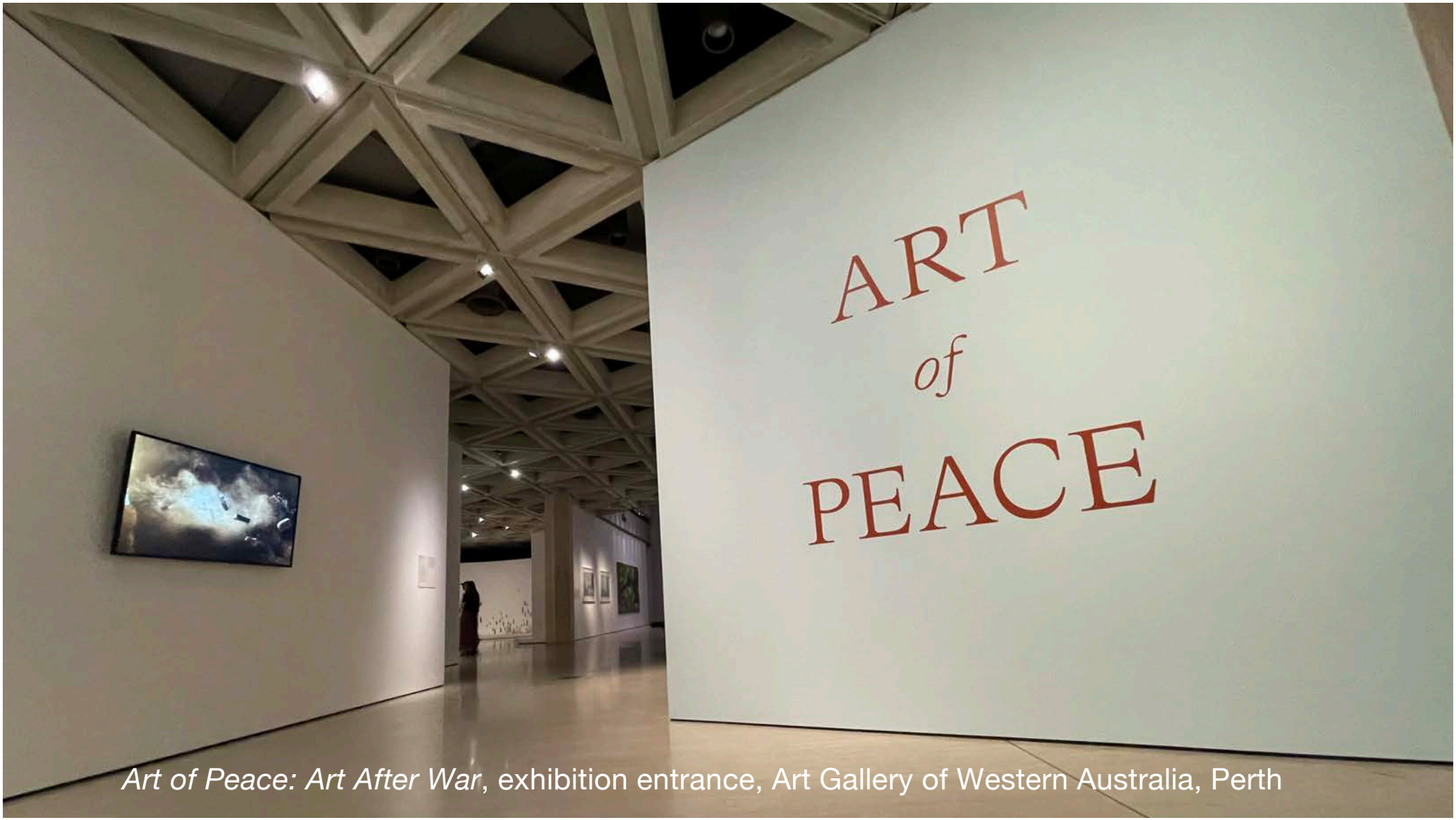
Supporting Document: Visual Documentation

Art of Peace

Exhibition Documentation



Art of Peace: Art After War, exhibition entrance, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

Art of Peace: Art After War, exhibition, 1 February – 29 June 2025.
Photo: Henry Whitehead, Lucida Studio

Art has long served as a tool for preserving stories, sustaining cultural practices and envisioning new futures. In times of war, it becomes a vital tool for confronting the devastation of the past and imagining possibilities of peace. Over the past three decades, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda and Timor-Leste have embarked on journeys of recovery, shaped by efforts to reconcile and heal after enduring brutal violence and genocide.

