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## NEWS

### Baptist Coelho launch marks *Traces of War* exhibition

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The Department of War Studies was delighted to host a launch for Leverhulme Artist in Residence, [Baptist Coelho](#) and the upcoming exhibition, *Traces of War* on Wednesday the 13th April at King's College London. Baptist spoke to an audience of over 70 artists, scholars, students and practitioners about his methodology and approach. This launch forms part of a larger programme of events which aim to create a space for dialogues between academic research into the subject of war and its intersection with the everyday. A video from the launch featuring interviews with Baptist, the curators and guests is [here](#).

Professor Vivienne Jabri, co-curator of *Traces of War*, commented, "Baptist's work captures the materiality of war - from its bodies to its fabrics and metals - and its subjectivities in the lives lived in its landscapes. Through installations to performance, Baptist Coelho is both artist and researcher, interested as much in the narrations of soldiers, the tracts and fragments that convey stories contained in the objects of war, as he is in unravelling the meaning of bravery and heroism. These are themes that are of core interest in the Department of War Studies, an interdisciplinary department uniquely placed to work with artists interested in the subject of war and conflict."

Leanne Hammacott, Head of Cultural Programming at King's, added "It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from Baptist Coelho, one of the three internationally acclaimed artists presenting work as part of our forthcoming exhibition *Traces of War*. We are happy to be collaborating with War Studies on producing an inspiring & thought-provoking programme of public facing events & activities reflecting the theme of war and the everyday".

Laurie Benson, PhD Candidate, War Studies, writes, "The role of the artist in conflict and politics has long been theorised, contested, and marketed. Art has been drawn upon to illustrate the horrors of war by academics, critics, and philosophers alike. But perhaps what is also at stake is the practice, the *doing*. Baptist's presentation took the audience on a journey from locations in India and Pakistan, to the living rooms of ex-British soldiers, and memorial sites in Brighton. What stood out throughout this event was the emphasis on the research process as much as the 'outcome'; further questions rather than imminent certainties..." (Read the article [here](#))

Baptist Coelho's work, along with those of artists Jananne Al-Ani and Shaun Gladwell, will appear in a major exhibition, *Traces of War* in the Inigo Rooms in Autumn 2016, co-curated by Cecile Bourne-Farrell and Professor Vivienne Jabri in collaboration with [Cultural Programming](#) at King's. For further information please read the [Traces of War](#) outline.