the satirical political paintings of British artist Kaya Mar, whose one man show "Paint & Politics" takes the audience on a satirical, often caustic journey through eight tumultuous years of British, European and global politics:

A gigantic, rampaging Donald Trump portrayed as King Kong bedecked in gold bling clambers up the Houses of Parliament having taken a disapproving Queen Elizabeth hostage; A strategically pious Theresa May tries to drive an up-ended Brexit donkey cart which is sinking in a murky swamp, surrounded by her hapless trio of drowning Brexiteers Liam Fox, Boris Johnson and David Davis; Surrounded by symbols of ultra-nationalism and fascism, a uniformed Nigel Farage marches in lock-step with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, France's Marine Le Pen and Poland's Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

This is the stock in trade of Kaya Mar, and this exhibition takes us from the artist's portrayal of Tony Blair for the Chilcot Iraq War Inquiry in 2010, to Prime Minister Theresa May's growing desperation as a likely disastrous, unworkable Brexit looms - by way of the Arab Spring, OccupyLSX, Leveson, Royal babies, the rise and fall of Cameron, Osborne and UKIP, and the explosive arrival of Donald Trump on the world stage.

What sets Kaya Mar apart from other British political artists is his compulsion to take his artworks out of his studio, joining raucous street protests up and down the country or standing for hours outside Downing Street, the Treasury, political party conferences or the High Courts to display his large, colourful oil paintings, and it is this irresistible urge of his to confront our political elites on their own doorsteps which attracts people to him whenever his shows his protest art in public. Kaya's paintings appear regularly not only in our national press (especially on Budget days and whenever another royal baby arrives in the world), but globally, reaching every continent as his reputation grows.

The artist explains "My art is satire. Satire is the often-uncomfortable truth presented with a bit of a joke. I'm not inventing anything, I just put on the canvas what the public see. My aim when I make a painting is first to make people smile which breaks the ice, giving us some universal common ground. Then people will go on to think about the meaning of the painting. All of these paintings represent my own personal feelings and perspective on political events", and of his many subjects (who are often painted naked because the Emperor has no clothes), he says "I hold a mirror up to them. We all have a completely different perception of own selves. But when someone is telling you 'You say you are *this* kind of person, but actually you are *that* kind of person', they often don't like that."

Tue 29 May - Sat 2 June 2018, 10am - 7pm

Gallery 8

8 Duke Street, London SW1Y 6BN

Artist websites: www.kayamarart.com, www.satiremagazine.com



Donald Trump, Queen Elizabeth "The Queen used as bait for Trump's State Visit" (2017)



"St. Theresa and her Brexit ministers stuck in the Brexit swamp" (2016)



Jeremy Corbyn "Crash Course for the Learner Driver" (2015)



Nigel Farage & Boris Johnson "Blindly dragging Britain over the precipice"(2016)



Theresa May "The Vicar's Daughter Serenades the Death of the NHS" (2017)



Phillip Hammond Autumn Budget "Theresa May's empty-handed ally can't save her" (2017)



The Duke & Duchess of Cambridge "Saint Kate delivers a royal hat-trick" (2018)



William Rees-Mogg "The Member for the 18th Century" (2017)



Theresa May "Brexit - Not Waving, But Drowning" (2017)



Donald Trump "Strangling Press Freedom" (2017)



Tony Blair, Chilcott Inquiry "The Warmonger" (2010)



Donald Trump "Trump's global strategy" (2017)



David Cameron & Nigel Farage "Will Cameron Grasp the Serpent to Save Himself?" (2015)



George Osborne & Margaret Thatcher "The Creation of Gideon" (2015)



David Cameron "Dave Quixote tilting against the EU windmills" (2014)



Theresa May, Donald Trump "Desperate Theresa works on that Special Relationship" (2017)



George Osborne "Waving Red Herrings While Losing the Triple-A" (2013)



David Cameron & Nick Clegg "The Jester Attending King David On His Throne" (2011)



Phillip Hammond, Spring Budget "Hammond floundering in deadly waters" (2017)



