



**Immediate Release**

**IWM Contemporary: Mike Moore and Lee Craker**

**24 October – 5 January 2014**

**Private View 23 October, 6pm-9pm**

**Free Admission**

**2013 is the tenth anniversary of the start of the Second Iraq War. IWM Contemporary presents an exhibition of photography examining the impact of war on the Iraqi people and the American and British troops who served there. Mike Moore and Lee Craker, two pioneering photographers, working separately in the field, present two striking perspectives of Iraq from 1991–2011.**

Both Mike Moore and Lee Craker take very different approaches to the same subject, but they share the desire to push the boundaries of modern photography, adapting to often impossible environments and continuing to seek out new perspectives of conflict.

Although contrasting in style, the images reflect the photographers' shared concern for the Iraqi, British and American people who suffered the enduring consequences of war in Iraq. The exhibition juxtaposes Moore's dramatic colour documentary photographs with Craker's quietly reflective monochrome portraits and architectural studies.

**Mike Moore**

Mike Moore, a British Fleet Street photographer for over 30 years, was the first press photographer to officially embed with the British Army and the first photographer to cover the First Iraq War entirely in colour for the tabloid newspaper, *Today*. Working regularly in Iraq between 1991-2003, Moore went on to become a staff photographer for the *Daily Mirror* and three times British Press Photographer of the Year, documenting the impact of the United Nations sanctions and covering the Second Iraq War, notably the 'Shock and Awe' campaign, from Baghdad.

Moore's images are high impact. Dramatic sequences of cityscapes ablaze, unfold to reveal the raw emotions of civilians on the ground. Iconic images of American troops pulling down the statue of Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square (2003) sit alongside that of an Iraqi woman deeply distressed following a missile strike on a street market that killed her husband, against the backdrop of a vivid red sky.

On one of Moore's final visits to Iraq, he captured the harrowing account of Nadia Khalaf, a graduate student who had just completed her PhD in Psychology, when she was fatally injured after a shell exploded in her bedroom. With the help of a neighbour, her family rushed her to the hospital where she was declared dead. Mike Moore's Iraqi translator, Thair Ali, is seen helping Nadia's father with the upsetting task of removing his daughter's body from the hospital.

**Lee Craker**

Lee Craker is an American award winning photographer from Colorado, specialising in documentary photography. Craker was the first and only US civilian photographer to be assigned Lead Photographer

for the US Armed Forces Public Affairs Office and the only civilian photographer routinely allowed to work within the Green Zone. During his time in Baghdad from 2009-2011, Craker captured a series of thoughtful portraits and architectural studies, which reflect the diversity and personal experience of US armed forces personnel serving in Iraq.

In this exhibition, Craker uses sepia tones and heavy shadows reminiscent of First World War photography. Captain Sam Brown met his wife Captain Amy Brown, whilst undergoing treatment for severe burns after he triggered an IED explosive device in Kandahar in 2008; Craker captured the touching moment they were reunited following Captain Amy's re-deployment to Iraq, when Sam was visiting as part of the rehabilitation programme, *Proper Exit*. Craker's ability to capture moments of serenity and calm, offer a soft approach to a harsh subject matter, giving his work a timeless poignancy.

This is the first photography show to be exhibited as part of the IWM Contemporary programme, which presents artists' and photographers' responses to contemporary war and conflict.

### **Quotes**

"I am deeply honored and grateful that Imperial War Museums has chosen to display my work in London. My intention when doing this project in Iraq was to pay tribute to the men and women who put themselves in harm's way, in a foreign land, out of love for their country. There could be no finer conclusion to this project than to have these images on display with the amazing work of Mike Moore in London at the IWM."

**Lee Craker**

"It's fantastic for me to exhibit here at IWM London, an institution I first came to as a school kid. Now nearly 20 war zones later as I end my career, it's great to see such contrasting work as mine and Lee's put together this way, I think the viewer may be shocked by the reality of my work but then calmed by the beauty of Lee's."

