

The Prophet is a Realist of Distances

Maria Fusco

It's our
in English law from 1200 until its abolition in 1846 the legal figure of the deodand meant that an
object was just as culpable as its owner in cases of accidental death or grievous bodily injury

you see me here
the object in question a knife which had stabbed a carriage wheel which had crushed a tub filled with
boiling water which had scalded was automatically forfeit to the crown's almoner

when I was
to be sold or exchanged for the harm that had been inadvertently rendered through its materiality

plucked me from
the gains were then applied to some pious public use

softening his jaw
the deodand's insistence of the legitimate simultaneity of vastly differing conceptual forms of
the physical presence of the guilty object and the potential social distribution of sanctimony is palpable

she almost
the deodand was decidedly not a representation or a procedural tool of damage but rather a gift
bestowing the random with reason buoying the faithful



Robert Frank

Trolley – New Orleans, 1955

gelatin silver print, 31 x 49 cm