Paul Gough, *Dead Ground.**War and Peace: Remembrance and Recovery. A cultural reading of memoryscapes from the Great War, 1914-1918* (Sansom and Company, in association with BSP, Melbourne, 2018). 220 pages. 84 colour illustrations. ISBN: 978-1-911408-45-1.

**Imperatives**

*Dead Ground* extends Gough’s research into the visual language of modern warfare, in particular the long shadow of the war and its impact on a wide range of artists from UK, USA, New Zealand and Australia. The book brings together four years of Gough’s involvement in marking the 100th anniversary of the First world War, during which he presented research findings at numerous international conferences (UK, New Zealand, Turkey, Macedonia, and Belgium) and published widely in journals and books in disciplines as diverse as military history, heritage studies and visual culture.

**Process**

In addition to examining the contemporary impact of renowned British war artists such as Paul Nash, CWR Nevinson, and William Orpen, Gough introduces younger artists - Gail Ritchie, Julian Perry, Green & Brown – into the discourses around the representation of conflict. Based on years of fieldwork on sites of conflict – from the former battlefields of Gallipoli and the Somme to Ground Zero in New York, Gough offers insights into the power of the garden as the presiding emblem of peace, and the lasting influence of flowers, trees, plants as the most potent means of remembering.

**Significance**

Gough’s work in this field has been recognised by numerous invitations to address international symposia addressing the topics of conflict, remembrance and peace. National War Memorial, New Zealand 2009, 2014, 2017; Imperial War Museum, London 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014; Ireland 2013; Australia 2018, 2019; France 2016, 2018; Ypres, Belgium 2019; Turkey 2015, and most recently at the invitation of UNESCO on the critical value of landscape in memorial and mnemonic spaces, Musee de l’Armee, Paris, 18 December 2019.

During 2013 (and into 2014) Gough advised the Royal Mint Advisory Committee on the Design of Coins, Medals, Seals and Decorations, regarding the visual language and iconography for a range of commemorative coinage linked to the centenary of the Great War.