

**OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**



Remembrance Day: Who and How We Remember in 2023

Friday 27 October 2023, 3.30pm–5.00pm AEDT in person at ACU Melbourne campus, room 11, level 7, St Teresa building (421), 115b Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, and via Teams.

Histories of war and art have long played an important role in shaping and reshaping memories of conflict. This forum looks at current conversations among researchers and curators on the role of Remembrance Day in 2023. Dr Margaret Hutchison will explore how the war art that was displayed in Australia's centenary exhibitions largely entrenched rather than contested the traditional narrative of the conflict. Dr Anthea Gunn will examine recent commissions that transform the role of sculpture in the Australian War Memorial's Sculpture Garden, focusing on the upcoming Sufferings of War and Service project and how contemporary art offers more expansive responses to the experience of war than traditional figurative sculpture. Mr Alex Little will discuss how colonial Australia's involvement in three British Imperial Wars between 1885 to 1902 (the Sudan expedition of 1885, the Boxer Rebellion of 1900–1901 and the South African War of 1899–1902) informs the evolution of situating these conflicts within the broader context of Australian war narratives and remembrance.

CO-CONVENORS

Dr Anh Nguyen Austen (ACU)
Dr Jessica O'Leary (ACU)

CHAIR

Professor Andrew Condon (ACU)

PANEL

Dr Margaret Hutchison (UNSW)
Dr Anthea Gunn (Australian War Memorial)
Mr Alex Little (ACU)

See overleaf for abstracts and bios.

Biographies

PANEL

Dr Margaret Hutchison is a lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNSW. Her research examines the policies and practices of care for Australian veterans and the cultural legacies of war. She is the author of *Painting War: A history of Australia's First World War art scheme* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). She is also a co-editor of *Portraits of Remembrance: Painting, Memory and the First World War* (University of Alabama Press, 2020) and *Exiting War: The British Empire and the 1918-20 moment* (Manchester University Press, 2022). She is currently a CI on an Australian Research Council Discovery Project that investigates the historical and social dimensions of veteran suicide.



Dr Anthea Gunn completed a PhD in art history for her thesis *Imitation Realism and Australian Art* in 2010 at the ANU. She worked as a curator at the National Museum of Australia (2008–13) and at the Australian War Memorial since 2014, where she is Senior Curator of Art. She has published in the *Journal of Australian Studies* and the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Art*, among others. She was a Partner Investigator for the ARC Linkage Project *Art in conflict*. She has curated contemporary commissions and exhibitions and was lead curator of the online exhibition, *Art of Nation: Australia's official art and photography of the First World War* and the travelling exhibition *Art in Conflict*.



Mr Alex Little is a PhD candidate at Australian Catholic University specialising in Australian military history and British imperial history. His thesis examines Australia's commitments to the British Empire in imperial defence from the late 19th to the early 20th century.



CHAIR

Professor Andrew Condon CSC was appointed as the inaugural Industry Professor Veterans and their Families in 2022 as part of ACU's commitment to its Priority Impact area of Veterans and their Families. He comes to this appointment from a long background working professionally in the veteran and families sector.

During his 27 years in the Australian Army, Andrew deployed to Iraq in 2004 embedded in a US Corps HQ, and in 2006 deployed as the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint Task Force Commander for the evacuation of over 5,200 Australian nationals during the war in Lebanon, for which he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross. In 2012 he was appointed to the Board of Vasey Housing NSW, an organisation established after WWII to provide low-cost housing for war widows. In 2016 he was appointed to the Board of RSL LifeCare (31 nursing homes, 27 retirement villages across NSW/ACT, and a provider of contemporary veteran services). He chaired the Board of RSL LifeCare from 2017 to 2021, and now continues to serve on the Board as a Director. In 2022 he was appointed by federal Cabinet to the National Aged Care Advisory Council, advising the Minister and the Department on the implementation of the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission.