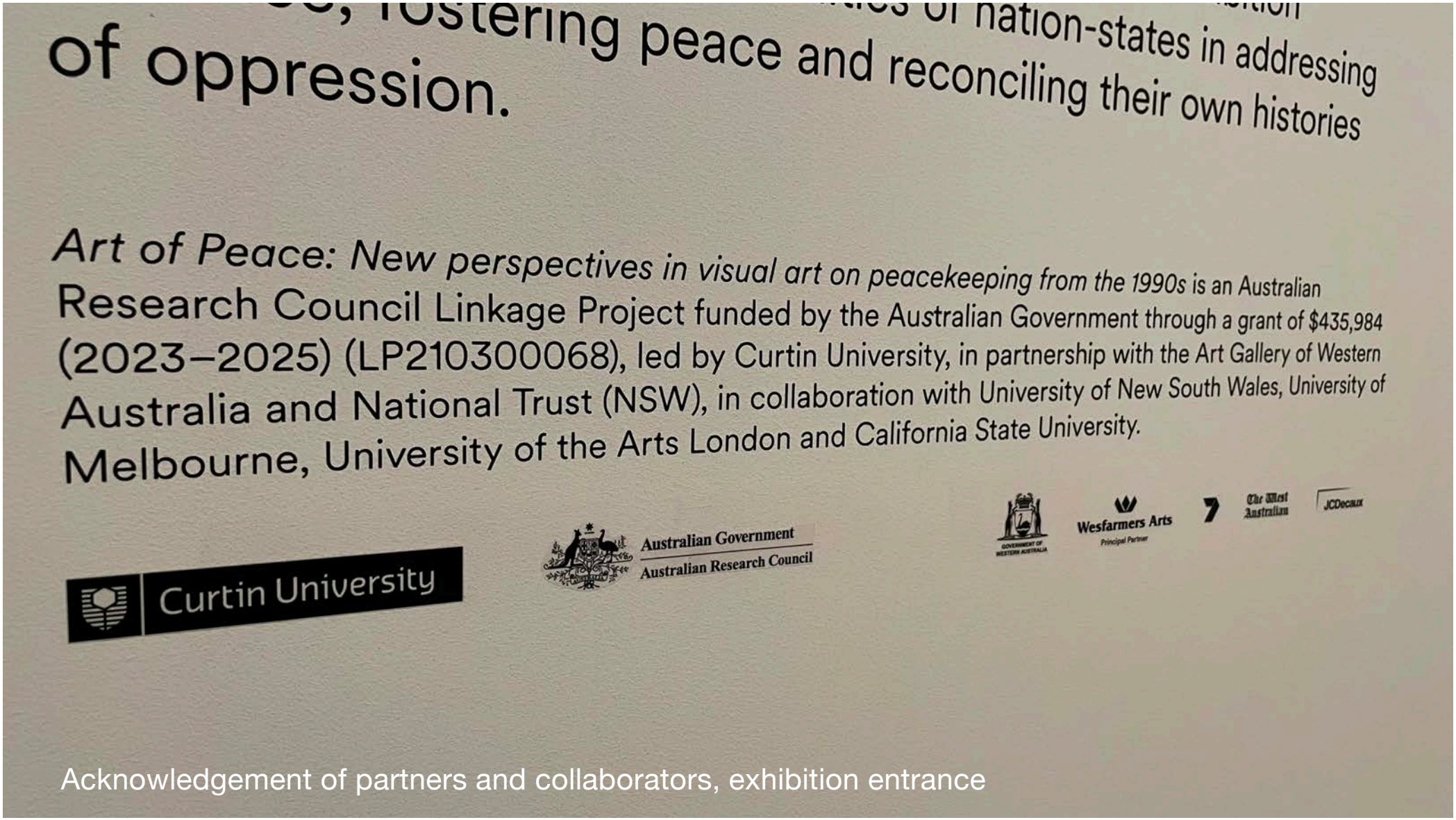
Art of Peace centres the voices of those directly impacted by these conflicts, offering a counterpoint to narratives often shaped by external media and political powers. Unlike these conventional frameworks, the exhibition foregrounds the lived experiences of contemporary parties who survived the violence and are now navigating the complexities of rebuilding societies, families and hope. Through their works, *Art of Peace* illuminates the deeply personal and collective significance of healing though art.

The exhibition features the work of nine artists: Adela Jušic, Mladen Miljanovic and Aida Šehovic from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Teta Chel, Cedric Mizero and Innocent Nkurunziza from Rwanda; and Inu Bere, Maria Madeira and Bernardino Soares from Timor-Leste. Across a range of mediums—video, installation, painting, photography and sculpture—these artists explore themes of trauma, memory and resilience. Their art embodies the lived realities of communities navigating the long-lasting effects of conflict.

Art of Peace also reflects on Australia's history of involvement in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in these regions. While Australia contributed to peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda and Timor-Leste, its role was often shaped by the strategic interests of a nation navigating its own colonial history. Notably, Australia's tacit support for Indonesia's occupation of Timor-Leste exemplifies the contradictions in its foreign policy. At the same time, Australia's involvement in peacekeeping missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, and its later support of Timor-Leste, highlight its engagement with international human rights efforts, even as its own internal contradictions remained unresolved. Australia's continued occupation of unceded Aboriginal land adds another layer of complexity, prompting reflection on the intersections of colonialism, national identity, peacekeeping and accountability. By weaving together these intersections, the exhibition interrogates the responsibilities of nation-states in addressing violence, fostering peace and reconciling their own histories of oppression.

Art of Peace: New perspectives in visual art on peacekeeping from the 1990s is an Australian Research Council Linkage Project funded by the Australian Government through a grant of $435,984 (2023–2025) (LP210300068), led by Curtin University, in partnership with the Art Gallery of Western Australia and National Trust (NSW), in collaboration with University of New South Wales, University of Melbourne, University of the Arts London and California State University.

