

MEDIA RELEASE

31 July 2015



'Jamie Larcombe, Sapper. Killed Afghanistan 2011. A Kangaroo Island boy',
Neil Sheppard 2011

Images of War – A collection of paintings on show at the State Library

“Which is worse - to die on the battlefield, covered in glory, or to die a thousand deaths in the years that are left?”

The State Library of South Australia is pleased to be partnering with the SALA Festival 2015 to show the provocative exhibition ***Images of War – A collection of paintings by Neil Sheppard.***

On display are 38 original paintings by Sheppard which he describes as “Heavy with emotion, focusing on the faces of the fighting men (and now women) and the trauma they faced.”

The exhibition is dedicated to the artist’s father, David Herbert Sheppard, who served in the Royal Fusiliers (Britain) during World War II. David suffered the remainder of his life from what is now known as “post-traumatic stress disorder” but was commonly called “shell shock”. The effect of this had a deep impact on the family.

The exhibition is also in memory of the thousands of people who had their lives forever altered by their wartime experiences, on both sides of the battlefield. Sheppard says, “The battlefronts and theatres come and go, but the human psyche is unchanged, and the effects of barbarity will also be unchanged.”

Alan Smith, Director State Library of South Australia comments, "As we recognise the importance of the Centenary of Anzac, this exhibition continues our commitment to remembering and honouring those that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country during various conflicts."

The exhibition, Images of War – A collection of paintings by Neil Sheppard, opens on August 1 in the Institute Gallery at the State Library of South Australia and runs until the 30 September 2015.

About Neil Sheppard

Neil Sheppard is an Australian impressionist and contemporary artist, living on Kangaroo Island. He was born in the UK and migrated to Australia in 1963 with his parents when he was seven. His family settled in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

From an early age Neil always enjoyed drawing and started his art career working in pen and ink. In 1998 he ventured into colour, painting in acrylics, and in 2005 began experimenting with oils. He currently paints full time and has taught painting/drawing workshops and enjoyed periods of invited 'artist in residence'.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

1st August – 30 September 2015
10.00am – 5.00pm daily
Institute Gallery, Institute Building
Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue
Free entry

EXHIBITION PARTNER:

SALA – South Australian Living Artists Festival

The logo for SALA (South Australian Living Artists Festival) is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style. The letters are thick and expressive, with some overlapping and irregular edges, giving it a dynamic and artistic feel.

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