Your friend
the enemy
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GALLIPOLI CENTENARY EXHIBITION
ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
10 April to 17 May 2015
(selected by Terence Maloon and Tony Oates)
http://dhg.anu.edu.au

S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
17 April to 24 May 2015
(selected by John McDonald and Jane Watters)
http://www.shervingallery.com.au

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)
19 June to 2 August 2015
www.bathurstart.com.au

Pataka Art + Museum, NZ
Pataka’s exhibition of Your friend the enemy will be officially opened
on Sunday 29th of November 2015 and run through to mid-February 2016
www.pataka.org.nz

Goulburn Art Gallery
13 March to 2 May 2015
Jane Cash Director
www.grag.com.au

Artist Pro
Your friend the enemy: special edition
(edited by John McDonald)
On sale across the country on March 19 2015

Cover: Euan Macleod, Stanley, Russells Top 3/5/14 2014 (detail), oil on polyester , 53 x 65.5 cm

Frontspiece: Deirdre Bean,
Canterbury Mounted Rifles 2014 , watercolour and graphite on 300gsm Arches hot pressed paper , 20 x 20 cm

DEIRDRE BEAN
ELISABETH CUMMINGS
STEVE LOPES
EUAN MACLEOD
GUY MAESTRI
IDRIS MURPHY
MICHAEL NOCK
PETER O’DOHERTY
SUSAN O’DOHERTY
STANLEY PALMER
AMANDA PENROSE HART
LEO ROBBA
LUKE SCIBERRAS
MICHAEL SHEPHERD
JONATHAN THROSBY
JOHN WALSH
Your friend the enemy contributes substantially to answering the question Gallipoli asks of every Australian - what does this mean to me? A century on from the catastrophes that unfolded from late 1914 and inspired by the courage of both Australians and Turks bound nonetheless by mutual respect, these artists have given us in these works the gift of understanding.

Every nation has its story. This is ours.

We were barely federated as a nation and had a flag. Yet beyond a rich indigenous history and the pioneering determination with its origins in the First Fleet, it was not until Gallipoli and all that would follow, that we had our ‘story’. The series of often catastrophic military battles culminating in the Monash-led victories of 1918, the deep divisions in Australian society, the nation’s emergence from the war proud of its achievements inflamed by that generation’s grief and mourning, all combined to give us a greater confidence in who we are, how we relate to one another and see our place in the world.

The landscape of Gallipoli itself, its rugged cliffs and deep ravines, overlooking the beach from which the Anzacs ascended at great cost, weapons, fauna and men reaching out to one another. From the simple to the complex, this exhibition expresses the wide range of reflective emotions experienced by any visitor to the peninsula immersed in its meaning.

Charles Bean was Australia’s official First World War historian. He landed with the Australian troops at Gallipoli on the 25th of April and stayed at the front through the entire war. Before the assault on Lone Pine, at the end of which would be 2,300 Australian and 7,000 Turkish casualties and we seven Australians awarded the Victoria Cross, he recorded the following incident.

An Australian digger approached the front trench. Leaning over and to the men in it: ‘Jim here?’, he asked. ‘Yeah, right here Bill’, came a voice from the fire step. ‘Do you chaps mind movin’ up a piece?’, asked the first voice. ‘Him and me are mates and we’re goin’ over together’.

In the end it is the story of love and friendship forged in the cauldron of war. The spirit of these men – Australians and Turks is here in this exhibition and within it the realisation that what we need most, is one another.

Preface

Dr Brendan Nelson
Director
The Australian War Memorial

View from the Nek early morning

Anzac Cove 2014
Introduction

Terence Malon

TO COME
Crozier also drew sketches for the Anzac Book and George Benson made topographical drawings of the peninsula. Both were later commissioned as official war artists. The soldier Leslie Fraser Standish Hoare, who served with the 8th Light Horse Regiment and was wounded at the Nek, made annotated drawings and watercolours of his experience that provide a raw and honest record of his experiences. All of these voices deserve to be heard.

