

# Featured Artist: Sue Coe's *Sheep of Fools*

Artist Sue Coe takes us on a tour of a world few know or want to know—the live transport of sheep across the ocean from Australia to the Middle East. Australian sheep suffer one of the most harrowing experiences imaginable: thousands packed tightly into old freighters on a voyage lasting for weeks, without food or water, for their final destination—ritual slaughter. Through powerful images, *Sheep of Fools* tells the story of their experience, before, after and during the voyage.

Not one to shy away from misery, Sue Coe's art helps us imagine the unimaginable. Rows of animals restrained for the abhorrent but routine mulesing process (the cutting of swaths of skin in the genital region as a cheap infection deterrent). On board: newborn sheep stuffed hind legs first into mincers; a ship's cargo of sheep and goats abandoned by the crew to helplessly drown when the boat catches fire.

*Sheep of Fools* is on exhibit at New York's Galerie St. Etienne, opening September 20th and on display through November 5th. It is also formulated into an illustrated storybook, due out in September from Fantagraphics. Here *Satya* presents a selection of Coe's images, reproduced with kind permission from the artist.

See the exhibit at Galerie St. Etienne, 24 W. 57th Street, Manhattan. For information, contact (212) 245-6734 or [www.gseart.com](http://www.gseart.com).—C.C.



Above: *Abandon Ship!*

Below: *Ships that Pass in the Night*





Sue Coe, "Goats Before Sheep," from SHEEP OF FOOLS

## SUE COE: SHEEP OF FOOLS

Galerie St. Etienne

24 West 57th St. between Fifth & Sixth Aves., eighth floor

Closed Sunday & Monday


Through November 5

Admission: free

212-245-6734

<http://www.gseart.com/exhibitions.asp?ExhID=495>

<http://graphicwitness.org/coe/coebio.htm>

 (out of four) Sue Coe pulls no punches in this provocative examination of the inhumane treatment of animals used for food and clothing. More than five dozen primarily graphite, gouache, and watercolor drawings by the politically charged artist are a call to arms against animal cruelty, focusing on her latest collection, SHEEP OF FOOLS, which tells the story of a cargo ship that sank on August 23, 1986, in which sixty-seven thousand sheep burned or drowned as the men on board did nothing to save them. Another frightening series, "The Man with No Heart," details a dairy man who has his dead cows plowed into a mass grave. Dozens of lambs await a brutal death in "Newborn Lambs Are Put in the Mincer Onboard Ship." "Fowl Plague / Vietnam Chicken" warns of the coming bird flu epidemic. "Cows in Egyptian Slaughterhouse / Revolving Door" follows animals going directly from the slaughterhouse to restaurant plates. "Factory Pharm" is a maelstrom of an assembly line offering up cows, pigs, chicks, horses, sheep, birds, and more for slaughter. And "One World — Fleeced, 2005" is like no zoo map you've ever seen, filled with death and destruction (courtesy of Bush-Cheney, the IMF, and Exxon Mobil). Coe also takes on hunting, nonchalant killing, routine mutilation, shearing, and AIDS as a weapon of mass destruction. Yes, the politics of these pieces are heavy-handed, mostly preaching to the converted, detracting from their overall power, but you'll still walk away with a nightmarish vision you won't soon forget. We dare you to eat rack of lamb immediately after seeing this.