Art of Peace: Art After War, exhibition didactic text



Acknowledgement of partners and collaborators, exhibition entrance

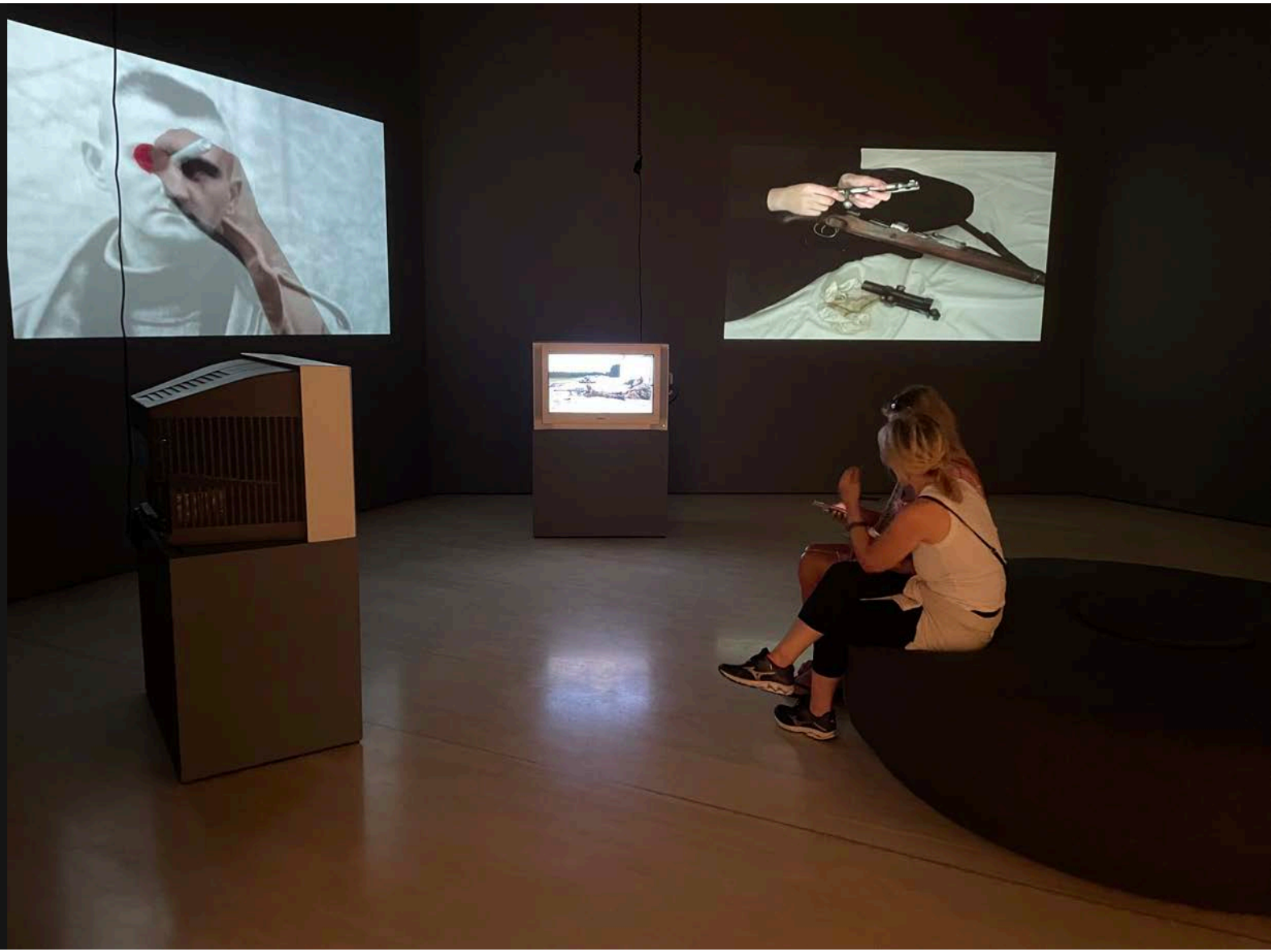
Mladen Miljanović, *The Final Battle*, 2024, 4K video installation with sound, 66 minutes, produced by Introvert Films Berlin and Asimetrik, 2024. Installation view, *Art of Peace: Art After War*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, 1 February – 29 June 2025.

