



Rick Amor, Burnt House, Dili

oil on canvas
painted in Melbourne in 1999
acquired in 2000

(Accession Number 91118)
Australian War Memorial

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About the artwork:

In 1999, Rick Amor travelled to East Timor as an official war artist. Here he spent time with the Australian Interfet peacekeepers, recording their daily activities as well as scenes of the physical destruction of buildings, villages and churches, and the deserted landscapes.

In this work he creates a vivid image of a destroyed house at Dili. All that remains are the crumbling walls and charred trunks of a few trees. His use of sombre and restrained colours charges the work with an eerie silence. Amor, however, records this scene in a matter-of-fact way, creating an image that presents a “heightened form of reality”.

Questions:

- List:
 - all the materials you would need to build the house.
 - all the trades that would be needed to rebuild this house.
- Where would you get all your trades-people from to build this house? Imagine how many you would need if there were hundreds or thousands of houses destroyed.
- What problems would you face in re-building these houses? Remember that not only do you have to build the houses, you also have to bring in lots of trades-people. They would have to have a place to live, eat, etc.
- If you could only take five things from your house before it was burnt down, what would you take? Write a brief explanation of your reasons in selecting each item.
- How would you feel if you had to watch your house burning down?