



The Femen: Tactical Nudity

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Cities throughout Europe have become a battleground for female "sextremists" protesting bare-chested in their crowns of heroism. These women deliver their truth by writing on their naked bodies. Marching in the streets and in front of parliament buildings, these

protests call for rights for women. Yet they are also designed as tactical manoeuvres to provoke violence, craving

further, it infuses the storyline with overpowering Russian presence in the Ukraine. The man standing behind the woman, his hands clasped across her neck is mostly shielded in the shot. Yet his arm, entangled with hers, becomes a powerful component of the photograph revealing a clear need to block her body and conceal her words, marked on her bare torso with the clear writings: STOP PUTIN'S WAR. This attack, resulting in the partial concealment of her words reinforces the urgency of the message. The men surrounding the woman thus threaten her femininity, claimed through her bare chest, red lipstick and headpiece. These elements act as a powerful symbol in the FEMEN movement, as they represent femininity and disobedience (Ackerman, 2017). Femininity, though, is claimed here as an act of war, marked by the harsh black letters written on her chest and her chipped tooth emerging through her scream. As she resists the attack, she grips onto her crown of flowers, salvaging her femininity and reclaiming her power. As a member of FEMEN this woman represents the female warrior, scarred by battle but grasping onto her crown of heroism, playing her role bravely.

Images and representation can define social events. This image is powerful because it brings to light and makes visible the very violence the women are denouncing through their march. This photograph chooses to shed light on this moment, thus defining the march as one of power relations and violence for the women. Thomas Watkins, a Pentagon correspondent and one of the community managers for The Agence France-Presse, explain the decision to select this pictures from thousands others through its relevance on social networks: the naked body of the attacked woman symbolizes the sense of empowerment and struggi3g]TJ13TETQq0.000008866 0 51 0 0 1 146.96 538.84 Tm0 g0 G[ea]-2(m. As)3(she re)-2(sists)3(th

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