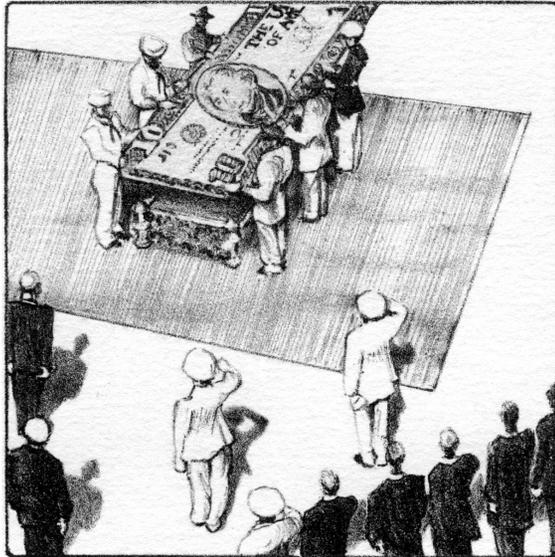


# MANIFESTO FOR 2007

*Bob Tomolillo*

When asked recently to stop bashing the present political administration and try objectively to retrieve some redeeming qualities from the last few years I replied, “well, they have fomented such resentment that I have tapped into a wellspring of ideas resulting in some of my most satisfying lithographs”. It is not that I had found myself caught up in a paralyzing state of uninspiration, but that I have been so outraged by the present policies of this great



*Bout da Monet • Lithograph • 4" x 4" • 2007*

country that it has spilled over into other areas of concern. This, after all is called “inspiration”. It is why art critics have long looked to the emerging nations in turmoil for “art that speaks to the issues of our time” or that which strikes a cord with current trends.

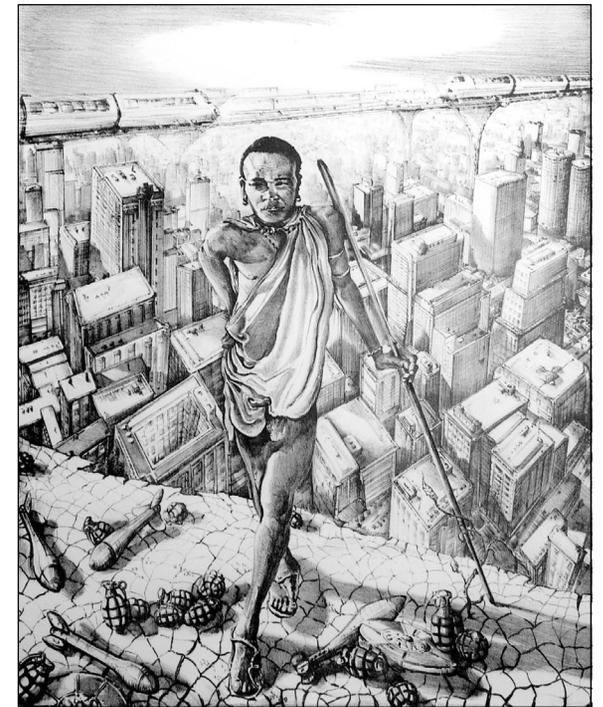


*Sheep • Lithograph • 15" x 13" • 2006*

Gridlock, misguided policies and worst of all the spiral of complacency has plagued this country for a decade or more. This “state of being” is created by powerful external forces, a “dulling down” if you will of “passions”.

The “spectator artist” who views the world from the sidelines is a real and debilitating force, as manifest by the repetition and sameness of imagery that is often seen in galleries everywhere. Image sameness or sheer lack of inventiveness is thus compounded by a market that neither cares about the message or contextual import, but rather moves about the existing commercial venues to exploit the bottom line. Has it ever been different? I think not, but printmaking gives the artist the best shot of changing, not only the political will but the “raison d’etre”. “No peace without justice” the slogan for our

time. Change always occurs from the bottom up and ironically, “printmaking”, the one true democratic medium, is the one often side-stepped historically. The artist who makes prints has chosen this selfless medium for its immediacy and directness often producing truly righteous imagery. It is a commitment that one should not take lightly. Artists such as Goya or Kathé Kollowitz loom large because of their compassion and not because of their breadth of sales. Tap into the passion of printmaking and you will find the change occurring from within.



*I 2006 • Lithograph • 18" x 15" • 2006*