

David Cotterrell: Royal West of England Academy : Shock and Awe: Contemporary Artists at War and Peace

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Press release for Shock and Awe exhibition.

Royal West of England Academy

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Shock and Awe: Contemporary Artists at War and Peace 19 July – 17 September

The RWA is about to open its most controversial and compelling exhibition to date; an installation of works by contemporary artists recently exposed to the front-line of war in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

The exhibition is part of the *Bristol 2014 Project*, an extensive programme of events marking the centenary of the start of the First World War and also looking at other conflicts that have had an impact on Bristol over the last century.

Each participating artist has created their own powerful response to conflict, building on personal and collective memories, whether by examining acts of remembrance, the notion of art as a warning or as a form of protest. In the run up to the opening of the exhibition the RWA in conjunction with the Bristol 2014 project looks at what inspires the artists, their ways of working and how they have coped in highly demanding, often very stressful conditions.

David Cotterrell is an installation artist who has used different media and technologies to explore the social and political tendencies of a world at once shared and divided.

His works *Sightlines Series* and *Gateway Series* records the arduous work of the British Medical Corps.

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