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Citation:

Gibbon, J The Etiquette of the Arms Trade; ten years drawing in arms fairs. [Show/Exhibition]

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The Etiquette of the Arms Trade,

The Bradford Peace Museum,
13/04/2018 – 17/05/2019

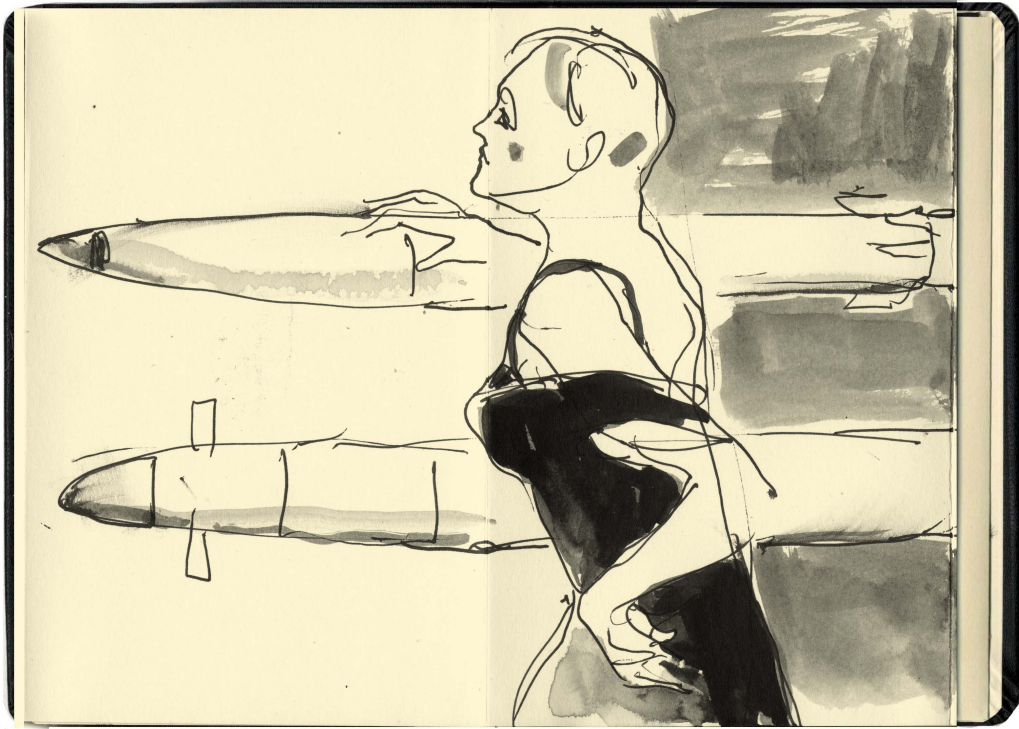
A solo exhibition curated by Jill Gibbon of her practice-based research about the arms trade. The UK and US regularly sell weapons to repressive regimes and unstable states. Gibbon uses drawing and performance to explore how these deals are normalised. She visits arms fairs in Europe and the Middle East by dressing up as an arms trader. Once inside, she draws. The sketchbooks give unique insights into a secretive industry, showing how arms deals are legitimised through etiquette. They include a string quartet playing in the shadow of a tank, hostesses offering teargas catalogues with champagne, a fashion show in front of a rack of missiles, suits and handshakes.

The exhibition included over 30 sketchbooks, gifts collected from arms company stalls, the outfit she wears to gain access to these events, and photographs of her performance as an arms trader. The drawings, gifts, dress, and photographs show the rituals, manners, and gestures that shroud the arms industry in a veneer of respectability.

