

Antipersonnel  
Raphaël Dallaporta

Martin Parr, Jody Williams



Antipersonnel is a series begun in 1998, which seeks to identify in a documentary, different models of antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions. Photographed in actual size, these images are very disturbing, as if we consult a catalog of perfumes.

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*One of the great strengths of photography lies in its ability to survey and fix the world in which we live. Due to the simplicity and clarity it provides, photography offers both commercial and artistic potential. In recent years, there is a tendency among some documentary photographers to isolate a specific aspect of the company to explore in detail. Dallaporta provides a striking example with his project on mine antipersonnel. Ces objets, strange and repugnant, yet emit a certain beauty that disturbs. We spoke of the devastation that mines continue to inflict on innocent victims long after the disappearance of the underlying purpose of their installation. Indeed, they remain hidden in the ground until they have exploded. I had never seen a land mine, either in reality or in pictures, before discovering Dallaporta images. It was a revelation. We are told that there are all kinds of land mines, hundreds, which vary widely depending on the appearance, shape and characteristics. By photographing the same way that another would have done advertising for a shampoo, Dallaporta glorifies such devices while maintaining a completely neutral. The tour is so subtle it is almost imperceptible.*

Martin Parr

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