

## Joyce Kozloff: Navigational Triangles

Long before Google Maps or GPS, seafarers used navigational triangles to pinpoint their location and chart their course in relation to celestial bodies and the earth's poles. Migration, commerce and conflict course through these works; the cyclical nature of history is preserved alongside the resonance of specific events. Geographic regions reappear through lenses of the past, present, and future.

At the center of each (of four) panels in "Manifest Destiny," there is a World War I trench map, and the same quote from a wall label at the Imperial War Museum in London repeats, "In World War I, 9 out of 10 deaths were soldiers. In today's wars, 1 out of 10 is a soldier." These trench inserts are surrounded by cheerful, nostalgic pictures of cowboys and Indians during the US period of expansion, when native American cultures were decimated. Scary skulls appropriated from catalogs for Warhammer, a children's war game, pile up as the series unfolds.

In several larger paintings, terrestrial maps and renderings of galaxies are combined to imagine the escalating scale of future wars in space. "The Middle East, 3 Views," an 18' long triptych, addresses the frightening possibility of unending violence by juxtaposing military charts of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine and other contested areas from the Ptolemaic, Cold War and current times with imagery based on photographs taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. The maps of these regions float in deep space among the stars, as if they had been dislodged from the earth.

Some of the cities shown in these works overlap with those dotting "Silk Route," a set of nine intricately detailed paintings of historic maps overlaid with diverse collage elements – from textile patterns that evoke ancient weavers and traders, to cheerful cartoon characters representing global trade today, to ominous fighter planes signifying the escalating wars in this region. This group was begun in 1998 and finished in 2010, as the layers accrued over time.