

Work Title “Ten Years On – London Bombing Survivor, Gill Hicks – Peace Activist”

Artist: Megan Roodenrys

Medium: Oil on Linen

Dimensions: 122cm high x 152cm wide

Completed: March 2015

Artist’s Statement

In 2005, Gill Hicks boarded a train in London alongside a suicide bomber.

Minutes later, the world changed.

In this painting we see Gill and her daughter standing in a public place.

The station names listed at the top are stations from around the world that have been targeted by terrorist attacks of various motivations. Gill has demonstrated incredible resilience through her resolve to work with people to overcome the impulses that would inspire any person to choose such an act of needless destruction.

Here Gill and her daughter make eye contact with the viewer whilst the crowd go about their everyday business. This peaceful and ordinary act in a shared public place is an event that Gill is dedicating herself to protecting. I am in awe of the journey that Gill has travelled in the last ten years and can only imagine the process of healing that has been necessary to arrive at the image seen here.

In the last decade, the work of Dr Gill Hicks has been awarded and commended on numerous occasions. She founded the London-based not-for-profit M.A.D for Peace, received an MBE for services to charity and was the 2014 South Australian of the Year. Gill has channelled her healing through her activism for peace and for all of us as we mill about in public places, just going about our business.

The composition and shallow depth of field references the bass relief panels often found on war memorials and monuments around the world.

Attached: Supplementary information about the station names

Station Names and supplementary information

4. Atocha

2004 Madrid train station bombings

191 people killed; 1800 injured

Spanish judiciary found that the attacks were directed by an al-Qaeda-inspired terrorist cell, although no direct al-Qaeda participation has been established

5. Russell Square

2005 London bombings

56 people killed; 700+ injured

Home grown terrorist attack/suicide bombers

6. Volgograd-1

2013 Volgograd station bombings, in Southern Russia

34 people killed; 85 injured

Members of Vilayat Dagestan, part of Umarov's Caucasus Emirate took credit for the attack

7. Ganjlik

1994 Baku Metro bombing, Azerbaijan

27 people killed; 91 injured

The responsibility was assumed by Sadval, a Lezghin separatist movement, now in oblivion.

8. Kasumigaseki Station

1995 Tokyo subway sarin attack

12 people killed; approx. 1050 injured

Religious cult attack

9. Bologna

1980 Bologna station bombing

85 people killed; 200+ injured

Neo-fascist terrorist attack

10. Tel Aviv Central

2003 Tel Aviv Central bus station

25 people killed; 100+ injured

Palestinian militant organization Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack - Suicide bombing.