

JOHN NAVA

NEO-ICONS Paintings and Tapestries

In the wake of 9/11, not only did America come together -- the whole world stood with us. "Today," it was repeated everywhere, "we are all Americans." With breathtaking arrogance, exceeded only by stunning incompetence, the Bush/Cheney administration destroyed that unity in a matter of months.

The disastrous failures of the administration have come at a tragic cost both at home and abroad. And the aftermath of its tactics have unfairly saddled the young people in these images with a shameful legacy. How could their parents' generation have gone along with a trumped-up and irrelevant "preemptive war?" How could they have accepted a gulag of secret prisons, tacitly approved of torture, tolerated illegal domestic spying and all the rest? How is it that at each critical juncture, the media and the Democrats were cowed into acquiescence? Could the administration's flag-waving and fear-mongering really have been so intimidating?

In fact, during the headlong rush to war, millions of people, both in America and across the world, took to the streets in opposition to the reckless hubris of the president and his men. Some of the pictures here record the language of those protests. But their voices were glibly dismissed by the smirking ideologues in charge. Instead, they blundered on with upside-down strategies that unified and multiplied our enemies even as they divided and alienated our friends. They eroded American justice and devastated our moral standing in the world.

And so today, our vulnerabilities have hardly diminished. A new attack would, as we saw on 9/11, bring out America's best just as surely as it would fail to defeat us. On the contrary, we are defeated only when the enormous tragedy of such a crime is played on to license illegitimate war and the corruption of a free society.

John Nava
September 6, 2006

on the cover:

Signing Statement Law
or
An Alternate Set of Procedures

2006
41 x 41 inches
oil on canvas mounted on panel

Neither a man nor a crowd
nor a nation can be trusted to
act humanely or to think sanely
under the influence of a great
fear.

