



Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan
An Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition
The Withey Family Gallery

Friday 21 June - Sunday 29 September

Ben Quilty was appointed as an official war artist by the Australian War Memorial in 2011, and deployed to Afghanistan where he observed Australians' activities in Kabul, Kandahar and Tarin Kot.

Quilty says, "Afghanistan exposes the basics of humanity right there in your face: matters of life and death, the biggest themes an artist could ever imagine. I hope that when people walk into this exhibition they get more of a sense of what is like to be in Afghanistan. Not what it looks like, but what it feels like. What it is like to survive an experience such as these Australians have been through."

The exhibition presents portraits of soldiers that Quilty met during his tour, including Air Commodore John Oddie, former Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East Area of Operations. Oddie says, "Ben exposes the unvarnished, visceral experiences of military service and confronts the subject with previously deniable truths – a critical step to reintegrating with family and society."

Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan showcases 21 studio paintings, along with 16 works on paper sketched by the artist during his tour of Afghanistan in 2011.



Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy
Visions of Australia
Contemporary Touring Initiative



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Ben Quilty

Captain S, after Afghanistan

Painted in Robertson, New South Wales, 2012

oil on linen, 140 x 190 cm

acquired under the official art scheme in 2012

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