Your friend the enemy about Gallipoli. Of course, for artists looking back at the campaign a century later, it is impossible to not be influenced by it. The great Sidney Nolan, chronicler of Australian legends from Ned Kelly to Burke and Wills, knew this well. In 1956, after a brief visit to Gallipoli, he echoed what many young Australians had reflected on over 40 years earlier when he wrote: ‘I stood on the place where the first Anzacs had stood, looked across the straits to the site of ancient Troy, and felt that here history had stood still’.

The point is that while time may have cemented the image of Gallipoli in Australian history, it is possible to discover new meanings in new contexts. In Nolan’s case, when he began his series of Gallipoli paintings, he wanted to express the tragic drowning of his brother Raymond on duty and the social anxieties of an Australia living in a post-atomic world.

What the paintings in Your friend the enemy might mean for contemporary Australians will, of course, be unique in time, but the inspiration that this project tells us about each other’s human tragedy is a constant. As it was when Nolan revisited Gallipoli almost 60 years ago, the meanings of Gallipoli continue to evolve.

When George Lambert and Charles Bean surveyed the Gallipoli peninsula in 1919, the landscape looked quite different to how we encounter it today. When the Lamberts and Streetons of the Australian Official War Art Scheme painted the battlefields of Palestine and France, Australians defined themselves by how the land had shaped them and how their artists had subsequently shaped it. Little has changed since, and in light of Your friend the enemy, it’s interesting to take this opportunity to reflect on how our contemporary artists and filmmakers might build a different historical vision in the ‘now’.

Lambert’s trip was a process of discovery. Bean had gone to answer outstanding questions about what had happened. Lambert went to document, to record and eventually to interpret. But he knew even then, that the story of Gallipoli had more power that he could make the human drama resonate through art. Standing on the heights of the peninsula, with its steep cliffs that fall sharply to the Aegean, he wrote that ‘from the point of view of the Artist Historian the Nek is a wonderful setting for the tragedy’.

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In 1919 however, Lambert recorded that the ‘gruesome is… scattered all over the battlefield’. The remains of Turkish and Anzac soldiers lay exposed in ditches across the trenches. At the Nek, where on 7 August 1915 young Australian Light Horsemen had propelled themselves across No Man’s Land to certain death, he and Bean were forced to bury hundreds of bodies in a strip of land the size of two tennis courts.

Writing to his wife, Lambert said that the worst feature of this after battle work is that the silent hills and valleys sit stern, unmoved callous of the human and busy only in growing bush, and sliding earth to hide the scars left by the war disease. It’s surprising that in 1919 Lambert was concerned that the humanity of the First World War might be so easily forgotten.

Your friend the enemy shows that his fear never came to pass. A century later graves are tended, trenches preserved, monuments erected. But more importantly, the memory of both the best and worst of humanity has been kept alive, poems have been written, stones are carved, and in the present day, exhibitions are staged. This exhibition reminds us of the power of artists to contribute to cultural conversations. Revising and reflecting on the stories of Gallipoli — and indeed the lessons to be learnt from all wars — is an especially valuable process for a country such as Australia. After all, our nation is where contemporary life and identity continues to be shaped and coloured by the battlefields of the Middle East.
John McDonald
Art critic, Sydney Morning Herald
www.johnmcdonald.net.au
When George Lambert travelled to the battlefields of Gallipoli in February 1919 he found a landscape transformed into ‘a perfect rabbit warren’, riven with trenches and littered with bones.

“The jackals, damn them were chorusing their hate, the bones showed up white even in the faint dawn, and I felt rotten,’ he wrote. ‘The worst feature of this after-battle work is that the silent hills and valleys sit stern and armed, callous of the human, and busy only in growing bush and sliding earth to hide the scars left by the war-disease. Perhaps it is as well that we are pulling out tomorrow, this place gives me the blues, though it is very beautiful.’

In April 2014 I travelled to Gallipoli with a group of artists from Australia and New Zealand, following in Lambert’s footsteps. The landscape was still strikingly beautiful, even though some of its most severe features had mellowed over time. The Sphinx, for instance, which appears as a rocky outcrop in early paintings and photographs, is still recognisable but badly eroded.

The bones of the fallen that lay scattered across the peninsular are now concealed by layers of earth, yet the sheer scale of the slaughter means that even today one may uncover fragments of skeleton or other remnants of the soldiers who lost their lives. The Anzac memorials at Gallipoli are comprised of long lists of Anglo-Celtic surnames. These soldiers would have been unamed to be told that within a hundred years of the campaign, a third of the Australian population would hail from a non-English-speaking background.

