The complex canvas was carefully planned by the artist before the first brushstroke. There is the perfumery of war — as well as blood red poppies, other flora and birds from specific battlefields.

PHOTO: Canberra artist eX de Medici, who does not want her face shown, in front of a work of hers unveiled at the Australian War Memorial.

The delicate art of the watercolourist and the brutal hardware of warfare now sit at close quarters at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

The eye-catching Cure for Pain, a four-metre-long depiction of mortality and equality in death, has been installed in the AWM’s mezzanine gallery, which overlooks the memorial’s World War II war planes.

Acclaimed Australian artist eX de Medici has produced an image that might, on first viewing, appear incongruous and potentially jarring.

Updated Mon 27 Mar 2017, 7:19pm By Andrew Bell

acquired by Australian War Memorial
Cure for Pain: Powerful work by elusive artist eX de Medici
Cure for Pain reflects Australia's involvement in conflict over the last century, with a variety of upturned military helmets strikingly placed across the canvas. "The helmets go through generations of conflict from the Australian perspective and that of our former foes," de Medici said as she officially unveiled the work today. "This is powerful stuff. This is a painting for the ages," Dr Nelson said as he officially unveiled the painting.

"The helmet represents the individual as well as the historic context," Dr Nelson said of Erika Krebs Woodward's work. "It is an approach that captured the eye of the Australian War Memorial's director, Dr Brendan Nelson. "The helmet represents the individual as well as the historic context." "The helmets are a stand-in for a human, rather than make a human face," she said. "And then you'll see the pigeons, you see a serpent at the bottom, the poppies ... the opium poppy, the traditional poppy." "The artefacts and the relics, which we proudly display here, behind which are the stories of Australians who have given so much for our nation, are about knowledge. Art is about understanding."

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One of Australia's most significant art acquisitions, the company of Erika Krebs Woodward's work can be found in galleries throughout the country. She was a founding member of the Canberra Contemporary Art Space and her work can be found in galleries throughout the city. Also a tattooist, de Medici grew up in Canberra — and still lives and works here.

Even when she appears on camera, she prefers to protect her identity for personal reasons. "And I always sign on the right because I am left handed." "The idea was completely dismissed in my mind before I began," de Medici said.
Now that her creative work is done, de Medici is more than content to let individual visitors engage with the painting in whatever way they see fit.

"Ultimately an audience does their own interpretation of what is in front of them," she said.

"So I think that is always the issue after you let the work go ... the work belongs elsewhere than your own intent."

Topical: contemporary-art, word-war-i, history, west-indies-and-mex, cambridge-2000, cult, us-politics

First posted: Mon 27 Mar 2017, 5:56pm