



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

VA085

Thursday, 1 October 2009

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL APPOINTS OFFICIAL ARTIST

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today announced the appointment by the Australian War Memorial of Shaun Gladwell as the latest official artist to cover the war in Afghanistan.

"With Australian forces committed operationally overseas, it is important that their experiences are captured by leading artists and photographers," Mr Griffin said.

"Over the years, the Australian War Memorial has commissioned works by many official artists and these give an insight into the Australian experience of war.

"Shaun Gladwell's work will add to the Memorial's collection, continuing the tradition of official artists since the First World War.

"The Australian War Memorial has a large and diverse collection which continues to grow with Australia's involvement in recent peacekeeping operations and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan," Mr Griffin said.

Travelling during October, Shaun Gladwell will be accompanied by Nick Fletcher, a curator with the Memorial, who will look for significant items that may be added to the Memorial's broader collection.

Mr Gladwell has been commissioned to create a body of work that includes video and photography which will become part of the national collection once completed.

A critically acclaimed artist, Mr Gladwell's work explores personal history, memory and contemporary cultural phenomena through photography, performance, painting and sculpture. He is currently representing Australia in the 2009 Venice Biennale.

The visit is part of the Memorial's ongoing collecting and official art programs, and was arranged with the assistance of the Australian Defence Force.

Further information:

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/war_artists/

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