



ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SYDNEY

Australian artists respond to the Western Front battlefields

An important exhibition of contemporary artwork capturing the battlefields of the Western Front from a century ago and reinterpreting the significance these places have in our nation's culture and history is now on display at Sydney's Anzac Memorial.

The *Salient* exhibition, commemorating 100 years since the ceasefire on Armistice Day 1918, is the first travelling exhibition within the newly refurbished Memorial. It features the work of 12 Australian artists who visited the battlefields of the Western Front in 2017 - a century after the conflict that claimed so many lives.

Salient: Contemporary Artists at the Western Front brings together the works they created in response to the history and present day reality of these sites in a series of artworks that include paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture.

The participating artists, Deidre Bean, Harrie Fisher, Paul Ferman, Michelle Hiscock, Ross Laurie, Steve Lopes, Euan MacLeod, Ian Marr, Idris Murphy, Amanda Penrose Hart, Luke Sciberras and Wendy Sharpe, created new works in response to their experiences of these sites as well as their personal family histories. Each artist interpreted the Western Front differently and the trip left an indelible impression upon them.

During the four-year conflict (4 August 1914 – 11 November 1918) over 46,000 Australian troops perished at the Western Front in a brutal campaign of trench warfare which stretched 440 miles from the Swiss border to the North Sea, the highest casualty per capita suffered by any Allied nation.

Today, the Western Front battlefields are the sites of fields, farms and villages, with memorials the only markers of the devastation that occurred a century ago. For the artists participating in *Salient*, the journey was a powerful reminder of the impact of war on our history, culture and society.

Salient: Contemporary Artists at the Western Front runs from October to February 2019 at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park Sydney.

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