

## **Artist's Statement**

### **Tony Sowersby – “Twentieth Century Scrap”**

My work “Twentieth Century Scrap” is based on a cutting from Time Magazine that I have kept since 1979. Every so often I have got it out and looked at it but until recently I had thought the time was not right to make art out of that image. This is my attempt at “history painting” and not an exploitation of a current disaster.

The word scrap in the title has three meanings. The first refers to the piece or scrap of paper itself. The second is the colloquial term for a fight, although not a large one. In the blood soaked history of the previous century the war that resulted from the Vietnamese overthrow of the Khmer Rouge was one of many vicious conflicts dwarfed by the World Wars. Thirdly, scrap is a term for rubbish or cast off material. In this case the human beings who were treated as such in the momentous but ultimately futile savagery of the Cold War.

Similar imagery fills the media everyday. I have deliberately chosen to depict survivors and honour their individual humanity.