Photo: Henry Whitehead, Lucida Studios

Aida Šehović's *Apartment*, 2021, 2-channel HD video, color, sound, in Bosnian with English subtitles; TV monitor, headphones, media player, projector, speakers, sand bags, 13:40 minutes (loop)

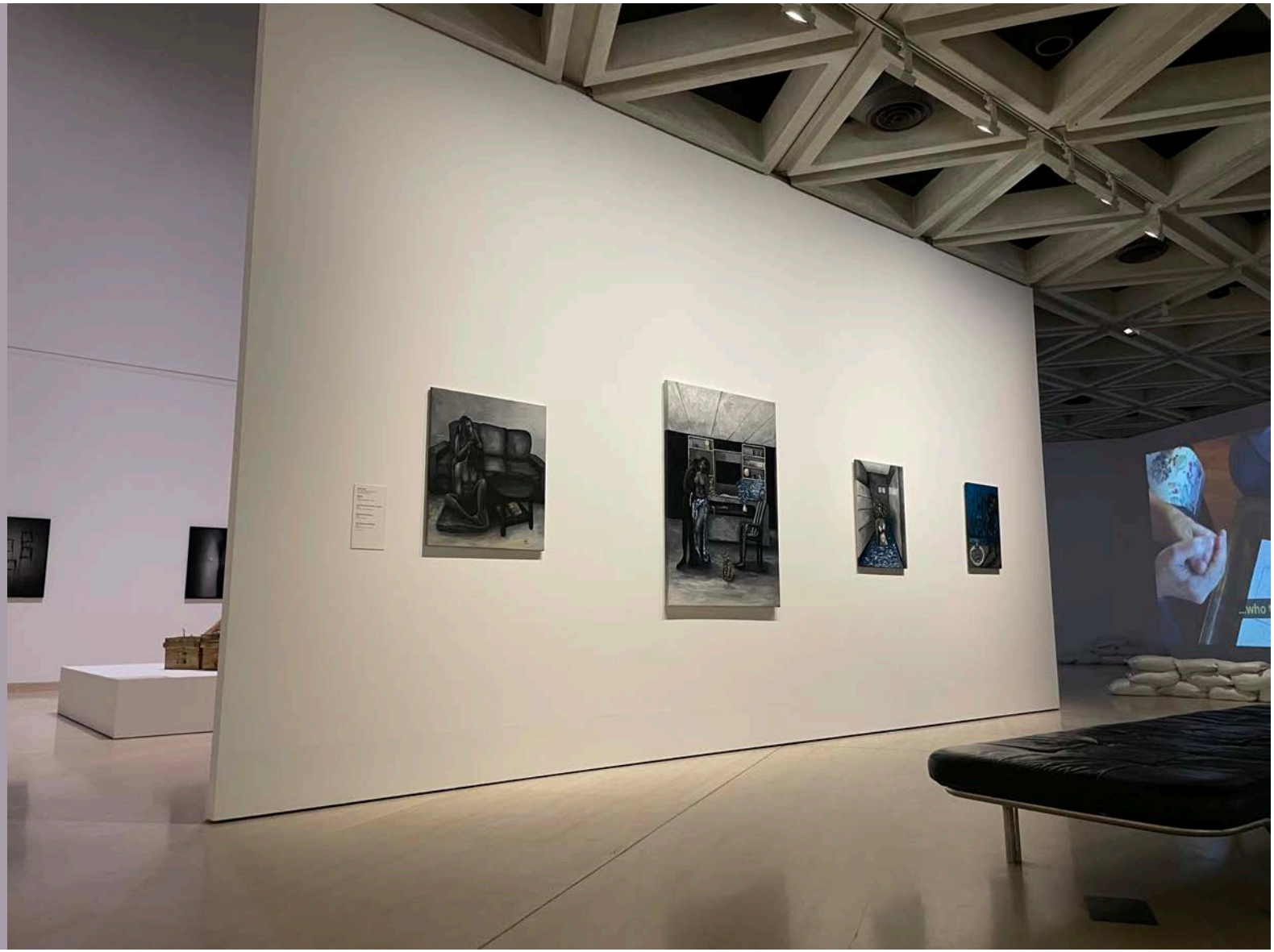
Photo: Henry Whitehead, Lucida Studio

Works by Bosnian artist, Adela Jušić at *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 1 February – 29 June 2025



Works by Rwandan artist, Teta Chel at *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 1 February – 29 June 2025

Photo: Henry Whitehead
Lucida Studio



Works by Rwandan artists, Cedric Mizero and Innocent Nkuruziza at *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 1 February – 29 June 2025

Photo: Henry Whitehead
Lucida Studio

Innocent Nkuruziza
Casket, 2024,
painted metal with
loofahs, 60 x 90 x
65 cm (each), at
Art of Peace:
Art After War,
1 February – 29
June 2025

Photo: Henry
Whitehead, Lucida
Studio

Protection, 2019, sculpture embellished with rosaries and medallions, 17kg wings unfold to 185 x 50 cm, fold to 100 x 50 cm

Photo: Henry Whitehead, Lucida Studio

Maria Madeira,
Well...No, 2024,
tais, betel nut juice,
textile and foam
installation

Photo: Henry
Whitehead,
Lucida Studio

Inu Bére
The three powers in the world, culture, religion and politics
2023–24
acrylic on prepared canvas

