

Photos and films about conflicts and tensions

Conflict and tension are the themes of an exhibition in the James Hockey Gallery at Farnham's University for the Creative Arts which runs until February 25.

Curated by Professor Jean Wainwright and artist Steffi Klenz, *Documents from the Edges of Conflict* is an international group exhibition presenting the work of artists who take and spread pictures and films of conflict and tension in world events.

In the face of global uncertainty, intolerance and polarisation, the

artists use their lenses to approach disputes through documentary.

Subjects include the impact of political decisions and divisions, media reports of traumatic events, contested borders such as those between Palestine and Israel and Mexico and the USA, and the influence of aggressive world leaders.

These often stark and revealing works provide an alternative and contemplative visual response to the consequences of our social and political histories.

In Paolo Pellegrin's *Tijuana – A Girl celebrating her Quinceanera along the US-Mexico Border*, taken at Tijuana in Mexico in 2019, a 15-year-old girl stands on a beach in an elaborate and jewelled dress.

Her face is turned towards a barbed wire and steel fence marking the border which stretches into the distance.

Sarah Pickering's *Public Order* series of five photographs, taken between 2002 and 2004, explores the simulated urban environment of the Metropolitan Police



A girl's quinceanera on the US-Mexico border. PHOTO: PAOLO PELLEGRIN



Road Block, by Sarah Pickering

Public Order Training Centre.

In *Road Block*, two wrecked cars left nose-to-nose prevent any other vehicles passing through a deserted street sporadically lined with facades of buildings.

Ori Gersht's *Neither Black Nor White* was filmed in 2001 from the top of a hill in the Jewish quarter of Nazareth looking down on the Arab village of Iksal.

The footage captures half a second every 30 seconds

for eight hours, and as dawn breaks the contested border landscape is revealed before it is bleached out by the intensity of the rising sun.

Other artists whose work is featured in the *Documents from the Edges of Conflict* exhibition are Wolfgang Tillmans, Alfredo Jaar, Catherine Yass, Mona Hatoum, MacDonaldStrand, Santiago Sierra, David Birkin, Steffi Klenz, George Barber and KennardPhillips.