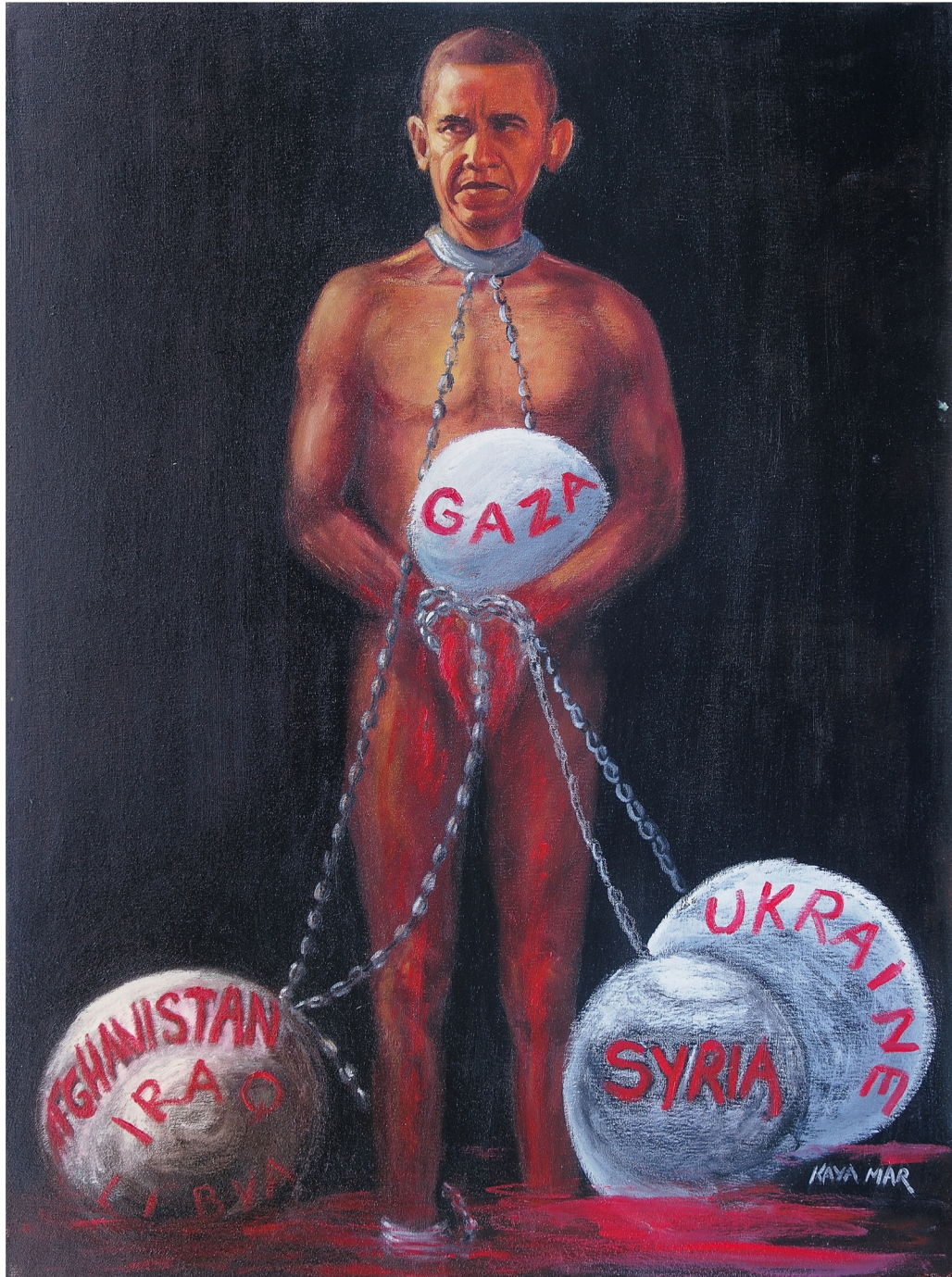
Alex Salmond "The Pope of Scotland" (2014)



Emmanuel Macron "The new Napoleon" (2017)



Leveson Inquiry "We're All In This Together" (2012)



Obama "Enslaved by Perpetual War" (2010 - 2016)



