



## JEAN L. PRICE: 3,000 & COUNTING

**Jean L. Price:  
Three-Thousand & Counting**

2005 – 2010

Mixed Media Installation

Presented by



Paris Gibson Square  
MUSEUM OF ART

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Every day Americans are bombarded with one statistic after another enumerating the losses of lives from not only natural disasters but also the casualties of war. Invariably, the numbers become almost meaningless, the public numb to the reality of what the numbers mean.

This installation piece, created and crafted by Great Falls Artist, Jean Price, has the intention of making a number more meaningful to its viewers. By designing a dog tag for each of our fallen soldiers in the Iraq conflict, the viewer is confronted by exactly what three-thousand looks like. Three-thousand is no longer just a number, but an array, a tribute, a visual actualization of how many people this latest in American wars has cost America.

Beginning with the first casualty on March 21, 2003 and continuing with an update weekly, each soldier who has given his or her life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is represented by a plate or “dog tag” which includes his/her name, rank and age as well as textures and marks which are embossed in aluminum tooling foil. Soldiers who were killed together are grouped together in one large plate. Montanans who have fallen are pointed out through the artist’s extended use of copper and brass on the dog tags. In this way, the viewer becomes cognizant not only of these sacrifices, but of also of the sheer reality of the number.

At the bottom of the installation, lies the “chaff” of Jean’s work: the bits and pieces of embossing aluminum, brass and copper foils she employed. To the artist, this chaff also represents the other casualties of war: the wounded, the displaced, the homeless, the parents who have lost their children, the orphans and widows for whom life will never be the same and who are, indeed, the fallout of war. In this graphic display, the artist provides the viewer with a visual display of the sheer cost of war – in misery, heartache, and sorrow.



Originally titled *Two-Thousand and Counting*, the museum re-dedicated this installation and re-titled the work during a special reception on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007, to reflect the rising numbers of casualties in the Iraq war. Beginning on September 1, 2010, the US Government involvement in Iraq transitioned from predominantly military to predominantly civilian emphasis renaming the mission Operation New Dawn. Losses attributed to the reclassified mission are not included in this installation which is now complete. Total loss of US Military Service personnel numbered 4,421 during Operation Iraqi Freedom; this does not include the 13 department of defense civilians killed during the operation.





Jean L. Price earned a B.A. in Art from Hastings College in Nebraska, an M.A. in Art from Fort Hays Kansas State University in sculpture, and an M.F.A. in Art from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in fibers. She taught art in two Oregon communities before relocating to Great Falls where she taught Art at Great Falls High School for 25 years. Retiring in 1999, she taught art at the University of Great Falls and Montana State University's College of Technology for five years.

Currently, Jean L. Price is an active visual artist and she is the Founder, Director and Curator of the Urban Art Project, an affiliate program of the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. The Urban Art Project offers alternative storefront window installation space for contemporary artists in downtown Great Falls, Montana—the current installation may be seen in storefront windows at a downtown parking garage located at 315 1st Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana.

**3,000 and Counting is indicative of Jean's commitment to addressing social/political issues.**



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**Museum Hours:**

Monday - Friday 10am to 5pm  
Tuesday Evenings 7 - 9pm  
Saturday 12 - 5pm  
Closed Sundays

