



**Object(s) of War**  
**Christine Willcocks**  
The Friends Gallery

**Friday 13 March – Sunday 31 May**

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Alfred Ernest Atkinson, my grandfather, enlisted in the infantry of the 8th Battalion in August of 1914. He was a young man, a Victorian dairy farmer of just 26 years of age. His country needed him; was it his duty to country or a sense of excitement and adventure that made his response to war so immediate? Perhaps both? Within eight months, he, alongside the rest of his Battalion in the 2nd Brigade, landed at ANZAC Cove on the morning of April 25th 1915.

It is not my intention to comment in a political sense on the horrors of war and in particular WWI, but rather to create a curiosity and understanding, through objects and images, of one man – my grandfather Alfred Atkinson. I do not wish to romanticise the notions of war, which is so often the case when there is no true experience to rally against. Although I never knew my grandfather, through this exhibition I want to try and place him in a time that has long gone. One hundred years to be precise.

Christine Willcocks, September 2014

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**Christine Willcocks**  
*Boy Lost* 2014  
graphite and ink  
38 x 29cm