

Nurses in art

Since the beginning of the 20th century, military nurses have been represented, at work and at rest, by many different artists: from quick sketches completed by recovering soldiers, to detailed works by official war artists.

Examine the following works of art.



Frank Crozier, *Nurse and patient, 3rd Australian CCS France* (c. 1918, oil on wood panel, 23.8 x 27.4 cm)
ART13338

George Coates, *First Australian wounded at Gallipoli arriving at Wandsworth Hospital, London* (1921, oil on canvas, 154.5 x 128 cm)
ART00200



This document is available on the Australian War Memorial's website at <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/resources/nurses>

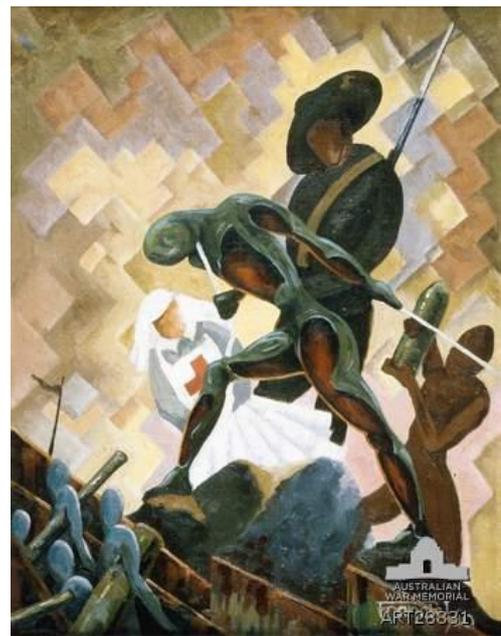
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George Lambert, *Balcony of troopers' ward, 14th Australian General Hospital, Abbassia* (1919, oil and pencil on wood panel, 32 x 45.6 cm) ART02815



Bruce Fletcher, *Medical evacuation, 2nd Field Ambulance, Vung Tau, Vietnam 1967* (1967, oil on canvas on hardboard, 39.2 x 49.4 cm) ART40580

Ivor Francis, *Energy of war 1940* (1940, oil on canvas on cardboard canvas, 44.2 x 34.2 cm) ART28831



Laurence Howie, *Interior of ward, 3rd Australian General Hospital, Abbeville France* (1919, watercolour with pencil on paper, 25.8 x 47.2 cm) ART93081

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Activities

- 1) How are nurses represented in each of the above images? What are they doing?
- 2) Where have these works been produced? How can the location and period be seen in the work? (Look at caption information, environment, and uniforms, for example.)

Research

Research ONE of the artists whose work is shown above: Frank Crozier, George Coates, George Lambert, Bruce Fletcher, Ivor Francis or Laurence Howie.

What is their story/background? Which war did they depict?

Create

Examine the quotes by nurses in the section “What was it like in the First World War?” Paint or draw a scene showing one nurse’s experiences. Be sure to dress your figures in the correct uniforms (see the section “Nurses’ uniforms and activities”).