Photo: Henry Whitehead, Lucida Studio

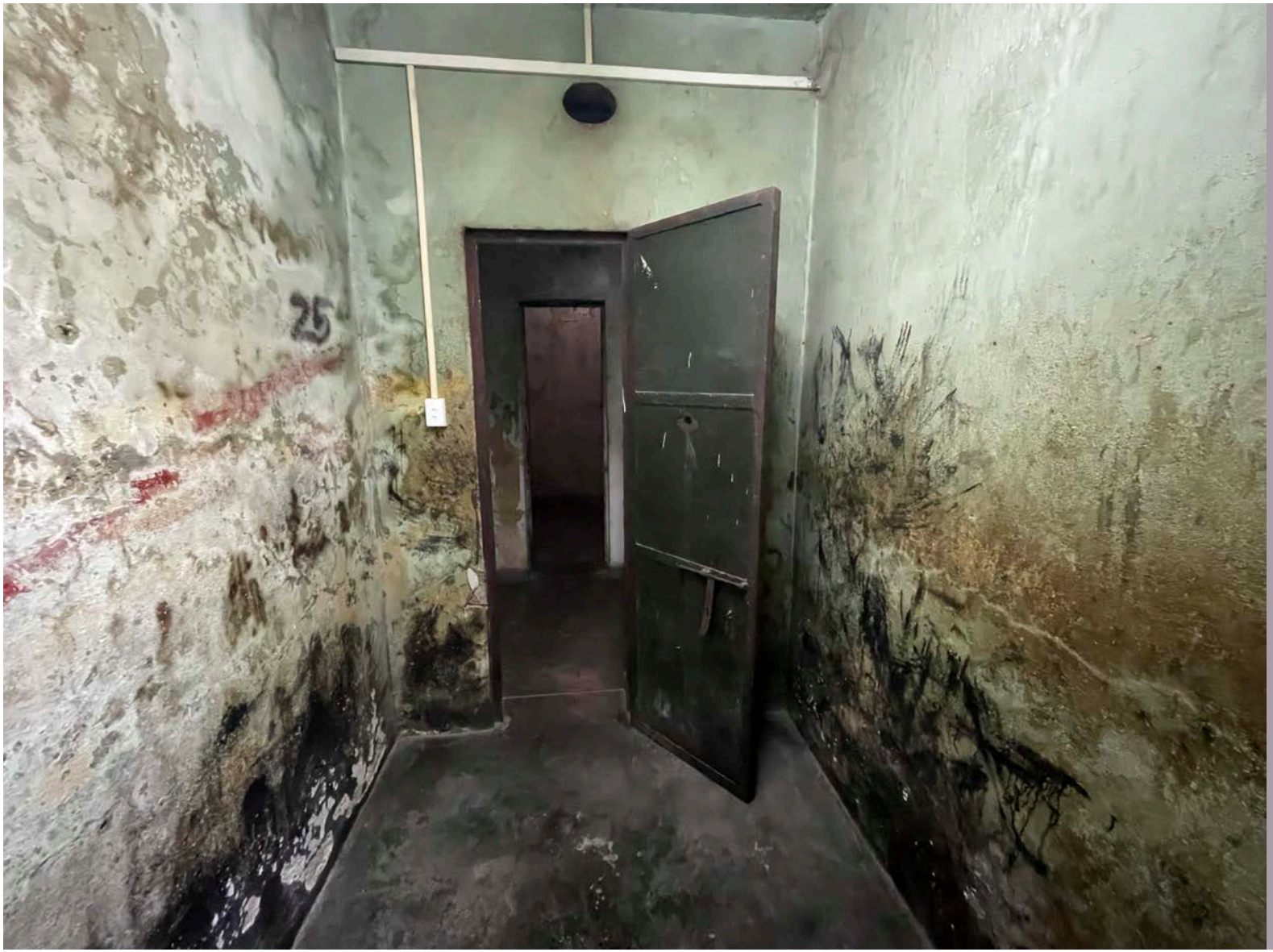
Bernardino Soares,
Fitar, 2016
Inkjet print on
Hahnemuhle satin
paper

Photo: Henry
Whitehead,
Lucida Studio

Art of Peace

Fieldwork: Timor-Leste

Interview with Gelio Neves, Timorese artist, in Dili, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024



Chega Museum, torture cells, Dili, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024.

Chega Museum is an important archive of survivor testimonies to violence during the occupation of East Timor.

Chega Museum archives and testimony recordings, Dili, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Arte Moris Free Art School, Dili, located in the former Australian and New Zealand INTERFET base, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Visit to Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Caitlin Wilson, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Photographer and Art of Peace exhibiting artist Bernardino Soares, Dr Vannessa Hearman, Prof Jon Cattapan and Dr Wulan Dirgantoro, Dili artists' workshop, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Former Australian Official War Artist to Timor-Leste, Prof Jon Cattapan talks with the Dili artists' workshop, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Naldo Rei, Timorese freedom fighter during the Indonesian Occupation (1975-1999), shows a photo of himself during the Indonesian Occupation (1975-1999). Photo taken during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024.

