



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2011

WHAT: WAR VETERANS – A Commemoration through Art, Theater, Literature, and Film

WHEN: Monday, October 31 through Saturday, November 19

WHERE: University of Massachusetts Amherst , various locations

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos>

WAR VETERANS: A COMMEMORATION THROUGH ART, THEATER, LITERATURE, AND FILM

The War Veterans Commemoration includes a series of events on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus to honor and commemorate veterans for serving our country. These events presented by the UMass Fine Arts Center are in collaboration with the Springfield Vet Center, Veterans Education Project of Amherst, UMass Veteran Services, UMass Student Union Art Gallery, and On The Same Page Northampton.

In addition to saluting the veterans who served during WWII, the Korean War, Viet Nam, and Gulf War, this project will enlighten the community about the issues facing soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan and how creative outlets help the healing process. Our troops are finding many challenges as they try to adapt back into civilian society. We hope that these events on the UMass campus will help educate the campus community and the general public on the needs of Veterans and their families. Other art institutions around the country are also aware of the need to reach out to veterans and to create outlets to support them. Art is powerful, and through art Veterans can start their healing process. All events are free except for the theater production of *The Things They Carried*.

The commemoration begins November 2nd with two visual art exhibit openings and a play based on Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things they Carried* which was also part of Northampton's Big Read this fall. **Creative Expressions An Art Exhibit by War Veterans** runs October 31 – November 19 with an opening reception on **November 2, 5-7pm** at the UMass Student Union Art Gallery. The exhibit will feature paintings, photographs, drawings, sculptures, poems, and video by veteran artists from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California. Artists include Ron Angelo, Harry Azmitia, Jr., Leonard Baskin, Ben Brody, Derek A. Berman, Russel B. Cross, Raul Gonzalez, Ray Hunt, Keith Hollingworth, Larry Kleinschmidt, Kevin Kone, Roger Lafortune, Rob Long, Brian Mooney, Amy Morin, Jim Munroe, Dirk Oltmann, Stan Phillips, Albert Sanchez, David Scott, Frank Tencza, Peter Upton, Philip Van Cott, and Michael Zeis. Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 10am–5pm and Friday–Saturday, 10am–3pm.

At the same time Memorial Hall on the UMass Campus will open its doors for the exhibit **I Was There Stories of War and Homecoming** running November 2–18, **Opening: November 2, 4–5pm**, featuring a collection of photographic portraits of Veterans by David Turner paired with stories that explore themes of Tim O'Brien's book. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Hallmark Institute of Photography. Memorial Hall is open M–F, 8am to 5pm.

That evening at 7:30pm in Bowker Auditorium the Asian Arts & Culture program will present **The Things They Carried** by **Tim O'Brien**, an American Place Theatre Literature to Life® Stage presentation. This production is the acclaimed one-person performance derived from Tim O'Brien's masterful best-selling novel, based on the author's experience as an Army infantryman serving in the Vietnam War. General Admission: \$15; FC, GCC, STCC & 17 & under \$10
Tickets: 1-800-999-UMAS, 413-545-2511 or online at www.fineartscenter.com.

Later in the month on November 17th a panel discussion will take place about **Art and the War Experience** at 5pm in the Campus Center Cape Cod Lounge. The panel features artists and writers whose work have been motivated and informed by military and wartime experience, and explores the experience of war and homecoming. Participants include **Doug Anderson**, author of the award-winning collection of poetry about the Vietnam War, *The Moon Reflected Fire* and a memoir of service as a medical

corpsman with USMC infantry. **Matt Mitchell**, an artist who is painting portraits of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for his national *100 Faces of War Experience* project. **Tyler Boudreau**, a former USMC infantry officer, Iraq veteran, UMass graduate student, and author of a wartime memoir, *Packing Inferno*, and a novel in progress. The panel is free and open to the public.

Interspersed among all these activities will be a series of **War on Film**, featuring war-related movies ranging from drama to documentary and comedy, November 5, 9, & 15 in the Campus Center Cape Cod Lounge, free and open to the public. The film series includes:

November 5:

6:30pm – In The Valley of Elah. Tells the story of a war veteran, his wife and the search for their son, a soldier who recently returned from Iraq.