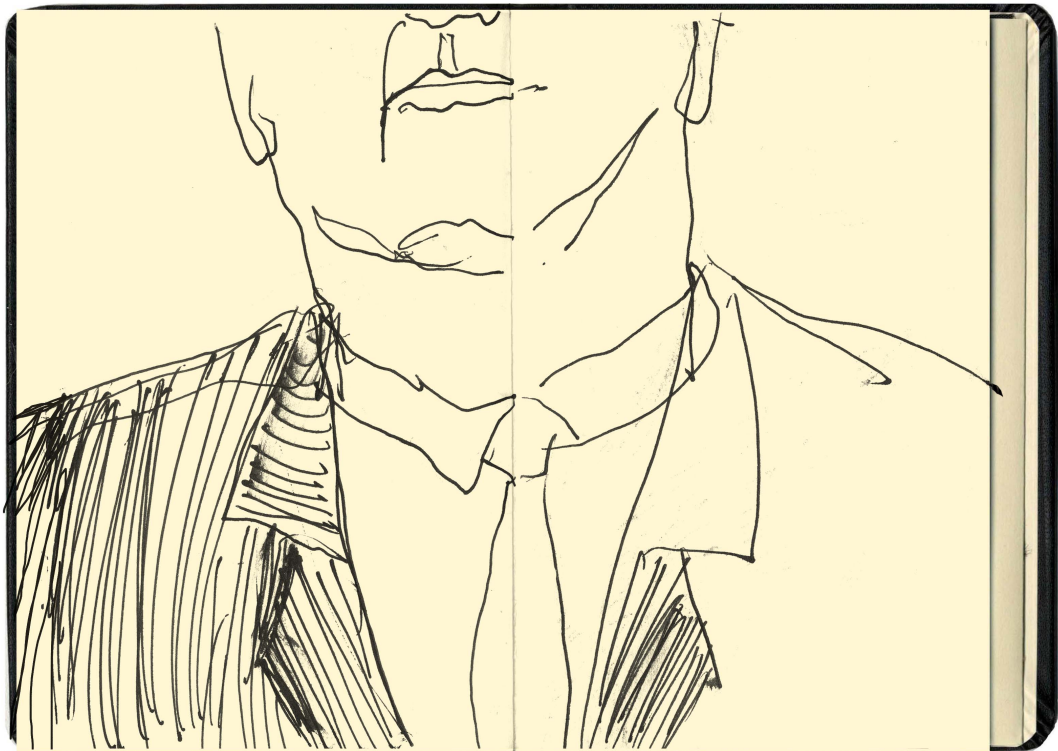
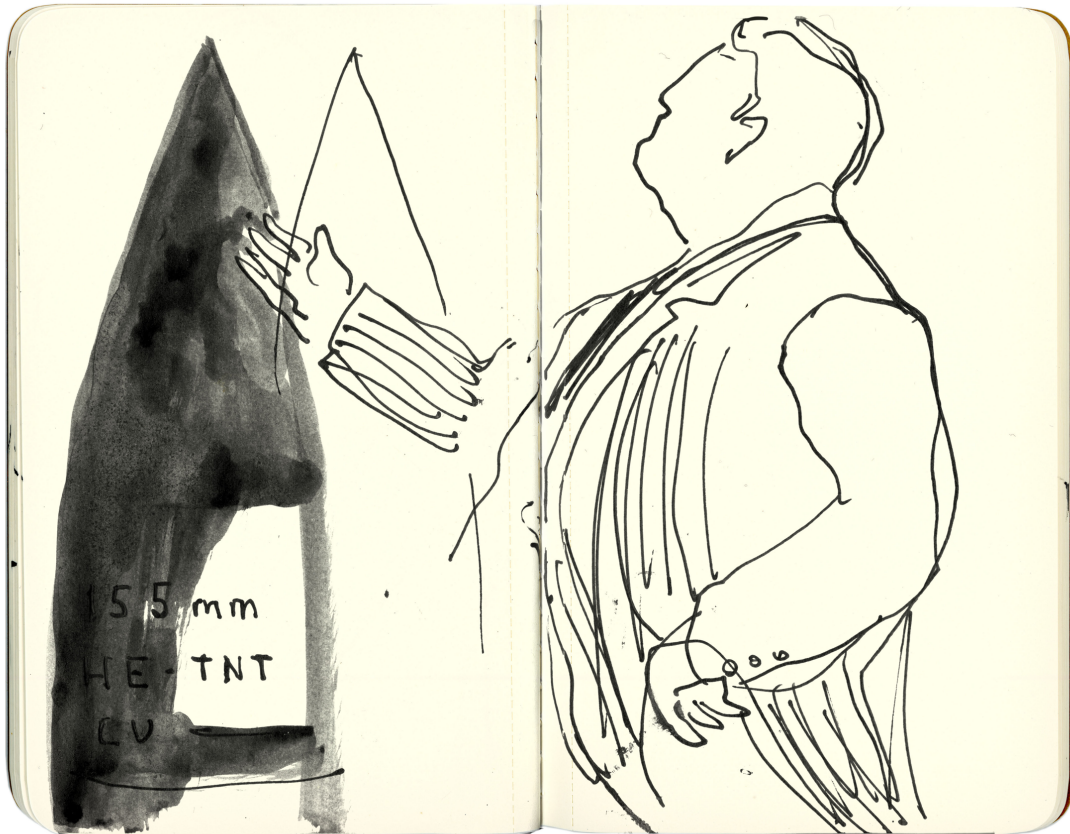
The exhibition was covered by the *BBC World Service* (28/04/18), *BBC Radio 4* (08/05/19), and *The Guardian* (11/04/18; 27/07/14).



Exhibition interior, Bradford Peace Museum, 2018



Sketchbooks, Bradford Peace Museum, 2018 – 2019





Arms trader outfit, Bradford Peace Museum, 2018 - 2019



Eurosatory, 2016



IDEX, Abu Dhabi, 2017



Selection of gifts from DSEI 2007 – 2017, sweet, stress ball, condom