Naldo Rei is the Art of Peace project's Timor Specialist Consultant,

Coastline between Dili and Baucau, on the way to Afalyca artists' collective for interviews, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Interviews with members of Afalyca artists' collective, Baucau, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Dr Vannessa Hearman presenting Curtin gifts to with members of Afalyca artists' collective, Baucau, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May – 10 June 2024

Interview with Gelio Neves, Timorese artist, in Dili, Timor-Leste, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Timorese artist Inu Bere, being interviewed at his studio in Aileu, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Naldo Rei operating the camera at an interview in Aileu, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

Timorese Artist Zezinha Piedade with friends and Dr Wulan Dirgantoro and Prof Kit Messham-Muir (foreground), after her interview, during fieldwork in Timor-Leste, 31 May –10 June 2024

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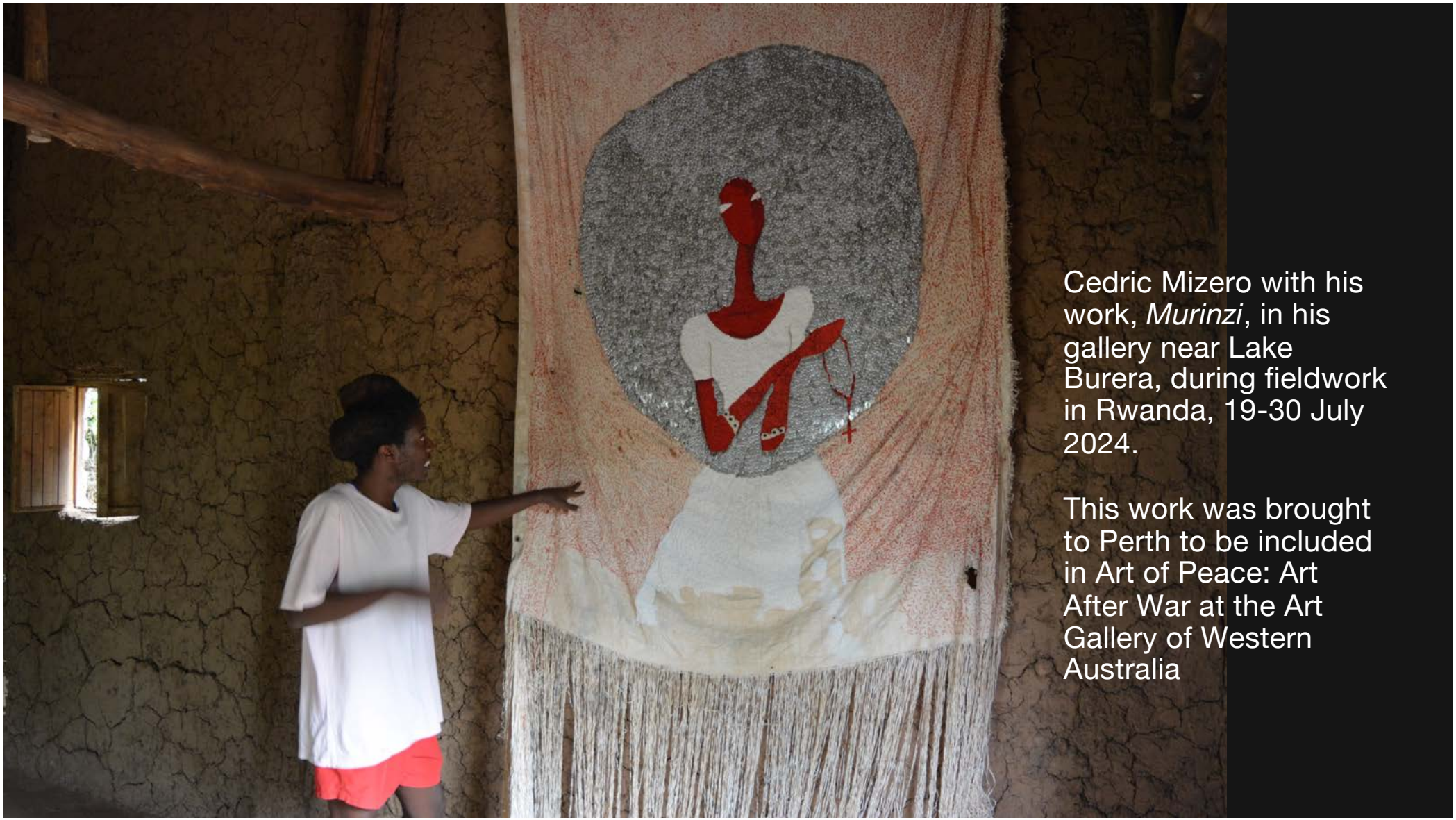
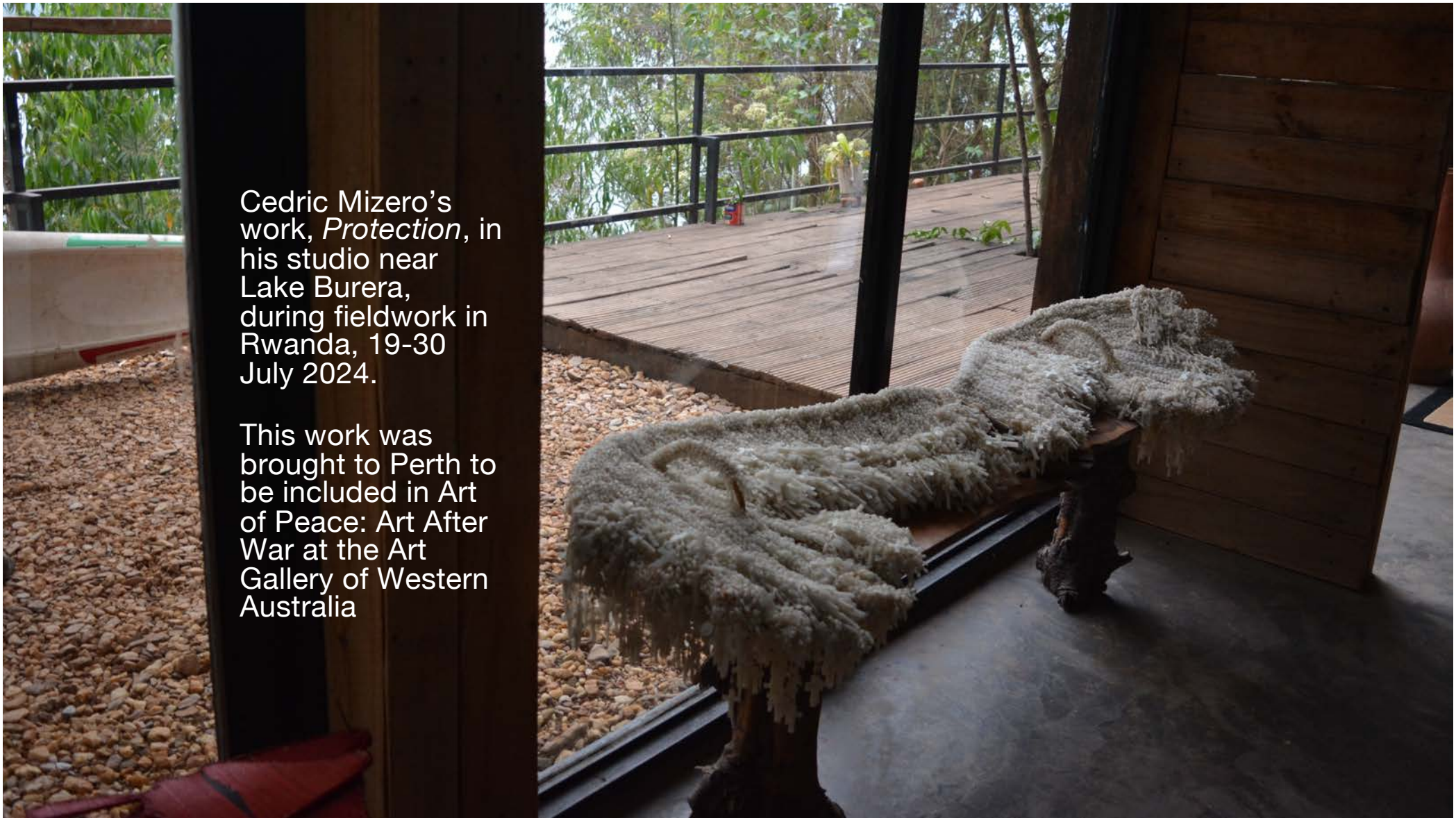
Fieldwork: Rwanda



