



Image: George LAMBERT, *Mouth of the Wadi el Arish* (detail), 1918 watercolour and gouache with pencil on paper, 35.5 x 25.4 cm image courtesy Australian War Memorial, AWM ART02741

Media Release

George Lambert: Gallipoli and Palestine landscapes exhibition opening at the Samstag Museum on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2009

George Lambert: Gallipoli and Palestine landscapes is an Australian War Memorial travelling exhibition drawn from the Memorial's extensive collection of landscape paintings by George Lambert. For the first time in thirty years, visitors will have the opportunity to view these exquisite works.

The exhibition traces Lambert's work through his first journey to Palestine and the Sinai in 1918 and includes those paintings he completed during the Australian Historical Mission to Gallipoli in 1919. Utilising small panel paintings, drawings and watercolours the exhibition will take as its main theme Lambert's representation of significant landscapes and how these connect to individual and national memories of war.

Lambert was employed by the Australian government and worked as an official war artist in Palestine during 1918 documenting the efforts of the ANZAC Mounted Division and AIF. On arrival in the desert he said "I am ridiculously happy". Everywhere he looked he saw "glorious pictures, magnificent men and real top-hole Australian horses". These works are quickly done, light-filled images of open country reminiscent of outback Australia where he had spent much of his youth.

In late 1918 Lambert was asked by Charles Bean to go to Gallipoli as preparation for major commissions – *Anzac, the landing 1915*, and *The charge of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at the Nek, 7 August 1915* – pictures that would form the foundations of the art collection of the proposed national war museum.

The landscape of Gallipoli with its evidence of the trauma and tragedy of Australia's involvement in the Gallipoli campaign was described by Lambert as "stern, unmoved, callous of the human". In Gallipoli, Lambert's palette shifted dramatically to sombre greys, browns and greens and his focus became the ground, the very place holding the bones and residual evidence of Australian action.

On **Wednesday 11 November at 3pm**, exhibition curator Dr Janda Gooding will present a talk about the exhibition followed by afternoon tea.

For further information about the *George Lambert: Gallipoli and Palestine landscapes* exhibition and talk, contact Erica Green, Director, on 08 8302 0870 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

Exhibition continues until 29 January 2010. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 2–5pm, or by appointment.