



THE RECKONING

Kate Stevens

28 February – 16 March 2025

Platform

19 Furneaux St Manuka ACT

canberracontemporary.com.au

[@platform_canberracontemporary](https://platform_canberracontemporary)

This exhibition investigates the implications of war crimes committed by Australia's Special Forces during the war in Afghanistan. The works depict the whistleblower soldiers that spoke up at great personal cost, alongside sites and locations of the alleged murders of civilians in Afghanistan, and notes taken during the recent defamation trial of Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith. 2 Squadron SASR (of which Roberts-Smith was a member on some of his rotations in Afghanistan) was disbanded after the findings of the Brereton report. During the war in Afghanistan the squadron called themselves 'The Bushrangers' and had an insignia showing a person in a Ned Kelly mask holding two guns. This work looks at who we mythologise as heroes in Australia, and which voices are erased from the narrative.



1.
Erasure
60 x 84cm
pencil on paper
2025
NFS



2.

Prelude (The Death of Rahul)

100 x 125cm

oil and acrylic on canvas

2024

\$5200

(no image)

3.

Notes on a trial

dimensions variable

pen on paper

2022

NFS



4.

The Mission (Redacted)

41x102cm (2 panels each 41 x 51cm)

oil and airbrush paint on canvas

2024

\$4800



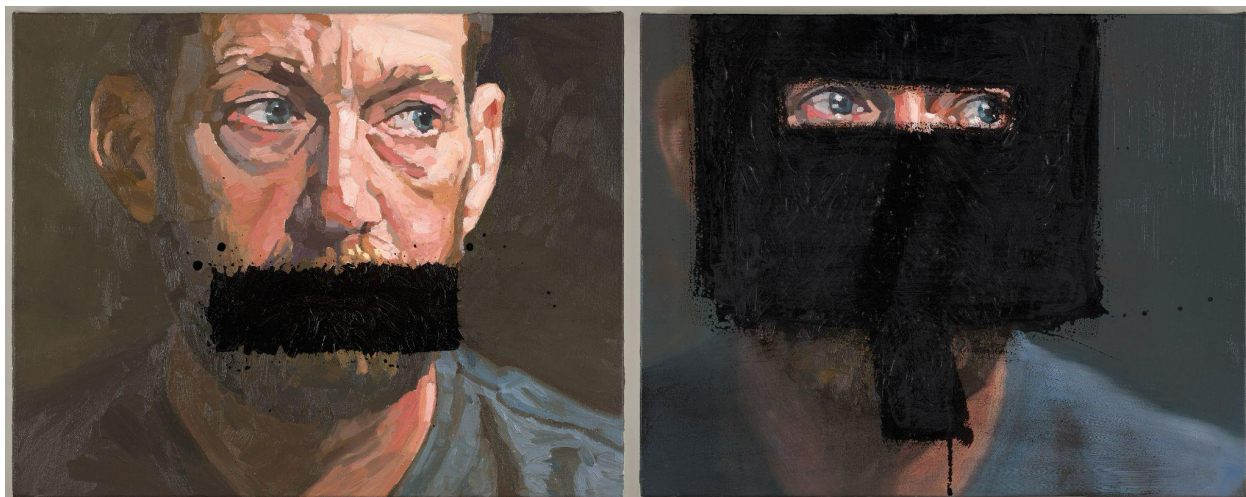
5.
WITNESS (Braden, Afghanistan, 2012)
175 x125cm
oil on canvas
2023
\$9500



6.
WITNESS (Dusty, Afghanistan, 2012)
175 x 125cm
oil on canvas
2022
\$9500



7.
The Mission (Redacted) #2
100 x 125cm
oil on canvas
2024
Sold



8.

Witness

41 x112cm (2 panels)

oil and airbrush paint on canvas

2024

\$5800



9.
The Mission (redacted) #3
112 x 132cm
oil and oilstick on canvas
2024
\$6200



10.
Ned
41 x 51cm
oil and airbrush paint on canvas
2024
\$2800



11.
The Mission (redacted) #4
 112 x 132cm
 oil and oilstick on canvas
 2025
 \$6200

(no image)
 12.
The Fall
 1000 x 150cm
 pencil and watercolour on paper
 2023
 NFS

Kate Stevens is an artist whose work focuses on Australian narratives of distant conflicts, most recently with works addressing the failures of Australia's involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

Her work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions including at Sydney Contemporary and the Canberra Contemporary Art Space, and she received the 2021 Evelyn Chapman Art Award.

Her paintings are held in the collections of Artbank, ACT Legislative Assembly, ACT Health, CMAG (Canberra Museum and Gallery) and numerous private collections, and she has twice been the recipient of the prestigious Portia Geach Memorial Award for portraiture.

Photography credit: Stephen Best

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