Bertrand Russell

Icon for Neo-Cons

2004-5
96 x 62 inches
oil on canvas mounted on panel





Stop the Dim Reaper

2005

41 x 41 inches

oil on canvas mounted on panel



Stop Mad Cowboy Disease

2005

41 x 41 inches

oil on canvas mounted on panel



Hubris Redefined

2006

41 x 41 inches

oil on canvas mounted on panel



One Nation Under Surveillance

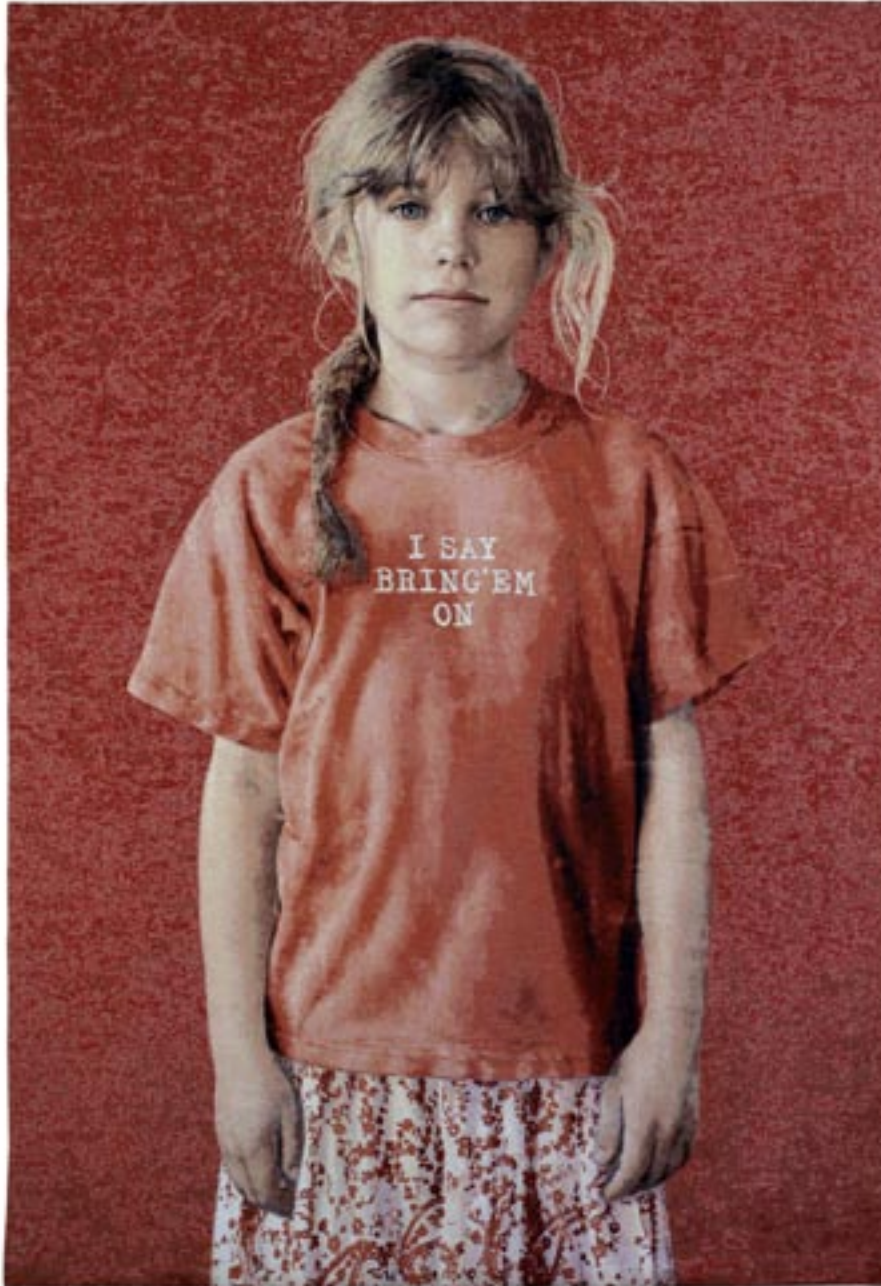
2006

41 x 41 inches

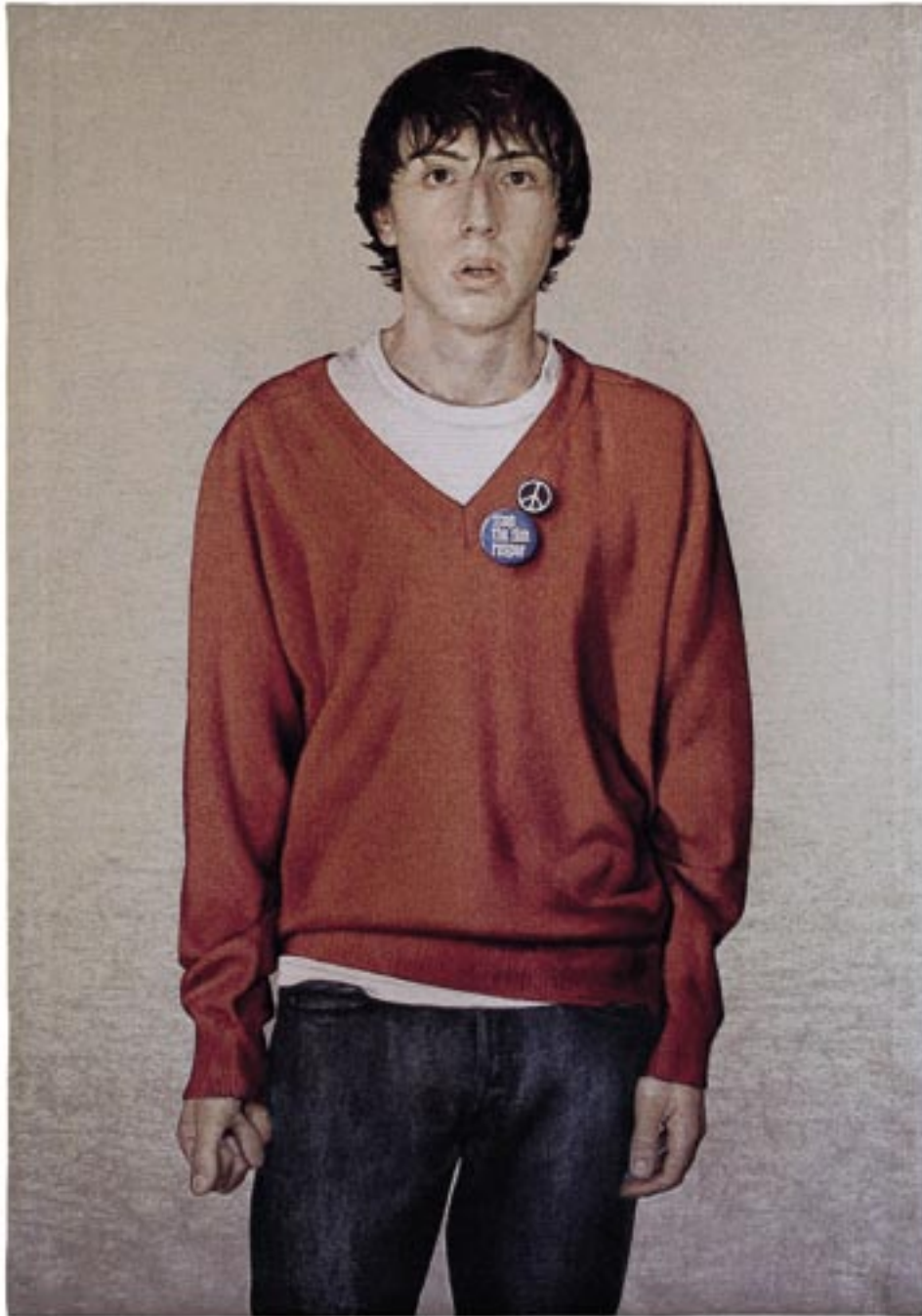
oil on canvas mounted on panel

W Haiku

2006
triptych
114 x 240 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition of 3