To visit Gallipoli 100 years after battles that are literally inconceivable today is a melancholy experience. The sites may not be littered with bones anymore but they are impregnated with a sadness that will never disappear. For the visitor it requires a leap of the imagination to transport oneself back in time, to the days when men crouched in muddy trenches for months on end, suffering from dysentery, waiting a call to arms that might end their lives within seconds. There would have been many days when they looked up at the blue skies we experience. In the midst of their misery they must have paused and been moved by the rugged beauty of the landscape, even in its torn and brutalised state.

Impressions come flooding in from all sides, but it is no small feat to imagine Gallipoli as the Anzacs saw it. Not only did the artists have to conjure up a battlefield from a landscape that now resembles a national park. They had to disentangle their sense of place from the memorials, the signage, the temporary grandstands erected to hold the crowds that arrive for the annual commemoration ceremonies on 25 April.

To visit the Gallipoli peninsular is to experience a true landscape of memory. It is a place that does not allow one to appreciate the scenery without giving a thought to the horrors that were perpetrated on these shores by two raw armies fighting at the behest of competing superpowers. The famous ‘baptism of blood’ has been a source of great national pride and recrimination, but there is no event in Australian and New Zealand history – the moment that changed the self-perceptions of two emerging societies.

How does an artist capture this revelation on paper or canvas? How does one respond to an environment so loaded with implications, so crowded with ghosts? These were the dilemmas that confronted every participant in the Gallipoli excursions. The artists were obliged to think long and hard about their work, and their responses to this haunted terrain. They were not simply concerned with producing pictures; they felt a responsibility to do justice to the dead and to the legacy of a campaign that was at once so futile, and so heroic.
Some of it was used as interrogation cells for prisoners, like the Australian aviator Thomas White, captured near Baghdad in November 1915. Before leaving Istanbul we toured the Military Museum, displays of a great collection dating from Ottoman times, in a building still run by the Turkish Army.

In Istanbul we got a taste of the culture and the art of the city where Europe and Asia meet and some hint of what that place means to the Turkish people of the modern republic and what it must have meant to the people of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Tens of thousands of Turks gave their lives on the Gallipoli peninsula to defend the then Ottoman capital.

We left Istanbul by road west around the Sea of Marmara to the Gallipoli peninsula. The Sea of Marmara is the last resting place of the submarine AEII. The wreck is currently the subject of a joint project by Australian and Turkish maritime archaeologists who are trying 21st century technology to save a metal ship sunk in April 1915.

When we arrived on the Gallipoli peninsula opposite the Anzac battlefields to the left we settled in the village of Eceabat. In 1915 it was given the Greek name Maydos on British military maps. It was a headquarters and logistics base for the Ottoman Army during the campaign. From Eceabat we went forth daily to the rugged and spectacular landscape of the battlefields at Anzac and Suvla Bay.

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The track that had been the main supply route to the Ottoman 5th Army fighting for its life on the Gallipoli peninsula now is a highway connecting a growing number of cities and towns and dotted with roadside restaurants famous for local coffee.

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In the evenings we would become a group again, find a restaurant to eat and drink local food and beer in and share stories of the day.

Some of us extended our exploration of the Gallipoli battlefields to Cape Helles at the mouth of the Dardanelles from the ruins of the Ottoman fortress of Seddulbahir we looked down on V Beach where the British had been massacred trying to land from a 20th century ‘Trojan Horse’ the collier turned troopship River Clyde. We found the rusting detritus of war mission and gathered a group of artists, a filmmaker, an art critic, a writer and an educator from Australia and New Zealand to go to Gallipoli to paint the landscape, they show a historian – me.

We landed in Istanbul a few days after Anzac Day and immediately set out to explore the richly-treasured site, a 4,000 year-old metropolis, one of the world’s great cities and tragically, one of the world’s great battlefields. The evidence of the rise and fall of empires was everywhere. Our search however was for links with the Great War (1914-1918). We sought out the Grand Bazaar and the university, not for the shopping but because a century ago it had served as Ottoman military headquarters during the Gallipoli campaign. The maze of market stalls and alleys and store rooms had once been the offices of Enver Pasha’s war machine. Some of it had served as a temporary prison for British and allied captives, like the crew of the Australian submarine AEII, sunk on 29 April 1915.

