

Night Journey 50: Peace and Victory A Painting for the Blind

By the time of Eisenhower's warnings of the Military Industrial Complex, U.S. Defense spending had already eclipsed the combined net income of all U.S. corporations. Eisenhower feared that the Military Industrial Complex's rising influence could potentially result in the misplacement of power, altering the rights and freedoms of U.S. citizens.

Since the end of WWII, the primary product of the U.S. has been manufacturing weapons and enemies with the net result of slowly eroding civil liberties. The Patriot Act that continues to be renewed even by the current administration is probably the best example of government infringement on civil liberties. The military and law enforcement are agents of a nation state that obediently use their weapons on whomever is determined to be an enemy of the state.

The hand gesture of peace and victory has always puzzled me. How can one gesture represent



such extremes that in reality cannot coexist? The hand gesture's dual meanings form the foundation of the painting. It was applied with an impasto medium to create a raised line and dot pattern on the surface of the canvas. It exists beneath the surface of the painting and can be read by touch as well as by sight. It is not meant to disrespect the blind, but rather to act as a visual reminder to the sighted of the perils of blind subservience and obedience to a militarized nation

state.