Cedric Mizero with his work, *Murinzi*, in his gallery near Lake Burera, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024.

This work was brought to Perth to be included in Art of Peace: Art After War at the Art Gallery of Western Australia

The view from Cedric Mizero’s studio near Lake Burera, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024



Cedric Mizero's work, *Protection*, in his studio near Lake Burera, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024.

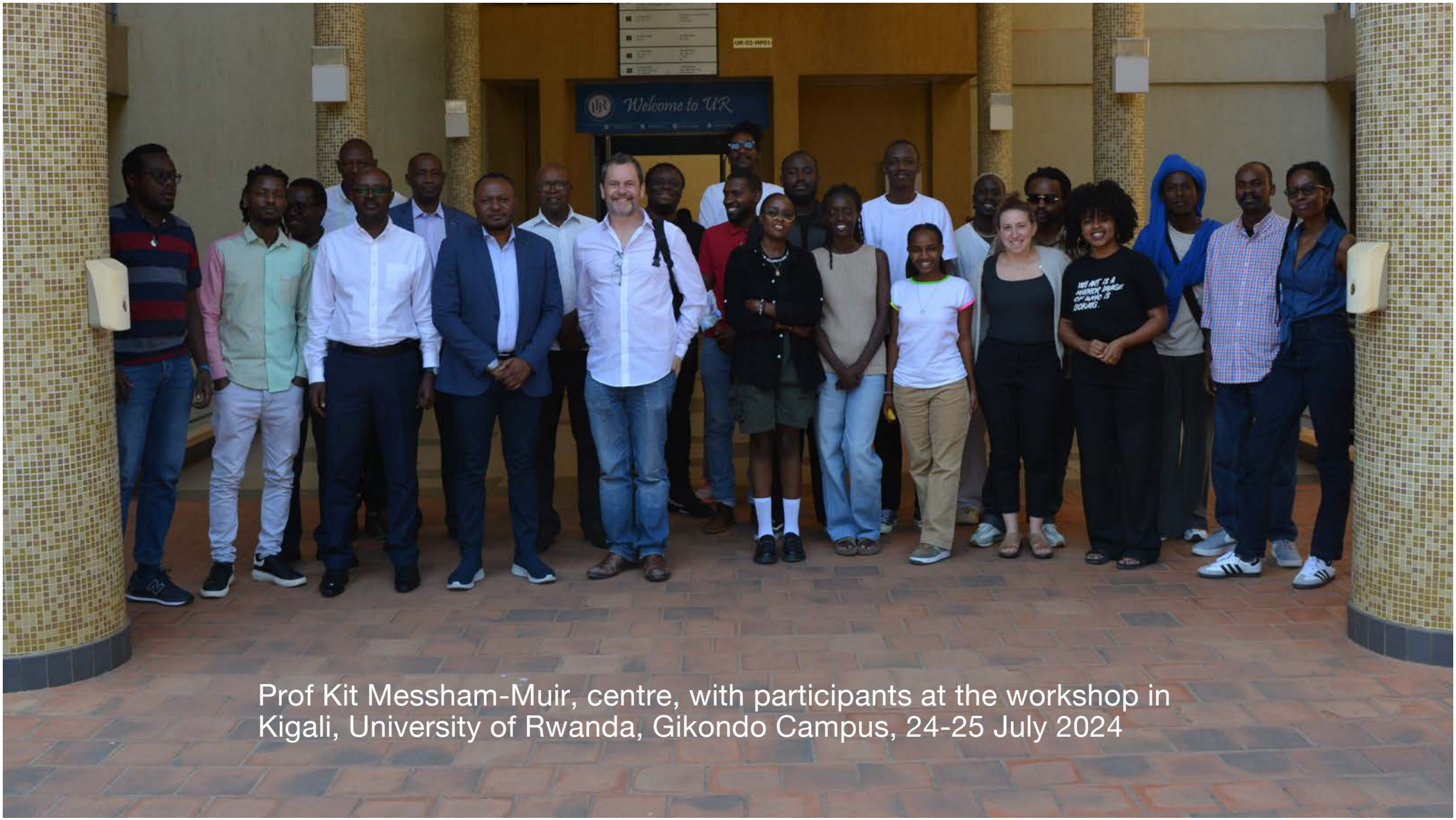
This work was brought to Perth to be included in Art of Peace: Art After War at the Art Gallery of Western Australia

Art of Peace Rwanda fieldwork team Talia Lieber, A/Prof Sarah Minslow and Prof Kit Messham-Muir, meet Thomas Bazatsinda (former Director of Rwandan Ethnographic Museum), Jean Baptiste Sebukangaga (legendary Rwandan artist), Jerome Karangwa Director of Research at Rwanda Museums, in Butare, Huye, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024

Innocent Nkurunziza presenting at the workshop in Kigali, University of Rwanda, University of Rwanda, Gikondo Campus, 24-25 July 2024

A/Prof Sarah Minslow and Innocent Nkurunziza, in his studio in Kigali, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024

A/Prof Sarah Minslow and Art of Peace Rwanda Specialist Consultant Talia Lieber, visiting the studio of Innocent Nkurunziza, during fieldwork in Rwanda, 19-30 July 2024



Prof Kit Messham-Muir, centre, with participants at the workshop in Kigali, University of Rwanda, Gikondo Campus, 24-25 July 2024

Art of Peace

Fieldwork: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prof Kit Messham-Muir interviewing Mladen Miljanović in his studio in Banja Luka, during fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September—6 October 2024

Interview with Bosnian curator Irfan Hošić at KRAK contemporary art gallery in Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September 2024

Fieldwork in the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, Potačari, during fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September—6 October 2024

Graffiti in Banja Luka, heroising Ratko Mladić, war criminal responsible for the Srebrenica Genocide currently serving a life sentence in The Hague, taken during fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September—6 October 2024

The late Paul Lowe, war photographer and member of Art of Peace's academic team, with Bosnian artist Mladen Miljanovnić and curator Elma Hodžić, at the Historical Museum during fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September—6 October 2024

Prof Kit Messham-Muir in interview with Bosnian artist Adela Jušić at the Historical Museum during fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30 September—6 October 2024

Art of Peace

Exhibition Community Events

Prof Kit Messham-Muir working with the installation team at the Art Gallery of Western Australia during installation of Art of Peace: Art After War, during January 2025

Art Gallery of Western Australia Director, Colin Walker, at the opening of *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 31 January 2025

Curators Prof Kit Messham-Muir (left end) and Bahar Sayed (right end), with Naldo Rei, Bernardino Soares, Inu Bere and Maria Madeira from Timor-Leste, Cedric Mizero from Rwanda, and Aida Šehović from Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the opening of *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 31 January 2025

Cedric Mizero from Rwanda, in conversation with Talia Lieber at the symposium for *Art of Peace: Art After War*, Curtin University, Perth, 1-2 February 2025

Lead Curator and Art of Peace project Lead CI Prof Kit Messham-Muir during a visit of Curtin University fine art undergraduate students to *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 20 March 2025

Prof Kit Messham-Muir discusses the work of Bernardino Soares during a visit of Curtin University undergraduate students to *Art of Peace: Art After War*, 20 March 2025

Curtin’s Prof Kit Messham-Muir discusses the work of Bernardino Soares during one of the Saturday morning tours of *Art of Peace: Art After War* throughout 1 February – 29 June 2025