9pm – Courage Under Fire. First major film about American's role in the Gulf War

November 9:

6:30pm – The Hurt Locker – Introduced by Anne Ciecko, UMass Associate Professor of Communication. Oscar for Best Movie in 2010. Based on the writings of journalist Mark Boal about his personal experiences with a bomb squad.

9pm – Catch 22, a comedy adaptation of Joseph Heller's antiwar novel

November 15:

6:30pm – RESTREPO – Introduced by Rob Wilson, Director of Veterans Education Project of Amherst. A moderated discussion by Rob Wilson will follow. A feature-length documentary that chronicles the deployment of a platoon of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan's Korengal valley.

9pm – Full Metal Jacket – Introduced by Christian Appy, UMass History Professor. Based on Gustav Hasford's novel *The Short Timers*, this film about the Vietnam War, concentrates on a group of raw Marine Volunteers.

For more information about these events please visit www.fineartscenter.com/vet or call 413-545-4164. For tickets to *The Things They Carried* call 1-800-999-UMAS 413-545-2511 or go online to www.fineartscenter.com. This project was supported in part by Baystate Medical practices, *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, New England Public Radio, the Veterans Education Project, the UMass Alumni Association, UMass Arts Council, UMass Fine Arts Center Friends Residency Fund, and On the Same Page Northampton.

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WAR VETERANS: A COMMEMORATION THROUGH ART, THEATER, LITERATURE, AND FILM SCHEDULE

Creative Expressions

An Art Exhibit by War Veterans

October 31 – November 19

Opening Reception: November 2, 5-7pm

UMass Student Union Art Gallery

Featuring paintings, photographs, drawings, sculptures, poems, and video by veteran artists from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California.

Artists: Ron Angelo, Harry Azmitia, Jr., Leonard Baskin, Ben Brody, Derek A. Berman, Russel B. Cross, Raul Gonzalez, Ray Hunt, Keith Hollingworth, Larry Kleinschmidt, Kevin Kone, Roger Lafortune, Rob Long, Brian Mooney, Amy Morin, Jim Munroe, Dirk Oltmann, Stan Phillips, Albert Sanchez, David Scott, Frank Tencza, Peter Upton, Philip Van Cott, and Michael Zeis

Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10am-5pm

Friday-Saturday: 10am-3pm

I Was There

Stories of War and Homecoming

November 2 – 18

Opening – November 2, 4-5pm

UMass Memorial Hall – 8am-5pm

Free and Open to the Public

A collection of photographic portraits of Veterans by photographer David Turner paired with stories that explore themes of Tim O'Brien's book.

Co-sponsored by the Hallmark Institute of Photography

The Things They Carried

By Tim O'Brien

An American Place Theatre's Literature to Life® Stage presentation

November 2, 7:30pm

Bowker Auditorium

An acclaimed one-person performance derived from Tim O'Brien's masterful best-selling novel, based on the author's experience as an Army infantryman serving in the Vietnam War.

General Admission: \$15; FC, GCC, STCC & 17 & under \$10

Tickets: 1-800-999-UMAS 413-545-2511 www.umassfix.com

Art and the War Experience

Panel Discussion

Thursday, November 17, 5pm

Campus Center Cape Cod Lounge

Free and Open to the Public

A panel of artists and writers whose work has been motivated and informed by military and wartime experience, and explores the experience of war and homecoming.

Doug Anderson, author of the award-winning collection of poetry about the Vietnam War, *The Moon Reflected Fire* and a memoir of service as a medical corpsman with USMC infantry.

Matt Mitchell, an artist who is painting portraits of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for his national *100 Faces of War Experience* project

Tyler Boudreau, a former USMC infantry officer, Iraq veteran, UMass graduate student, and author of a wartime memoir, *Packing Inferno*, and a novel in progress.

WAR ON FILM

November 5, 9, & 15

Campus Center Cape Cod Lounge

Featuring war-related movies ranging from drama to documentary and comedy

All films are free and open to the public

November 5:

6:30pm – In The Valley of Elah

Tells the story of a war veteran, his wife and the search for their son, a soldier who recently returned from Iraq.

9pm – Courage Under Fire

First major film about American's role in the Gulf War

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