

“Compelled to act”: museums in a post-centenary world

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The centenary of World War I in Australia has coincided with a shifting museum landscape in Australia. Exhibitions exploring emotional experience, and the longer-term impacts of actions and behaviors, have increasingly found favor. Although part of a larger trend towards individual experience, World War I has arguably accelerated these changes.

Museums Victoria’s confronting exhibition [*World War I: Love & Sorrow*](#) presents deeply emotional – and emotive – personal stories. It is one of few exhibitions to represent experiences across the military divide.

The post-centenary museum landscape provides a critical opportunity for museums to lead re-thinking about war, and to re-assess ideas of borders, divisions and conflicts. It is, to quote Museums Victoria, a time when we should all feel “compelled to act”.