



John Afflick





Do we really remember?

Giclee on paper edition of 95
18" x 25"

This amazing picture, created by celebrated artist John Afflick, is a combination of old and new influences sympathetically combined and designed to make us sit back and reflect. "Do We Really Remember?"

It's probably not the case that we don't care; more that we are almost ambivalent to the sacrifice made by the First World War soldiers. We are all too busy with our daily lives, our mobile phones, our music devices and the like to ever really think about who made all this possible, and who provided our way out.

As you look up the staircase to the top the artist has added a halo effect of light and the sign shows us all the 'Way Out' which is very poignant. The modern people don't even see the war heroes on the way down; they are all too busy just being busy!

The artist captures every human emotion and depicts this in the faces and general demeanour of the soldiers. Love, care, friendship, despair, resignation, hopelessness, sadness, courage, the list goes on. As for the war heroes themselves, they are all long gone, but let's hope never forgotten. The two soldiers in the bottom right and left of the picture stare out intently at the viewer and ask the question: "Do You Really Remember?" Well, do we?

There is much debate as to what actually happened during the 'Christmas ceasefire' of 1914, with some accounts viewing the unusual event in a more positive light than others, however, to this day, this 'Christmas Truce' is often celebrated as a symbolic 'moment of peace in an otherwise devastatingly violent war'.

As December approached, it was clear that 'the war would not be over by Christmas', and on Christmas Eve itself, cold frosts settled in on certain parts of the Western Front. In accordance with German tradition, soldiers marked the main night of German festive celebration with candles and trees that went up along parts of the German line..And as darkness fell, the entrenched German and British soldiers engaged in a carol sing-off. This was to be followed by other exchanges of greetings, souvenirs and food between British and German troops fighting in the First World War, not to mention the most iconic and enduring image of soldiers playing football.

When word of the truces reached angry military authorities, it was demanded that they were to cease immediately, with significant consequences for anybody disobeying orders. And so the Great War continued, with the devastation we would rather forget.

In this painting John immerses us in this famous Christmas ceasefire with his depiction of a soldier leaving his trenches and approaching the 'enemy' in no man's land as his fellow countrymen gaze on in wonder and anticipation rather than with the horror that we traditionally associate with war.



Common Ground In No Man's Land

Giclee on paper edition of 95

21" x 30"

"I use a very traditional method of painting which is systematically constructed from start to finish and is reminiscent in practice to the Great Master painters."

John Afflick

John Afflick was born in 1967 in Liverpool, Merseyside. After serving in the British Army for 3 years he studied Fine Art at Liverpool John Moores University.

His work is predominantly inspired by renaissance painters and is immaculately finished using traditional techniques, often concentrating on fascinating and alluring figures sometimes with a humorous or hidden narrative.

John has exhibited extensively and has been shortlisted for and received many awards, including 'Not the Turner Prize', Mall Galleries, London (2004), 'The Football Prize', The Lowry, Manchester (2006), 'Regional Finalist,' Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year (2013) and 'Winner of the Best Portrait Award, West Lancashire Open Exhibition (2013). His 12 foot altar-piece on permanent display in 'The Church Of The Holy Innocents' Hammersmith, London, has been very much acclaimed and is a testament to his unique artistic ability.



The Art of John Afflick is available from
buy-art-online.co.uk