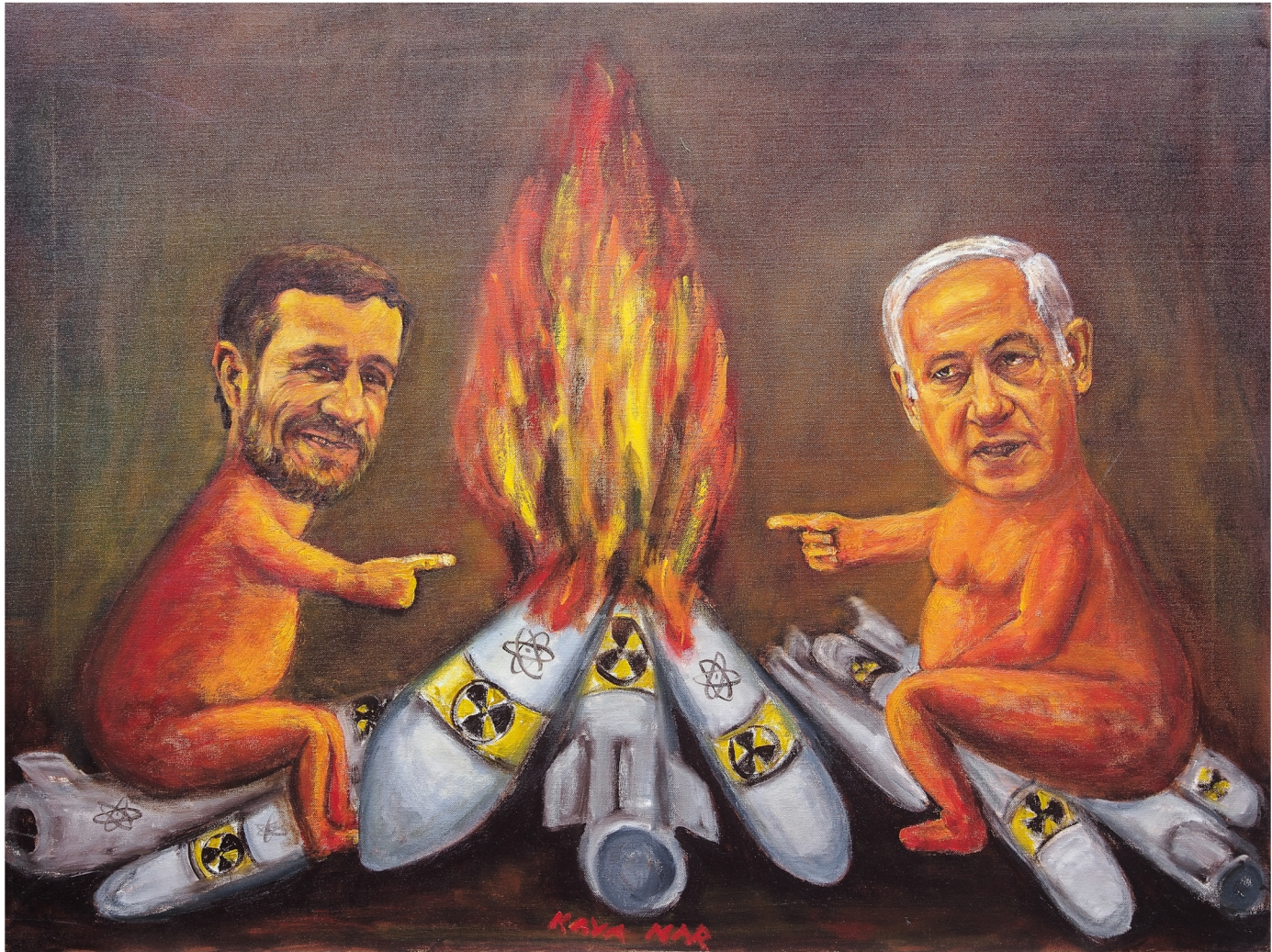
"The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Austerity Britain" (2012)



David Cameron, General Election 2015 "The Austerity Charlatan" (2015)



Nigel Farage "Dreaming Up UKIP Policies in the Pub" (2015)



Ahmadinejad & Netanyahu "Throw Another Nuke on the Campfire" (2013)



Nicola Sturgeon, General Election 2015 "Scotland rejects English rule" (2015)



"The Death of the Arab Spring" (2013)



Occupy London Stock Exchange "Tent City at St. Paul's Cathedral" (2012)