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Deirdre Bean

A botanical artist who exhibits locally and internationally, Deirdre Bean has paintings in public collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, USA, and in the Florilegium collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

She won a gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society in London for her series of eight Syzygium species in 2006, and a silver-gilt medal for her series depicting Australian mangroves in 2012.

Her work was highly commended in the Waterhouse Prize for Natural History at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide in 2011, and was selected for inclusion in the 2012 exhibition. In 2015 she was commissioned by Australia Post to paint four stamps of the shrubs of Christmas Island.

She paints in watercolour on paper and vellum. Her meticulous works are always botanically correct. She lives and works in Sydney and Port Douglas in far north Queensland where she studies the mangroves of Australia.

www.botanicalartist.com.au
Elisabeth Cummings

Born in Brisbane, Elisabeth Cummings has been exhibiting since 1957. In 1958 she won the NSW Travelling Art Scholarship and then in 1960 the Dyason Bequest. These early opportunities encouraged her commitment to an artistic career that has spanned 57 years. She has travelled extensively in Europe, living for 12 years in Italy and France.

Her work is influenced by landscape—the idea of place. Her creative process is led by intuition. Embedded within quasi-abstract works are the sensations and vestiges of place, slowly revealing her time in specific landscapes.

John Stringer curated Elisabeth Cummings into *Cross currents: focus on contemporary Australian art* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in 2007. She was one of two artists featured at the Korean International Art Fair (with King Street on William) in 2012. In 2013, her work was included in *Australia* at the Royal Academy of Art, London and *Sculpture* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies—recently completing residencies in New Zealand and Hong Kong. She won the Fleurieu Art Prize, S.A.; the Portia Geach Portrait Prize, Sydney and the Tattersalls Art Prize, Brisbane.

Her works can be found in the collections of public and regional institutions including the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Queensland Art Gallery and Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney.

Elisabeth Cummings is represented by King Street Gallery on William.

www.kingstreetgallery.com.au
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View To Russell’s Top, 2014, oil on canvas, 80 x 90 cm

Lone Pine, 2014, oil on canvas, 80 x 90 cm

Aegean from Shrapnel Gully, 2014, oil on canvas, 80 x 90 cm
Steve Lopes

Steve Lopes is a painter and printmaker known for his figurative and landscape work. Born in Sydney in 1971, Lopes trained in the UK, USA and Australia, at the New York Art Students League, the London Print Studio and the University of New South Wales.

Since 1996 he has had over 20 solo exhibitions across Australia and the UK, culminating in a major solo exhibition at Coogee Harbour Regional Gallery in 2013. He has also exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, including *Not the way home* — a nationally touring exhibition of 13 prominent Australian artists accompanied by a special issue national publication during 2012.

Lopes is a frequent finalist in national awards. He was awarded the Young Artist Award at the Royal Institute of Oil Painters, London. In 2011 he completed a residency at the Red Gate Gallery in Beijing. He is represented in national and state collections including the National Gallery of Australia; Australian Parliament House Art Collection; State Library of New South Wales.

Steve Lopes is represented by Stella Downer Fine Art.

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Cape Helles Fort, 2014, oil on board, 20 x 30 cm
North Beach Gallipoli, 2014, oil on board, 20 x 30 cm

Shrapnel Valley View, 2014, etching, 50 x 70 cm
North Beach Gallipoli, 2014, oil on board, 30 x 30 cm

Shrapnel Valley View, 2014, etching, 50 x 70 cm
Cape Helles Fort, 2014, oil on board, 30 x 30 cm
Guy Maestri

Guy Maestri won the Archibald Prize in 2009. His work documents many journeys made across the country and his impressions of the Australian landscape. In 2013 he was awarded the NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize and he has been a finalist in the Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting and the Dobell Prize for Drawing at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

His work is held in national and state collections including the National Portrait Gallery, Australian Parliament House Art Collection, NSW Parliament House and corporate collections including Macquarie Bank, as well as regional galleries across NSW.

