Photographer: Ron Haviv
Born 1965

Reflections

What do you think this photograph is about?

What would you say to the man holding the tiger if you had the opportunity to interview him?

What are your thoughts about how this picture has been staged/set up?

Why is it so dangerous to be a war photographer?

Photograph: Arkan’s Tigers
Serbia
1990s

Contextual information

Born in 1965, Ron Haviv is a well known male American war photographer, who is probably best known for his photography through the conflicts in the Balkans. He was the man who took the now famous shot of warlord Arkan holding a baby tiger surrounded by his ‘Serb Volunteer Guard’ paramilitaries, who were also known as Arkan’s Tigers. Arkan was one of the major players during the conflict and was charged by the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague for a number of murders, a rape and other atrocities. Arkan himself was assassinated in 2000 before he faced trial.

Haviv’s work included the battle of Vukovar in Croatia, the Siege of Sarajevo, the atrocities committed at Serb concentration camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the practice of ethnic cleansing as was exhibited by Arkan’s Tigers.

He has documented more than 25 conflicts over 30 years and has also won a number of national and international awards for his photography.