

## Media Release

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### PERSPECTIVES Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is proud to present two unique visions of contemporary Australian peacekeeping service, brought together by the Australian War Memorial in ***Perspectives: Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici***. Commissioned through the War Memorial's War Artists Scheme, these two acclaimed artists reveal their personal vision and individual style alongside the insights they have gained working with Australian Defence Forces personnel in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Jon Cattapan's works deal with universal themes concerning how people interact and communicate with each other, all the while playing with our everyday notions of space and time. But the artist also makes his works specific to his deployment, interspersing them with depictions of Australian peacekeepers and Timorese people, topographical and night-time landscapes, and the daily activities of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during his time there in July 2008.

De Medici's series highlights the complexity of peacekeeping operations. She is concerned with showing the day-to-day work of the ADF in the Solomon Islands, which she visited in March 2009. However, she has also placed the ADF within the broader context of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). The artist explores the legacy of colonisation and questions the effects of foreign exploitation of natural resources on national sovereignty.

Both artists were commissioned by the Australian War Memorial through the War Artists Scheme, a tradition that developed during the First World War. In the last decade, the Memorial has commissioned many official artists to explore and record the Australian experience of war and peacekeeping around the world. ***Perspectives*** showcases this experience and brings new light to the activities of our nation's defence forces.

***Perspectives: Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici*** is open to the public at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery from Saturday 30 November, 2013 until Sunday 2 February, 2014. The exhibition will be officially launched by Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, on Friday 6 December, from 6pm until 8pm.

*An Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition.*

*This exhibition is supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government Program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.*



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