

Press Release

Continuing horrors of warfare reflected in sculpture installed at St Paul's

Monday, 30th September 2013

As the UK and wider world prepare to mark next year's centenary of 'the war to end all war', an artwork depicting the continuing human cost of conflict is being displayed at St Paul's.

Sorry, Sorry Sarajevo, a life size bronze sculpture of a man holding another man, dead or badly injured, in his arms, has been placed in the Cathedral and will remain until the end of 2013.

Created by acclaimed artist, Nicola Hicks, the work was made in 1993, at the height of the Bosnian War, since when it has served as a reminder that brutal warfare has continued to rage around the world.

The sculpture is situated at the east of the Cathedral in the Dean's Aisle, directly opposite Henry Moore's 1983 sculpture, [Mother and Child: Hood](#). This juxtaposition will allow people to reflect both on the beauty of birth and relationships, and on the horror of war, murder and bereavement – an important exercise with added poignancy as we approach the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Chancellor of St Paul's said: "The First World War claimed the lives of 16 million people and was described as 'the war to end all war'. However, human conflict did not stop and within Europe as recently as the 1990s, the Bosnian War saw around 100,000 people killed, up to 50,000 women raped and over two million people displaced.

"Nicola Hicks' sculpture is a powerful and affecting study of the true grief of war. It is a military, but also piercingly human, pieta. The universality of the work reminds us that such militarised violence and death are still part of our world, and that history will always record the peacemakers and reconcilers, working to end the carnage, as the blessed ones."

Former Liberal Democrat leader Lord Ashdown, a vocal advocate of British action in the Balkans at that time and later High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, said: "Sarajevo is one of the greatest cities in the world. What it suffered over twenty years ago is a scar that painfully bears many lessons for not only Bosnia's future but the world's. I am really very pleased that Nicola Hicks' sculpture is in St Paul's Cathedral to help those lessons be learned."

VISITOR INFORMATION

Sorry, Sorry Sarajevo can be viewed by all daytime visitors to the Cathedral from September 30. Usual [sightseeing times and charges apply](#) for admission. The sculpture will not be available to view on Sundays. There is never any charge to worship at St Paul's but the sculpture will not be available to view during service times.

PRESS INFORMATION

If you would like to photograph or film *Sorry, Sorry Sarajevo* inside St Paul's, please contact ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

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For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager, St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's Cathedral Arts Programme

St Paul's Cathedral is home to a spectacular array of art; from the delicate carvings of Grinling Gibbons in the quire to Sir James Thornhill's dome murals, as well as the Victorian mosaics and Henry Moore's *Mother and Child: Hood*. The St Paul's Cathedral Visual Arts Programme seeks to explore the encounter between art and faith, offering a powerful and challenging context with which artists can engage. In recent times, a series of interventions by artists including Rebecca Horn, Yoko Ono, Antony Gormley and Bill Viola have further enriched the daily pattern of worship in the Cathedral.

www.stpauls.co.uk/arts

Nicola Hicks MBE

Born in London in 1960, Nicola Hicks studied at Chelsea School of Art, and took her MA at the Royal College of Art. She has exhibited widely and has been awarded an MBE for her contribution to the visual arts.

Hicks' practice adeptly combines discipline and skill to create sculptural works with both charming and menacing qualities. The study of anatomy and drawing is essential to her work. Although not concerned with mimetic representation her achievement is founded on a unique ability to capture the physicality and psychology of the animal and human figures she creates. Working primarily with plaster, straw and huge sheets of brown paper on which she works up her dynamic charcoal drawings, many of her sculptures have subsequently been cast in bronze, often with such subtlety that every fragile detail of plaster and straw is reproduced.

www.flowersgallery.com/artists/nicola-hicks/