

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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**CORCORAN PRESENTS *TIM HETHERINGTON: SLEEPING SOLDIERS*
February 4–May 20, 2012**

“We are used to seeing soldiers as cardboard cutouts. We dehumanize them, but war is a very intimate act. All of those soldiers would die for each other. We're not talking about friendship. We're talking about brotherhood.”

—Tim Hetherington

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This winter, the Corcoran Gallery of Art presents *Tim Hetherington: Sleeping Soldiers* (February 4–May 20), an exhibition of work by the late photographer and multimedia artist Tim Hetherington, highlighting his work chronicling the Afghan War. *Sleeping Soldiers* is organized by Philip Brookman, chief curator and head of research at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

The exhibition includes photographs as well as Hetherington's three-screen video installation *Sleeping Soldiers* (2010), which juxtaposes chaotic scenes of combat with still images of soldiers at rest.

Between 2007 and 2008, photographer Tim Hetherington (1970–2011) was embedded with U.S. Army soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team at Outpost Restrepo, a remote and dangerous post in the Korengal Valley of northeastern Afghanistan. Living with the soldiers during their 15-month deployment, Hetherington recorded all aspects of their experience, from construction of the camp to scenes of intense combat, and through frequent passages of boredom and waiting.



Tim Hetherington, *Afghanistan, Korengal Valley, Kunar Province, Sterling Jones practices his golf swing while at the main KOP [Korengal Outpost] firebase in the valley. Soldiers spend about two weeks at the Restrepo outpost before coming back to the main KOP base, where they can get a hot shower and call their family.*, April 2008. Chromogenic (Lightjet) digital print. Courtesy Estate of Tim Hetherington. © Tim Hetherington/Magnum Photos

“Tim Hetherington’s sought to reach the widest possible audience with his innovative sensibility of multimedia reporting,” said Brookman. “His ability to cross the traditional boundaries between photography and video and between journalism and art led him to rethink the role of news images and how they could be distributed and consumed in a networked world.”

Hetherington made numerous still photographs at Outpost Restrepo for print publications, but he also used video, audio, interviews, and personal writings, even incorporating images of soldiers’ tattoos in his documentation. His complex multimedia journalism was intended not only to represent the platoon’s experience of war with immersive depth but also to reach the widest possible audience. His video footage was featured in the Oscar-nominated documentary *Restrepo*, a collaboration with famed journalist Sebastian Junger. Hetherington’s photographs and other documentation animate his award-winning book *Infidel* (2010). Hetherington also combined media to create *Sleeping Soldiers* (2010). In this revelatory presentation, the artist juxtaposes chaotic scenes of combat with still images of soldiers at rest, allowing viewers to consider the uncertainty, stress, and physical toll of combat in Afghanistan.

Sleeping Soldiers is presented in conjunction with *Shadows of History: Photographs of the Civil War from the Collection of Julia J. Norrell* (February 4—May 20), in the Corcoran’s Photography and Media Arts galleries.

In addition to the exhibition’s public dimension, *Tim Hetherington: Sleeping Soldiers* also presents a considerable study opportunity for students in the Corcoran College of Art + Design’s new Master of Arts in New Media Photojournalism program. This program, the first of its kind, helps visual journalists with varying backgrounds study and address the challenges facing photojournalism today. Located in the nation’s capital, the program draws on a vibrant community of media outlets and renowned photojournalists who make Washington, D.C., their home. The program emphasizes the individual as a visual reporter and encourages experimentation with new ways of storytelling, documentation, and editing, and explores the latest digital practices taught in conjunction with the enduring fundamentals of visual reporting, editing, and ethics. For more information, visit <http://www.corcoran.edu/degree-programs/graduate/ma-new-media-photojournalism>.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Liverpool, England, in 1970, Tim Hetherington was an award-winning photographer, filmmaker, and writer. After studying literature at Oxford, Hetherington completed post-graduate work in photojournalism. He took up photography full-time in the 1990s, spending eight years in West Africa, documenting events and conflicts in Sudan and Liberia, among other countries. Hetherington produced the book *Long Story Bit by Bit: Liberia Retold* (2003), incorporating photography and oral testimony, and contributed video footage to the documentary *Liberia: An Uncivil War* (2004). Both chronicle the violent power struggle between notorious Liberian leader Charles Taylor and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels. He also contributed footage to *The Devil Came on Horseback* (2007), a U.S. Marine captain’s first-person account of the Sudanese genocide.

In 2007, Hetherington traveled to Afghanistan on assignment for Vanity Fair. His coverage was honored with World Press Photo’s prestigious Photo of the Year award in 2007. Hetherington’s video *Sleeping Soldiers* was exhibited at the 2009 New York Photo Festival, and more recently at New York’s Aperture Foundation and at the

Bronx Documentary Center in 2011. Hetherington's documentary film *Restrepo*, co-directed with Sebastian Junger, won the 2010 Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize and was nominated for an Academy Award in 2011.

Tim Hetherington was killed while covering conflict in Misurata, Libya, on April 20, 2011. He is posthumously represented by Magnum Photographs.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



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