Update on the war art show at Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, to be held Summer 2014

**‘Back from the Front’**

Art, Memory and the Aftermath of War

Royal West of England Academy, Bristol,

This exhibition will form a key part of the Bristol 2014 centenary commemorations of the start of the First World War.

A city-wide programme of activity is being co-ordinated Bristol Cultural Development Partnership; see their Facebook page *‘Bristol 2014’*

The shows will be open to the public:

19 July – 17 September

Sharples, Winterstoke & Milner Galleries RWA

Queen's Rd, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1PX
0117 973 5129

Install dates: 11-17 July

De-install dates: 18 – 22 September

The Private View in Bristol will fall on the evening of Friday 18 July 2014.

**‘Back from the Front’** will have two components, showing simultaneously:

 **‘Brothers in Art’**: a show of paintings by two major British artists from the First World War, Paul Nash and John Nash, both of whom served at the front and who were later commissioned as Official War Artists. The work, to be shown in the Methuen and Milner galleries of the RWA will feature the aftermath of war as the painters recovered from their experiences:

The exhibition will loosely follow their (John and Paul's) divergent paths, exploring different degrees of modernism through landscape. It will focus on the English countryside whilst referring to the psychological effect of war, which seemed to strengthen the brothers' attachment to their homeland, helping create a sense of place.

Brought together by Gemma Brace, this exhibition will be a unique showing of the artists’ post-war work and will be supported by a programme of lectures and workshops. A book by Paul Gough 'Brothers in Arms', with an essay by Gemma, will be published to coincide with the show.

 **‘Shock and Awe’**

Exhibited in the RWA’s extensive Sharples, Winterstoke and Stancomb-Wills galleries, ‘Shock and Awe’ is an exhibition of work by artists who have been exposed to the front-line experience of war and by those who have responded to recent conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans.

* Xavier Pick was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to work in the war zones of Afghanistan. His large digital paintings fuse digital photography, painted surface and compelling narrative: his on-the-spot sketchbooks have set new standards of visual reportage. <http://www.xavierpick.co.uk/paintings.html>
* Mario Minichiello was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to work in the war zones of Afghanistan. Mario’s massive drawing of his front-line experience was first used as a pictorial montage on *Newsnight* and his sketchbook illustrations describe a land, and its people, under extreme duress, but also in recovery.

<http://www.vortex.uwe.ac.uk/warg5.htm#mini>

* Elizabeth Turrell RWA has been working with a small group of medal-makers from the US, UK and Europe to create and revive ‘anti-war medals’ that were first shown at the Velvet da Vinci Gallery in San Francisco in 2003-07. The exhibition was curated and organised by Elizabeth Turrell; it attracted 9,000 people when toured to the Museum der Arbeit (' Museum of work') in Hamburg, Germany. <http://www.velvetdavinci.com/show.php?sid=83>

Amongst the artists are: Michael Brennan-Wood, Kathleen Browne, Stephen Bottomley, Helen Carnac, Robert Ebendorf, Elizabeth Turrell, Michael Brennand-Wood, Jessica Turrell.

Elizabeth will create a number of outsize garments for one wall of the main galleries, upon which will be hung the medals. A floor-based dais will house a sunken ‘trench’ which will act as a display for further pieces of work

* Tim Shaw has an international reputation for his iconic large scale sculptural pieces that comment on recent and distant wars. His recent pieces include the award-winning pieces ‘Casting a Dark Democracy’, ‘Man on Fire’, ‘Tank on Fire’. A large piece, some 18 feet tall, will be loaned specifically for the exhibition at the RWA: <http://www.timshawsculptor.com/democracy.htm>
* Jill Gibbon makes drawings in arms fairs all over the world; her work will be presented as a series of opened sketchbooks on a number of glass shelves. Her work is created under a particular form of duress and has gained a significant reputation in the iconography of peace and protest.

[www.jillgibbon.co.uk](https://owa.uwe.ac.uk/OWA/redir.aspx?C=sDr7_9bhWE6akTsrn8iYmmfWFvZ23s9IR0bytHCx3r-UcTN3YdikOq8kdnQQd5veq3l9PQIkjx8.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.jillgibbon.co.uk)

* David Cotterrell was funded and commissioned by the Wellcome Foundation to travel to Basra and Helmand Province in 200/ to record the arduous work of the British medical corps. He will be showing from his suite of photographs, from the ‘Gateway’ and ‘Sightlines’ suites. <http://www.cotterrell.com/>
* Kate Davies is a film-maker; she has made a film about the repatriation ceremonies at Royal Wootton Bassett. Derived from 14 separate visits to the town, Davies’ film installation is an extraordinary evocation of loss, mourning and absence.

[www.theseparationline.com](https://owa.uwe.ac.uk/OWA/redir.aspx?C=LFca5dNxwkuvKWdqOR_sE0vXYRJvxc9Ir4gS_Yy-gQhsIc9-acYTN8rPElMWAw44zVVw0WV9kAE.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.theseparationline.com)

There will also be a number of works by artists who have been invited to respond to the themes of war, peace and remembrance. In addition to showing their work, these artists will be invited to reflect upon an image, or poem, or a family memory from the First World War; picture and narrative captions will accompany each piece of work.

In The Cube Gallery downstairs at the RWA there will be a number of shows during the duration of the main show, these include:

* Michael Porter RWA, ‘Death of Nature’, 30 small works:

<http://www.michael-porter.co.uk/press/close-to-the-ground>

16 July – 8 August

* UWE students, work from Illustration, Graphic Design, and Photography, for example:

<http://www.andyscreen.co.uk/His-Journey>

There may also be an opportunity to show up to 50 pieces of small artwork, scripts, poems, tracts of writing etc that may be commissioned during 2014. Paul Gough and Andrew Kelly have bid to the Arts Council England for a grant that will enable them to commission 50 pieces of ‘art’ [including poetry, short stories, music, etc] that reflect on remembrance, loss and peace.

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11 October 2013