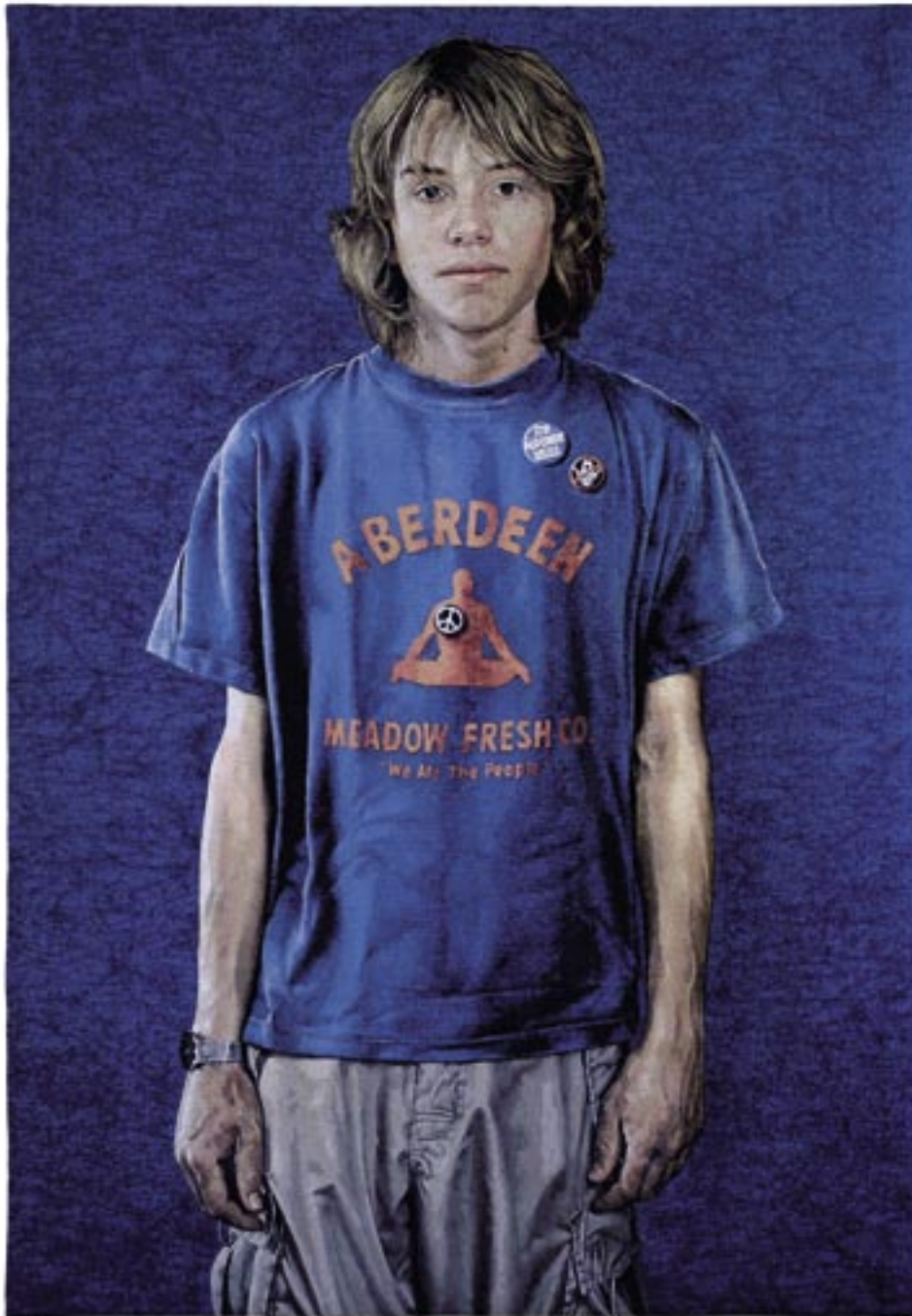






Stop the Dim Reaper

2005
113 x 78 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition of 5

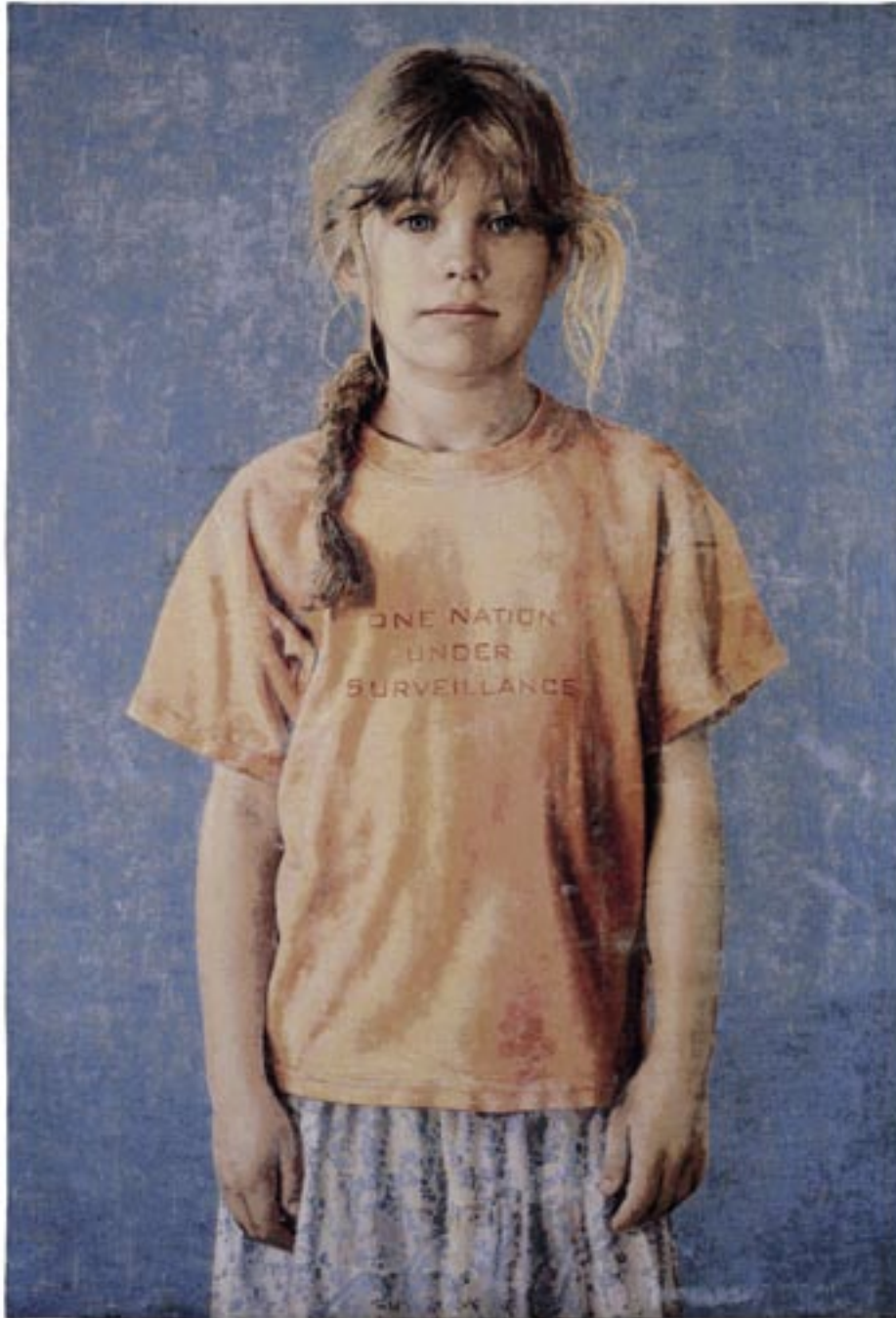


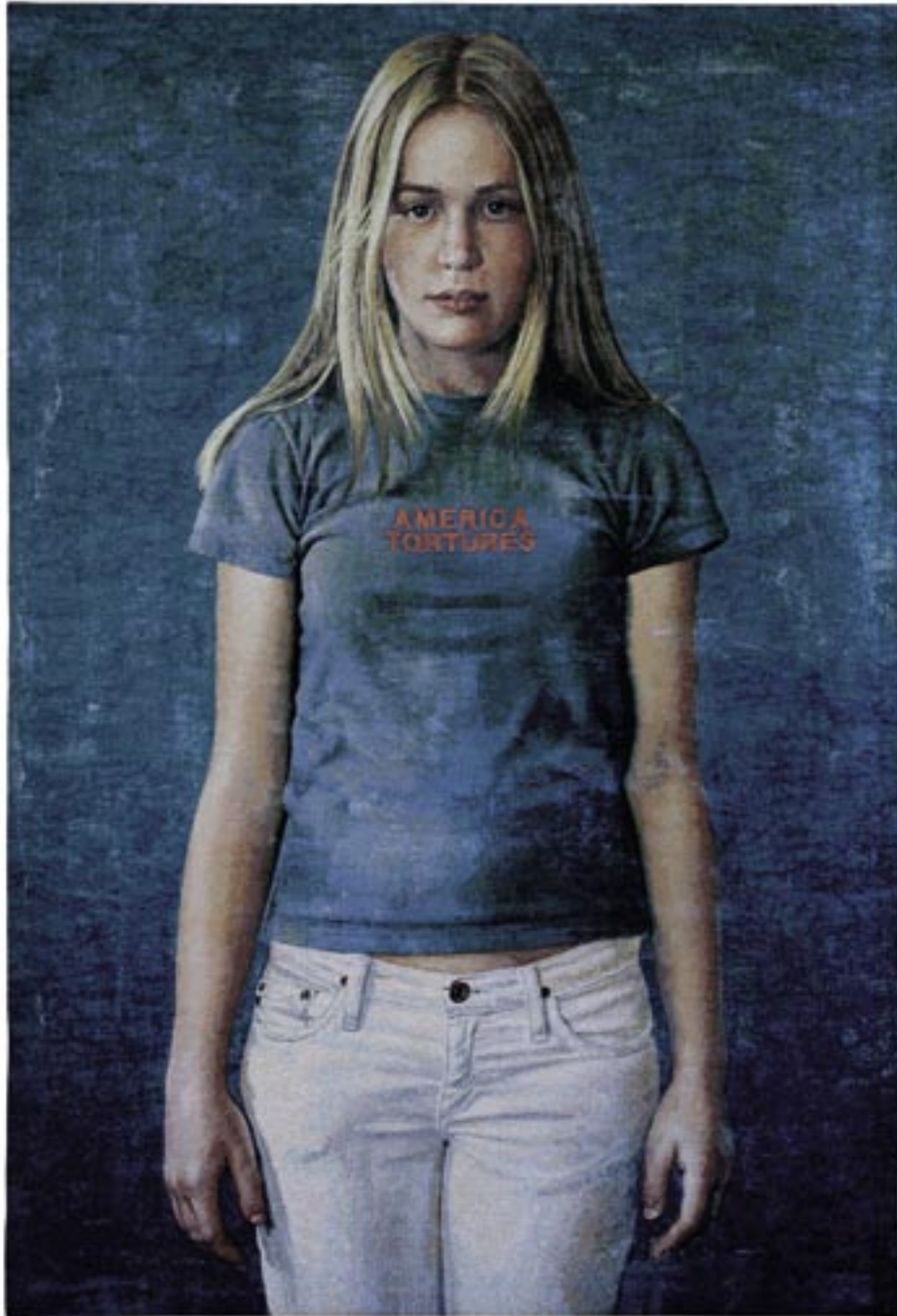
*Stop Mad Cowboy
Disease*

2005
113 x 78 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition of 5

*One Nation Under
Surveillance*

2006
114 x 77 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition of 5





*Signing Statement
Law
or
An Alternate Set of
Procedures*

2006
114 x 77 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition of 5



WMD

2006
114 x 77 inches
Jacquard tapestry
edition fo 5

JOHN NAVA

NEO-ICONS Paintings and Tapestries

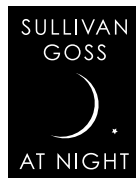
October 19 to November 22, 2006

Gericault had the flailing Bourbon government, Goya had Napoleon Bonaparte, Picasso had Franco, Leon Golub had Kissinger and Nixon, and John Nava -- well, he's had enough. Louis XVIII, Napoleon, Franco, Nixon, Bush Jr. -- all courageous leaders of wars of occupation. The lineage of *The Raft of the Medusa*, the *Disasters of War*, *Guernica*, and Golub's biting portraits provide a forceful precedent for Nava to use his canvas to protest the grim consequences of unprovoked war. Like his predecessors, Nava finds it impossible to reconcile the viciousness of a war so profoundly futile. Sullivan Goss is proud to present John Nava's "Neo-Icons."

Frank Goss

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006
FROM 5 to 7 PM

7 EAST ANAPAMU STREET - SANTA BARBARA, CA



We are staying open late to welcome artists, collectors, and interested community members to come explore our current exhibitions. The night will feature a chance for good conversation, refreshments, and a no host bar. Please join us.



Sullivan Goss

AN AMERICAN GALLERY

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