Guy Maestri is represented by Olsen Irwin Gallery.

www.guymaestri.com   www.olsenirwin.com

Throsby and his horse, Jimmy, oil on linen, 71 x 81 cm
Your friend the enemy


Ter Life, 2014, oil on linen, 66 x 56 cm
Euan Macleod

Born in New Zealand, Macleod moved to Australia in 1981 and has exhibited in both countries as a respected senior artist. He was the winner of the Archibald Prize in 1999.

His paintings and drawings are in public collections in Australia and overseas, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Australian Parliament House Art Collection; National Gallery of Australia; the National Gallery of Victoria.

Macleod is best known for his dark, expressive landscapes. Wrung out of muted colours and heavy textures, people and landscapes emerge. Plein air landscape is an important feature of his work.

Euan Macleod is represented by Watters Gallery Sydney and Niagara Galleries Melbourne.


Above Ari Burnu, 2014, oil and acrylic on polyester, 84 x 120 cm
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On The Road (Below Sphinx), 2014, oil on polyester, 101 x 244 cm

Sunset (Russells Top), 2014, oil on polyester, 100 x 124 cm

Wrestle (Gallipoli Peninsula), 2014, oil on polyester, 120 x 84 cm
Idris Murphy

Idris Murphy won the 2014 Gallipoli Art Prize with his painting Gallipoli Evening (2013), which was inspired by a recent visit to the battlefield and the discovery of 160 letters written by his grandfather.

Murphy is a highly individual artist who has been prominent since 1975 when he was awarded the Keith and Elizabeth Murdoch Travel Fellowship judged by Fred Williams. Since then Murphy has been the recipient of: the Australian Arts Council Special Travel Scholarship (Europe & America), the Moya Dddy Memorial Residence, Paris, Irish Arts Council Studio, Tyrrel Guthrie Centre, Ireland. In 1993, he received a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong. He featured in the 2002 SBS documentary Two Third Sky, the exhibition On this island, travelling NSW and New Zealand, the 2013-14 exhibition Not the way home, SH Ervin & travelling NSW and 2012 the Korean International Art Fair, Seoul, Korea.

Murphy was the driving force behind the ILIRI project—a residency program for Australian and International artists in the outback of NSW run by the University of New South Wales. Idris Murphy’s work is held in numerous public collections including: National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Australian Parliament House Art Collection, Art Gallery of New South Wales, State Library of New South Wales and the State Library of Queensland, Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris.

Idris Murphy is represented by King Street Gallery on William.

Searching for Samothrace (front/16), 2014, acrylic on aluminium, 153 x 153 cm

Still Evening Light, The Nek, 2014, acrylic on aluminium, 153 x 153 cm
Michael Nock

Michael Nock is an artist specialising in oil painting. He holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from the Californian Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts) and currently serves on the board of Trustees of Cal Arts. He is also involved in numerous community based art initiatives through a non-profit foundation he established in 2013.

Michael Nock has over 35 years’ experience working in the financial services industry. In 2012 he acquired Art-Lease, the first company in Hong Kong to provide art leasing services to corporations.

Peter O’Doherty

Emigrating with his family from New Zealand to Australia in the late 1960s, Peter O’Doherty is a self-taught painter. There has been a concentration on urban and suburban themes in his work—fibro and brick houses, blocks of flats, high-rise façades, front yards, porches, and garages, along with chairs, aeroplanes, trams and landscapes. His representational paintings are tonal assemblages of oblique geometric detail imbued with dense shadow and vivid Australian light. O’Doherty has been included in numerous art prizes such as the Sulman and the Salon des Refusés.

He has won the Paddington Art Prize for Landscape, the Commendation Award at the Mosman Art Prize and the Alan Gamble Memorial Prize for the built environment.

Commencing in 2014 and running over the next two years, O’Doherty and his wife Susan have a collaborative touring exhibition, Moving house. The exhibition combines Susan’s assemblages depicting various rooms within the house and Peter’s canvases of suburban house façades.

