



Immediate Release

Architecture of War

29 July 2013 – 5 May 2014

Bringing together highlights from IWM's art collection, *Architecture of War* presents artists' responses to the impact of warfare on our surrounding landscapes and environments.

Spanning almost a century of British art, from the First World War to the present day, IWM London's new exhibition *Architecture of War*, explores the different ways artists have captured the impact of conflict on the places people inhabit and the machines people build. Divided into four themes, construction, destruction, city life and interiors, the exhibition displays work by independent artists and those who were officially commissioned by the Ministry of Information, the War Artists' Advisory Committee (WAAC) and Imperial War Museums.

From the hub of the factory floor in CRW Nevinson's *Making the Engine* 1917 to the fragmented architecture and disorientated citizens of Henry Carr's painting *Liberation* 1944, this new exhibition reveals both the industrious and devastating processes of war. Different cities divided and transformed by conflict are represented, from Paul Hogarth's drawing of the Berlin Wall in 1981 to Anthony Gross' atmospheric ink wash of *Roof Spotters* scanning the skies over St. Paul's Cathedral and Tower Bridge during the Second World War.

In contrast to scenes of destruction and chaos, some works present moments of contemplation and calm. David Baxter's gentle watercolor of *The Dining Room, Hotel Christol, Boulogne*, 1918, captures a rare moment of peace, in what was once the busy headquarters of the Red Cross in France. Edward Ardizzone observes two soldiers in *The Guard in a Block House*, 1940; while one guard stands to attention, the other relaxes, giving an impression of endless time in a confined space.

The aftermath of recent conflict is represented in works by Angus Boulton and Paul Seawright. Angus Boulton documented abandoned Soviet military bases in East Germany; his photograph *Library, Forst Zinna. 2.11.00* shows a barren room where the sole reminder of the defeated ideology is a heroic mural on the far wall. Paul Seawright was commissioned by IWM in 2002 to research the aftermath of war in Afghanistan. An air of tension hangs over his understated photograph *Room 1* which shows deserted Taliban barracks.

Architecture of War brings together a varied range of artworks and perspectives in order to explore the far-ranging influence of conflict on society. Pictures of large scale construction projects and fortifications sit alongside images of blitzed streets, abandoned rooms and muted landscapes. Works by artists as diverse as William Orpen, Ronald Searle, Paul Ryan and Langlands and Bell, demonstrate artistic responses to the subject and show how physical spaces can serve as poignant symbols of people's endurance in times of conflict.

'Architecture of War represents a new approach to displaying diverse works from IWM's art collection. I hope that visitors will find the exhibition visually stimulating as well as an inspiring introduction to the art collection.'

IWM Curator, Claire Brenard

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Coming soon at IWM London

IWM Contemporary: Omer Fast (29 July – 29 September 2013) IWM London launches IWM Contemporary with the London Premiere of Omer Fast's filmwork *5000 Feet is the Best*, offering a challenging insight into the life of an American drone Pilot.

Free Admission

IWM Contemporary: Mike Moore and Lee Craker (24 Oct 2013 – 12 Jan 2014) present a striking exhibition of reportage and portrait photographs taken of US and UK soldiers in Iraq 1991 – 2012. There will also be a series of free talks to accompany the IWM Contemporary programme, details of which will follow in the autumn.

Free Admission

Donovan Wylie: Vision as Power (24 Oct 2013 – 21 April 2014) – one of Britain's leading photographers and film makers, Donovan Wylie, will present an exhibition of his digital photography documenting the evolution and impact of modern military surveillance and the personal and environmental legacy of military structures.

Free Admission

– Ends –

Notes to Editors

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 20th 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

