



Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Canberra

Photo exhibition on Afghanistan now at the Australian War Memorial

Everyday life in the midsts of ongoing reconstruction is what Dutch photographer Hans Stakelbeek intended to capture in the exhibition *Out of the Dust: Life in Afghanistan*. It is a side of Afghanistan that you don't often see in the media. On display at the Australian War Memorial from 3 April through to 24 May 2009, it pays tribute to the Afghan people's determination to survive.



The remains of the old royal palace Dar-ul-Aman



A school for girls in Uruzgan © Hans Stakelbeek/Fmax

Hans Stakelbeek was commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to document the reconstruction of Afghanistan in the midst of the ongoing efforts to restore peace and stability to the country. Stakelbeek made four trips there, photographing in Kabul and Uruzgan, as well as other remote areas.

Out of the Dust presents images that pay tribute to the determination of the Afghan people to survive and live as normally as possible through the upheaval, building homes, going to school and working and playing in trying times. Stakelbeek's accompanying written commentary reveals the personal stories in each of the photographs.

Out of the Dust was completed in April 2008 and has so far toured the Netherlands, Washington, London and Berlin. It was first launched in Australia by the Dutch and Australian Foreign Ministers in Perth.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: 3 April – 24 May 2009 (Admission is free)

Location: Courtyard Gallert of the Australian War Memorial, Treloar Crescent, Campbell, Canberra

Open daily: 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

For further information: www.awm.gov.au; www.netherlands.org.au

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