



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
VETERANS ARTS MUSEUM

A March to Art: Identity

22 March –
25 April 2017

10am – 5pm
FREE ENTRY

1st Floor
SPACE@Collins

278 Collins St
Melbourne

A word from the **Chairman**

Mark Johnston
Chairman & Director
Australian National
Veterans Arts Museum

In 2016 one Australian veteran ended their own life every 5 days*, leaving behind devastated families and communities. The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) is working hard, with your help, to change this and to help save the health and heritage of our veteran community. Proven art-based therapies have been improving the mental, physical and social wellbeing of our ex-military men and women impacted by service to our country.

We know that many of us, as veterans and family members, may struggle with transition from service and identity; to readjust, redefine self, role and purpose and to meet perceived community expectations. These struggles may impact mental wellbeing and is the basis for the theme of this exhibition; identity.

The identity of the Australian veteran community is, however, unique. The arts offer us a vibrant channel of unification, communication and catharsis. The arts also offer us a universal medium to express a sense of identity while shaping our culture, redefining public perception and supporting mental, physical and social wellbeing.

In recognising our veterans and family members creative skills, ANVAM's inaugural exhibition, A March to Art: Identity, is a link between veterans and the wider community. The exhibition offers an opportunity to redefine community perceptions of a new generation of veterans. It is a celebration of all veteran artists, their creativity and the role of arts in rehabilitation. A March to Art: Identity, is an invitation to all veterans and families to engage the arts as a mechanism to explore their identity.

*Estimate: <https://www.soldieron.org.au/statement-from-soldier-on/>

A MARCH TO ART: IDENTITY is a national contemporary art exhibition featuring work by artists – young and old – who have served in the military or who are within a veteran’s family circle. The exhibition demonstrates the value of creativity as artists explore, question, reveal and express notions of identity, either for themselves or the veteran community.

the show features 15 artists spanning a variety of creative media and art practices: digital photography, sculpture, quilting, painting, music recording, photojournalism, short film, and poetry. A March to Art: Identity includes unique work created especially for the exhibition, together with award-winning pieces exhibited at state, national and international levels.

Exhibiting artists

1. **Claire Kopietz** Oxheart, 2014
Digital film (02:53min)
2. **Brodie McNally & Brad Button**
Scarlett Red, 2016
Original music recording (03:55min)
3. **Lucy Carroll** On the train, Anzac Day, 2014
Quilt (191.0 x 136.0 cm)
4. **Lucy Carroll** Officer Cadet, 2015
Quilt (164.0 x 120.0 cm)
5. **Sharyn Meade**
The Rising Spirit of Anzac – A Photographic Journey, 2010
Photograph and text assemblage
(10 x A3 format)
6. **Ben Pullin** Unforgiven, 2013
Welded metal on sandstone stand sculpture
(variable dimensions)
7. **Dan Elborne** Five Hundred, 2016
Slipcast earthenware, glaze, custom
decal sculpture, (variable dimensions)
8. **Barham Ferguson** Through the mirror,
2017, Poem
9. **Mark Johnston & Toby Johnston**
Napier Waller Mosaic Tribute, 2017
Digital photograph (composite)
(68.0 x 120.0 cm)
10. **Kate Hallen** Stunned Mullet II, 2013
Oil on canvas (84.3 x 121.3 cm)
Post Traumatic Shoaling Disorder Series
11. **Kate Hallen** Stay Close, 2013
Oil on canvas (84.3 x 121.3 cm)
Post Traumatic Shoaling Disorder Series
12. **Michael Williams**
The earth bleeds poppies, 2016
Acrylic on canvas (61.0 x 115.0 cm)
13. **Kelly Manning**
Little Rebel: Chakai, 2016
Aerosol enamel and oil on linen
(152.0 x 122.5 cm) Little Rebel Series
14. **Kelly Manning** Little Rebel: Leroy, 2016
Aerosol enamel and oil on linen
(152.0 x 122.5 cm)
Little Rebel Series
15. **Sean Burton** Pete, 2017.
Acrylic aerosol paint on canvas (92.0 x 122.0 cm)
16. **Phil Johns & Anila Reddy**
The Coriolis Effect, 2016
Acrylic on canvas (120.0 x 150.0 cm)
17. **Warrick Eady** Phase, 2016
Digital photograph, (100.0 x 150.0 cm)
18. **Gordon Traill** Untitled, 2016
Digital photograph, (100.0 x 100.0 cm)

Curator's message

Bruce Copland

Respectfully, emotionally rich and beautiful. These are some of the words I hope visitors to A March to Art: Identity will associate with the exhibition

In preparing the show, it struck me that the veteran artist community is as diverse as it is talented. For many veteran artists, the personal meaning and process of making art is at least as important as the created object. I've therefore strived to acknowledge veterans' motivations, through choices aimed at honouring both the personal and artistic meaning associated with an artwork.

I wish to thank all participating artists for responding willingly to the exhibition's 'Identity' theme, and for candidly sharing with me details of their art practice and personal stories.

I also thank Tanja Johnston, Head of Arts Programs, together with the rest of the ANVAM leadership team for inviting me to curate A March to Art: Identity in support of veteran artists.



Sean Burton, Pete, 2017

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Visit anvam.org.au for information on the organisation and how you can help support Australia's veterans.

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