



100 YEARS

**IWM LONDON**  
PRESS RELEASE

## **New contemporary artwork commission displayed for the first time at IWM London**

**IWM reveals its newly commissioned artwork by artist Walid Siti, exhibited for the first time as part of the major exhibition *Age of Terror: Art since 9/11***

Ahead of opening *Age of Terror: Art since 9/11* on 26 October 2017, IWM announces its commission of a new artwork by Kurdish Iraqi artist Walid Siti. Created especially for IWM, *Floodland* (2017) will form part of the UK's first major exhibition to consider artists' responses to war and conflict since the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. Siti's work will feature alongside other key artworks being displayed in the UK for the very first time.

Siti's work draws on memories, loss and his experience of living in exile from Iraq as his country witnessed a series of violent conflicts. *Floodland* (2017), a wall based installation that takes the form of a fictional map, depicts a tormented landscape that reflects a state of volatility. The work creates a visual metaphor for dislocation and disorientation taking inspiration from traditional Islamic patterns.

Commenting on *Floodland* (2017), artist Walid Siti said: "Its surface, stitched together by a traditional unifying pattern, reflects upon the state of flux that the landscape and its people experience in today's Middle East - a region engulfed in a series of violent conflicts marked by instability, border demarcation and waves of migration. It seemingly conveys a unified appearance, with a formation constructed from hardboard, plaster, grout and acrylic paint, but alludes to a disintegrating archaic system. The work explores the constraints and possibilities of power shifts, inept development and an uncertain future."

Sanna Moore, Senior Curator at IWM and curator of *Age of Terror: Art since 9/11* said: "Since IWM's establishment one hundred years ago, we have looked at conflict from different angles and perspectives. Even while the First World War was still being fought, the museum was not purely about military effort, but about the totality of war and civilian participation. Since the catastrophic events of 9/11, war and conflict have become an increasingly crucial subject matter for contemporary artists. IWM is extremely proud to have commissioned this important work by Walid Siti, which provides a unique perspective on the artist's experience of conflict."

*Age of Terror: Art since 9/11* will be IWM's largest contemporary visual art exhibition to date. In addition to Walid Siti's new commission, the exhibition will feature several artworks that have never been on public display in the UK before, including Iván Navarro's, *The Twin Towers* (2011) and Jenny Holzer's *some treatment* (2014-2015).

IWM has an exceptional collection of art and graphic design from the last hundred years, which includes paintings, prints and drawings, sculpture, photography, film and video work, posters, art medals and ephemera. *Age of Terror: Art since 9/11* builds upon IWM's commitment to collect artworks by contemporary artists, with works by Mahwish Chishty and Omer Fast from the collection and works by Coco Fusco, David Cotterrell and Shona Illingworth newly acquired for this exhibition.

**Ends**

**For further press information and interview requests please contact:**  
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Tickets are available at <https://www.iwm.org.uk/ageofterror>  
Adult £15, Child £7.50, Concessions £10.50, Members Free, Art Fund Members £7.50  
@I\_W\_M #AgeOfTerrorArt #IWM100YEARS #IWMSTORIES  
<https://www.facebook.com/iwm.london/>

**Age of Terror: Art since 9/11**  
**IWM London**  
**26 October 2017 – 28 May 2018**

### Notes to editors

#### Conflict Now

*Age of Terror: Art since 9/11* is the second season in IWM's new *Conflict Now* strand. Launched to coincide with the museums' centenary, *Conflict Now* features opinions of individuals who have seen, experienced and worked in areas of conflict – including artists, photographers, refugees, citizen journalists and war correspondents along with exhibitions and events developed by IWM and partner organisations.

#### 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 the [First World War Galleries](#) and iconic Atrium; find out 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](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. (Closed 24 - 26 December). Free Admission  
IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

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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 which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **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**.

#### IWM Centenary

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*).



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#### First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

