Entertainment

fabric Exhibit reveals flaws in

tives, I can paint romance, not abortion. If you create jobs, I won't paint poverty. If you remove your armies from other people's countries, I won't paint war. If you remove prisons, I won't paint the incarcer-

Contributing Writer bloody nuclear devices from the T get safe contracep remy garden, I will find time with the work of Sue Coe is as an introduction to the work of artist Sue Coe, whose black-and-white

nervous breakdown, but the nervous breakdown is not the artist's but rather society's. Coe's art is troubling, photo engravings are on predominantly dark in exhibit at the 1984 Gallery, color, never decorative and 1217 Turner Street in consumed with brutal im-

ages of rape, torture and violence. Sue Coe's graphics skill delineates our world in its ugly minutes, but these become minutes have nightmarish days and lives for the many victims so starkly portrayed.

Born and raised in London, England, Coe attended art school there and began illustrating for magazines at the age of 16. After some years, she began to sense a shrinking market for her art and in 1972 moved to America.

"I decided I'd try New York. I went straight to the New York Times from getting off the airplane with my portfolio and started my portfolio and started working immediately, that same day, for the Op Ed page," Coe said. "I didn't have enough money to even get a hotel room, so I asked to be paid straight away, and I was, so I stayed."
SINCE THEN, Coe's edi-

torial commissions have appeared in a quirky variety publications including The London Times, Rolling Esquire, Mother New Scientist, Voice and New Stone, Village Musical Express. Also, her works have been exhibited in small galleries in London and New York as well as the San Franciso Museum of Modern Art and the San Jose Museum of Contempory Art. But, her abrasive

style and activist content have often not found her favor with her editors.

One work on display that was censored in publication was "Woman Raped on Pool Table While 20 Men Watched." Commissioned by the Boston Globe, the work accounts the New Bedford Rape, showing men with lowered pants standing in line to rape the terrified woman while other men sit at the bar watching. Coe's plain (and almost incidental) rendering of the rapist's buttocks however was enough for puritan interests to have the lower half of the drawing omitted. Coe pointed out in an interview Sunday that the Boston Globe nevertheless carried advertisements showing women in a sug-gestive manner. A different drawing of the rape scene suggests the source of such a double standard, as it is titled "Romance in the Age

of Raygun." Coe's other work deals with equally controversial subjects. "Bobby Sands" depicts the skeletal Sands lying on a table as his guards, one of them Margaret Thatcher, torture and force-feed Sands at the same time. "Nuclear Missiles on German Soil" and "Fallout Too Late" show the agony and horrors-to-be brought on by

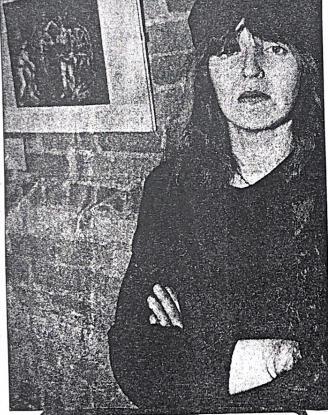
weapons nuclear

Throughout her many original drawings, with graphite, paint and things collaged from the media are messages to be read and messages to be gotten. Coe said that she believes most art "is too removed from the people," and that is why she so specifically and starkly deals with topical themes. Citing Goya, George Grosz, John Heartfield, and Bertolt Brecht as influences.

One of the exhibit's most frightful pictures i "Woman Tied to a Pole." Based on a true incident, the picture portrays a black woman who had been left tied to a pole after being raped by an entire company of white South African soldiers. When the com-pany's only black soldier had refused to rape the woman, he too was forced at gunpoint to rape her. The underlying meaning of this drawing is a message that is in much of Sue Coe's work the occurrence of the victim forced to victimize. Through Coe's art, our tragedy is the same as the victims so starkly portrayed.

SUE COE'S WORK will be shown and is for sale at the 1984 Gallery through April 27. Phone 482-3333 for further information.

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Free Sunday Delivery (noon to 8:00 p