**Mike Moore**

**For further press information including interview requests and images, please contact:**

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**– Ends –**

**Coming soon**

**IWM London**

**Donovan Wylie: Vision as Power** From 24 October 2013

Donovan Wylie, one of Britain's leading artist photographers, will present an exhibition of photographs which consider the impact of modern military surveillance on the landscape. In a body of work which straddles the divide between contemporary art and documentary photography, Wylie explores the concept of vision as power in the architecture of contemporary conflict, in photographs taken in Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Canadian Arctic.

**Free Admission**

## **IWM North**

### **Catalyst: Contemporary Art and War** From 10 October 2013

IWM North, part of Imperial War Museums, in Manchester is presenting the first major exhibition of IWM's collection of contemporary art produced since the First Gulf War - placing more than 20 years of work by over 40 artists in this national collection on public display together for the first time. Opening on Saturday 12 October 2013, *Catalyst: Contemporary Art and War* explores the rich, varied and moving artistic response to conflict in a media age. Hear from the artists themselves and discover what motivates people to create art about conflict. The exhibition showcases installations, photography, film, sculpture, oil paintings, prints and book works; varying from the highly moving to the humorous, philosophical or outraged.

**Free Admission**

## **Ongoing Exhibitions**

### **IWM London**

#### **IWM Contemporary: Omer Fast** Until 29 September 2013

Omer Fast is the first artist to feature in our new IWM Contemporary programme, presenting the London premiere of his film *5,000 Feet is the Best*. This 30-minute filmwork, based on interviews with a former drone operator in Las Vegas, details the operator's experiences guiding the unmanned planes to fire at targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan. *5,000 Feet is the Best* offers a subtle exploration of how the use of drones is rapidly changing the politics, ethics and personal experience of contemporary conflict

**Free Admission**

#### **Architecture of War** Until 5 May 2014

Bringing together a range of highlights from IWM's art collection, *Architecture of War* presents artists' responses to the impact of warfare on our surrounding landscape and environments. Spanning almost a century of British art, from the First World War to the present day, the exhibition will explore themes such as construction, destruction, cities and interiors. Highlights include works by William Orpen, CRW Nevinson, Edward Ardizzone, Ronald Searle and Langlands and Bell.

**Free Admission**

#### **War Story: Supplying Frontline Afghanistan** Until 27 April 2014

Camp Bastion, the huge British military base in the Afghan desert, exists to support troops fighting on the frontline. *War Story: Supplying Frontline Afghanistan* uses brand new material recently collected in Afghanistan by the War Story team – including photos, film, home videos and interviews – to reveal the challenges of supporting the armed forces on the frontline. Visitors can also put their skills to the test to see if they have what it takes to keep the frontline supplied in our interactive logistics challenge.

From keeping thousands troops hydrated in temperatures exceeding fifty degrees Celsius to the complexities of moving equipment, ammunition and supplies around the war torn Helmand Province this new display explores what life is like for soldiers living and serving in Afghanistan.

*War Story: Supplying Frontline Afghanistan* is part of IWM's War Story project, which offers British service personnel, their families and others involved in Operation Herrick in Afghanistan the opportunity to record their role in history by preserving their personal accounts of the current conflict in Afghanistan in IWM's unrivalled national collections.

**Free Admission**

## Notes to Editors

### IWM Contemporary

IWM Contemporary is a new programme of exhibitions and events by leading artists and photographers whose work is a response to war and conflict.

### IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in *A Family in Wartime*; delve into the world of espionage in *Secret War*; visit our award-winning *Holocaust Exhibition*; discover stories of bravery in *The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes*; see work by some of Britain's most significant 20<sup>th</sup> Century artists in our art galleries or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people's perceptions of war.

**IWM London is partially reopen July 2013 – summer 2014** while we continue to [Transform IWM London](#). The museum partially reopened on 29 July with the new major family exhibition *Horrible Histories@: Spies* and fully reopens in summer 2014 when we launch our brand new First World War Galleries to mark the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War and unveil a new atrium, new shops and a park-side café.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last Admission 5.45pm. (Closed 24 - 26 December 2013).

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### IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) **tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.**

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, is transforming with new First World War Galleries and a new atrium with large object displays which will open in summer 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is partially open, and in summer 2014 the museum will fully reopen). Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

### First World War Centenary

**2014 - 2018** marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

