

THE NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

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Special Exhibition *A Centenary of Australian War Art* Opens July 17 at National World War I Museum and Memorial

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Billy Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia during World War I, famously observed that “Australia was born on the shores of Gallipoli.”

Presented in conjunction with the centennial of the Allied landing at Gallipoli in 1915, [*A Centenary of Australian War Art*](#) opens on Friday, July 17 in Memory Hall at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. The exhibition features the most comprehensive collection of Australian war art ever seen outside of Australia.

A Centenary of Australian War Art draws from the prolific collection of the Australian War Memorial and commemorates the role and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women from the First World War through to the present.

“Through this collection, we’re able to share the experiences of Australians in conflicts covering nearly 100 years and ranging from World War I through modern times,” said National World War I Museum and Memorial Senior Curator Doran Cart.

The exhibition captures some of the vast geographical area and various theaters of conflict and peacekeeping that Australia has covered and participated in, from the Middle east and Europe, to Vietnam, Korea and Singapore. The exhibition features Australia’s best known war artists, including George Lambert and Arthur Streeton, and the works highlight the crucial role Australians played in some of the most defining moments in modern history.

“*A Centenary of Australian War Art* is yet another special exhibition at the Museum commemorating the centennial of World War I and, in this case, a collection of art allowing us to remember stories from not only the Great War, but several significant conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st centuries,” said National World War I Museum and Memorial President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor.

Australia inaugurated its Official War Art Scheme in 1917 and the role of art in Australia’s interpretation of its wartime history was established with the commission of Will Dyson, a skilled cartoonist who dedicated himself to depicting the human dimension of war. To date, the Australian War Memorial has appointed more than 70 official war artists.

Open through Dec. 6, 2015, *A Centenary of Australian War Art* was made possible by the Embassy of Australia, Washington D.C. and the Australian War Memorial with Lockheed Martin serving as the presenting sponsor. Additional support was provided by the Australian Consulate General-Chicago, the Blue Scope Foundation, Creta and the Francis Family Foundation.

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About the National World War I Museum and Memorial

The National World War I Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.

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