



**BORDERLINES
FILM FESTIVAL**

WAR PAINT – WOMEN AT WAR (15)

Director: Margy Kinmonth

UK, 2025, 1 hour 30 minutes, English

War Paint – Women At War is the third instalment in Kinmonth's trilogy of films about how artists depict war, following *War Art with Eddie Redmayne* and the acclaimed *Eric Ravilious – Drawn To War*, shown with great success at Borderlines 2024.

Margy Kinmonth is an award-winning drama and documentary director. Starting at Granada TV, she made films for the South Bank Show while also directing on series such as *Grange Hill*. With her own production company Foxtrot Films, Margy Kinmonth has become one of Britain's most successful arts documentary directors. She's made acclaimed profiles of figures including Steven Berkoff, Francis Bacon, LS Lowry and Simon Gray along with explorations of the world of ballet and the art of the Russian Revolution.

This new feature documentary shines a light on the trailblazing role of women war artists, on the front lines round the world, championing the female perspective on conflict through art and asking: when it's life or death, what do women see that men don't? Traditionally a male domain, war art by women has been largely unrecognised. Artists featured include Dame Rachel Whiteread, Zhanna Kadyrova, Maggi Hambling, Assil Diab, Dame Laura Knight, Marcelle Hanselaar, Cornelia Parker, Maya Lin, Shirin Neshat and Lee Miller.

Women war artists break the taboo, punching through to create their unique record alongside the daily newsfeed. But in countries where journalism is banned, it's art that shows us the truth. Where violence against women and rape are used as weapons of war, women are silenced and bear the brunt of displacement. Margy Kinmonth shows how war is a catalyst to bring out artists' most creative work. In the face of destruction they inspire, provoke, imagine, memorialise and heal, seek to disarm – tell the truth to power.

In this film, Kinmonth champions contemporary female artists – witnesses and survivors of international conflict, who create art and tell their unique stories. Womens' war art is also uncovered from attics and archives, revealing an artistic legacy previously hidden from view. An entirely female cast and contributors makes this film a unique undertaking – telling vital truths in traumatic times.

Notes compiled by Steve Freer

If you like **WAR PAINT - WOMEN AT WAR**, you may enjoy:

ERNEST COLE: LOST & FOUND (15) Lakeith Stanfield narrates this documentary following the work of ground-breaking photographer, Ernest Cole.

MOTHERBOARD (15) BAFTA award-winning director Victoria Mapplebeck

turned the camera on herself when she finds herself pregnant, broke and single at 38.