



THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM RE-OPENS *TRUTH AND MEMORY* EXHIBITION

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER
CLARE FORD-WILLE AND NICHOLAS FRIEND

The Imperial War Museum finally assumes centre stage in the UK commemorations of the centenary of WWI. With a date chosen to coincide with the outbreak of the 1914 conflict one hundred years ago, 19 July 2014, a transformed IWM London reopens to the public. A £40 million investment has created new First World War Galleries on the lower ground floor, a redesigned atrium with iconic tanks and airplanes displayed in staggering ways, and a café opening directly onto Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park. Lord Norman Foster, founder of Britain's largest architectural practice, provided the masterplan for the site. The museum opens with the largest exhibition of British First World War art for almost 100 years; *Truth and Memory* highlighting how artists of all ages, traditions and backgrounds represented the unprecedented events of the First World War:

CRW Nevinson's painting *La Mitrailleuse*, reveals enigmatic distinctions between human flesh and heavy artillery, Paul Nash's *We Are Making a New World*, shows the violation of the landscape as a metaphor; Eric Kennington's life-like image of *The Kensingtons at Laventie*, honours ordinary soldiers, George Clausen's *Youth Mourning*, hauntingly sets a young woman in a barren landscape; Anna Airy's *Shop for Machining 15- Inch Shells*, reveals the sweatshop conditions many women suffered in support of the nation's war effort. The final section of the exhibition will focus on the Hall of Remembrance designed by Lord Beaverbrook's British War Memorials Committee. John Singer Sargent's elegiac *Gassed* and Wyndham Lewis's modernist canvas *A Battery Shelled*, will be displayed alongside Jacob Epstein's *The Tin Hat* and Eric Kennington's studies for his *Soissons Memorial to the Missing*.

MEET 11 am at the entrance to the Imperial War Museum

ENDS 4 pm at the Imperial War Museum

COST £75 members, £85 non-members, including lunch