

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a wolf's eye. The eye is a striking yellowish-gold color with a dark, circular pupil. The surrounding fur is dark and textured, with some highlights that suggest the wolf's face. The overall mood is intense and mysterious.

WOLF

An exhibition by Richard Salter

As both an artist and serving soldier Richard Salter paints his experiences from the heart. WOLF is an exhibition of new works that explore his observations of his physical surroundings often incorporating military symbols that are part of his familiar environment.

His work draws on his experiences on Operations, and he reveals the exhibition 'is based around my past experiences and fears, WOLF being the darkest fear that creeps around my unconscious'.

I first encountered Richard's work at the Army Arts Society's 2015 Annual Exhibition at The Young Galleries, Salisbury and awarded him the Serving Soldier Prize for his beautifully rendered but disturbing small bronze sculpture 'The Meaning of Life'. By juxtaposing a scarab beetle crawling over a hand grenade the work conveys a sense of anxiety.

The paintings in this exhibition focus on the vulnerable young people exposed to conflict, a recurring subject in his work. Richard asserts 'the one thing that always stays with me is the children trapped in that environment. . . children who images still haunt me.'

Works such as 'Smoke I' and 'Smoke II' capture the feeling of waiting for relief, or 'Scars' where he incorporates the physical surface of the materials into the painting to suggest a physical tension in the work.

However despite the sombre subject matter he manages to convey a sense of beauty in the images reminding us of the power of art to communicate raw emotion that perhaps can't be expressed in other ways.



A poem created to lure the viewer into the mind-set Richard was in whilst facing a particular Wolf:

*White mist rose from the unseeable ground,
The forest dark...but I knew he was there, waiting in the dusk,
Silent I became,
Still I became,
His breath I could hear,
Closer, closer, I dare to run, compressing the thought my intention,
Stronger he fights, time fosters his soul,
I am helpless.*

*Frozen still, I can but watch,
His eyes pierce deep from afar,
Locked on target the beast descends,
I blink and he is upon me.*

*Face to face,
I can now see,
I am he,
He is me.*

*I carry on,
Day by day,
He has not gone,
But now I see.*



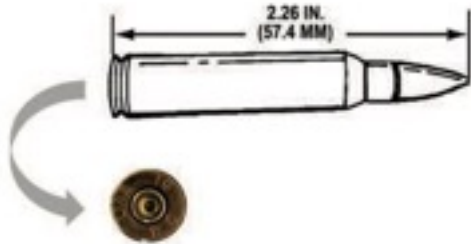
2016, Scars, 79x60cm, Oil on Panel

AWARDS

- 2015 First Prize AAS, presented by Emma Stibbon RA
- 2015 National Army Museum Award
- 2015 Finalist, BBC's Big Painting Challenge
- 2014 Serving Artist First Prize Army Art Society
- 2014 Best in Show RU - Army Art Society
- 2013 War Artist of the Year RU (Presented by Ken Howard OBE, RA)
- 2013 Best in Show RU - Army Art Society
- 2012 Armed Forces Art Society Award
- 2011 National Army Museum Templar Award

THE SIGNATURE

Richard signs his original works with the brass end of a spent shell, all of which have been physically fired through the Army's standard rifle: 5.56mm SA80 L85A2.



The dot in the centre of the brass donates where the rifles firing pin struck the shell to detonate.



2016, Bronze Sombre II, 61x54cm, Oil on Panel

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Salter has served over 19 years in the British Army, he studied Fine Art with Buckinghamshire University. He has painted throughout his military career pulling on the diverse array of Operational environments to influence his work which creates an emotional journey from the heart, being dubbed as “a poet in paint” by Art critic Daphne Todd OBE.

He has won a string of awards, his most recent being the prestigious National Army Museum Award 2015, HRH Prince Harry commented on his work saying it was “absolutely brilliant”. Richard feels very privileged to have his exhibitions written on by Royal Academicians and have his work in various collections which include Museums in London, York and Dorset.

You may have also seen him on screen where he competed with 6,500 other UK Artist’s for a top ten place on the BBC prime time show “The Big Painting Challenge 2015” where he went on to become runner up and exhibited his work in Tate Britain, London.

COLLECTORS:

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

KOHIMA MUSEUM

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS INCLUDING VARIOUS CELEBRITIES

