Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025

Ellis Parkinson

Full Metal Jacket
2025
Lockheed Martin merchandise, embroidery

Glass Cannon
2023
Silicone rubber, 155gsm Ministry of Defence approved woven polyester flag fabric

To question the limits of sustainability, Ellis Parkinson has been invited to expand upon the concerns of his recent MA graduation work *Glass Cannon*, 2023; a piece that revisits colonial legacies through the sculptural reproduction of an 18th century naval canon. Parkinson believes that the impact of the Military Industrial Complex on the lives of the public is no longer measured by how much coverage conflict receives in the media, but by individual willingness to dismiss its creeping pacified intrusion into everyday life. The artist has pursued this thought by following a foray into fashion by the international arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin, producer of the globally ubiquitous 'Hellfire' missile. Having obtained a costly item of Lockheed Martin's fashion merchandise on the internet, for *Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation*, Parkinson is customising the jacket with his own design that draws attention to current international theatres of war. The tension between the two works draws attention to the normalisation of war arms; be it the canon as highway bollard or high fashion as a sop for deadly weapons.

Ellis Parkinson is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in London. His critical, research-based practice utilises photography, text and sculptural installation, among other mediums, to incorporate multiple layers of political subtext. Parkinson's aim is to test himself within the limits of the institutions he is himself a part of. To translate his lived experience, he employs reverie, satire and the surreal to examine historical and intellectual legacies, often quoting the forms and aesthetics of conceptual art, classic literature or cinema to open up space for intersectional thought and voices. Parkinson graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2023 as an inaugural Frank Bowling scholar. He has been awarded the Rosa Morison Memorial Medal, Berenice Goodwin Prize, Michael Farrell Memorial Prize and the Sue Jamieson Memorial Award. His work is held in University College London's Special Collection and the Lewis Family Private Collection.

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