Peter O’Doherty is represented by King Street Gallery on William.

www.kingstreetgallery.com.au

Looking back to Ari Burnu, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 137 x 213 cm
Your friend the enemy

Razor-back, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 90 x 167 cm

Razorback Ridges, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 137 x 152 cm

Pines, Shrapnel Valley, 2014, acrylic on paper, 38 x 40 cm
Susan O’Doherty

Susan O’Doherty is an artist working in a range of media. Her work ranges from large-scale abstract paintings to mixed-media assemblages.

O’Doherty’s considers her assemblages as ‘capsules of accumulated connections across time using ready-made forms’ – objects and items scavenged, collected and re-presented. Her paintings mark time through a more conventional pictorial equivalent, but sustain this persistent enquiry. As the artist states, ‘This body of work relates to the passing of time, the ethereal nature of time, recollections, experiences – lives lived and awareness of mortality’.

www.susanodoherty.com.au
Well known New Zealand artist Stanley Palmer’s father fought at Gallipoli. Palmer lives in Auckland and has worked as a full-time artist since 1968. He began exhibiting in 1958 and his art practice covers both painting and printmaking.

His works are part of public and private collections including Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, City Art Gallery, Auckland and The Dowse Art Museum, Wellington.

Often featuring the coastline or off-shore islands, Palmer’s distinctive prints are produced through a combination of bamboo engraving and lithography.

www.melanierogergallery.com
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Trench, Below Walkers Ridge, 2014, oil on linen, 75 x 160 cm

Phantom Graves, Anzac Cove, 2014, oil on linen, 67.5 x 160.5 cm
Your friend the enemy

Travelling informs the work of respected Australian contemporary painter Amanda Penrose Hart. Her style affirms the pleasures of painting and the evocative power of her materials, reveling in painting in-situ.

Born in Brisbane in 1963 she holds a Diploma of Fine Art from Queensland College of Art and a Bachelor of Visual Art from Griffith University.

She has been exhibiting since 1994 and is regularly included in major prizes such as the NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, The Portia Geach Portrait Prize, The Glover Landscape Prize and the Kedumba Drawing Prize.

Her work is represented in major public and corporate collections including, National Maritime Museum, Sydney, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Queensland; the NSW Bar Association and Macquarie Bank, Sydney and London.

Amanda Penrose Hart is represented by King Street Gallery on William.

www.kingstreetgallery.com.au
Leo Robba

Leo Robba has a Master of Fine Art from Newcastle University with a thesis exploring the topic ‘Regionalism in Australian Landscape Painting’. He is currently completing his PhD — ‘A Changing View: Environment and the Contested Space in Australian Landscape Painting’ — at the Australian National University.

Leo Robba graduated from the Queensland College of Art in 1982 and moved to Sydney in 1983. He has had over 30 solo exhibitions in Australia and New Zealand and has taken part in numerous group exhibitions in Australia and internationally.

His work is represented in many public collections including, Maitland Regional Gallery, Brisbane City Hall Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, New England Regional Art Gallery and Museum, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery and the University of Newcastle.

Leo Robba is represented by King Street Gallery on William.

www.kingstreetgallery.com.au
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Ari Burnu, 2014, oil on tin, 7 x 3 x 1 cm

Dark Morning, Gallipoli, 2014, oil on metal, 8.5 x 15 x 1.4 cm

Blue Pine, Lone Pine, 2014, oil on metal, 11 x 8 x 1.8 cm
Luke Sciberras

Luke Sciberras’ paintings and etchings are based upon the landscapes around Hill End, NSW, where the artist lives and works, following in the footsteps of artists Donald Friend and Russell Drysdale.

Sciberras is a graduate from the National Art School, Sydney, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1997. Since 1999 he has held almost 30 solo exhibitions, including several at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery.

His works are included in many private, public and corporate collections worldwide.

Luke Sciberras is represented by Olsen Irwin Gallery.


With every new landscape comes the artist’s challenge to understand its distinctive feel and tone, its genius loci. Here was a truly unique adventure into a terrain on the edges of the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Europe and Asia, and all at once with a paradoxically Australian history. The escarpments rising from the Aegean Sea are haunted by a collective Australian memory riddled with thousands of stories that are now synonymous with Gallipoli.

If one can imagine watching a foreign film with an Australian accent dubbed over it, there is the experience of being a contemporary Australian painter reflecting on a landscape which is both alien and nostalgic.

Luke Sciberras 2015