

NO MAN'S LAND

WOMEN'S PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Commemorating a hundred years since the First World War, *No Man's Land* presents rarely seen female perspectives on the conflict.

In 1914, when war was declared, women were not allowed to vote or to fight in the armed forces. However, many still wanted to be involved and volunteered to help. Some women used cameras to record their experiences of working and travelling in war zones. This exhibition features historical photographs by three such pioneering women: Mairi Chisholm, a First Aid nurse and ambulance driver in Flanders, Belgium; Florence Farmborough, a nurse with the Russian Red Cross; and Olive Edis, the UK's first officially commissioned woman photographer sent to a war zone. Many of their photographs have never been exhibited before.

The First World War has had a huge impact on society and ideas about roles for men and women. *No Man's Land* features images by three contemporary artists directly inspired by the conflict a century later: Alison Baskerville, Dawn Cole, and Chloe Dewe Mathews. Their work explores a wide range of themes: portraiture and gender roles; public and private histories; and landscape and memory.

Most people think of war photography as dramatic images of male soldiers made by photojournalists. However, *No Man's Land* shows that there are many ways to photograph war, and many different viewpoints to be seen.

No Man's Land is curated by Dr. Pippa Oldfield and is a co-production by Impressions Gallery, Bradford; Bristol Cathedral; The Turnpike, Leigh; and Bishop Auckland Town Hall, County Durham.

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