



Fred McSherry
after 1914

Warren G. Flowers Gallery
November 6 to 29, 2014
Vernissage ~ November 6, 5:30pm

The Warren G. Flowers Gallery is pleased to present Fred McSherry's exhibition, *after 1914*, recent paintings and prints after photographs from World War I. On the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the war, this exhibition offers a visual elegy and meditative lament on the tragedy of war. Comprised of paintings and prints inspired by photographic portraits of soldiers and witnesses of WWI, as well as prints reworking propaganda posters circulating at the time, the exhibition pays homage to those who fought and died in that war, and considers the various ways in which the participants might have been called to action.

Rendered through paintings and artist's proofs, the photographic moment of the portrait sitting is extended and expanded. Not only does the transformation from photograph to painting and etching involve a sustained reflection on this historical instant, but McSherry's portraits also take form through a succession of gestures rather than the single, all encompassing split second of the camera shutter. Building the images from a progression of studied component parts, unique faces and stances separate the one from the many, the individual from the group. Though the painting may be more abstract—the detail of the photographed faces is hollowed into a mask—the people pictured are no less real. Indeed, the hand working of the painting responds to the embodied experience of each person facing the camera, each soldier going off to war.

The artist's reworking of mass-produced propaganda posters from the same period draws attention to the ideological productions that support war. While the images reflect upon the discursive production underwriting the First World War, their heroic and nationalist language echoes similar sentiments to those that support war today.

Fred McSherry is a Montreal-based, multimedia artist whose performance, installation, book-works, paintings and etchings address a range of social, cultural and political concerns: from the struggle for affordable housing, to the digitization of knowledge, and more recently, viewing WWI from an anti war perspective.

Located within Dawson College, **The Warren G. Flowers Gallery** was established to help promote cultural interest in the visual arts. The gallery features exhibitions by practicing faculty, graduating students, alumnae, emerging and invited professional artists from Canada and abroad.

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