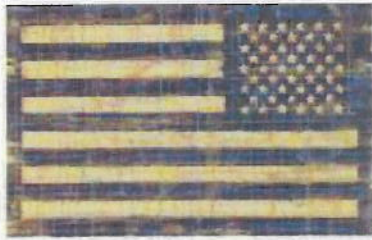


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# The art of war

Exhibit reflects what it means to serve

By Matt Schild

When Army Sgt. Ron V. Kelsey sat down to write about his experiences in Iraq, he was doing it as a way to vent and cope with the stress of combat. Little did he know that an international art community would spring up around his work.

His book, "Reflections of Generosity," published by the International Arts Movement, deals with the human side of war.

Never flinching from the emotional and physical costs of conflict, the book ultimately aims to help troops and civilians find understanding and draw inspiration from troops' sacrifices.

As the IAM's military liaison,

Kelsey has organized an art exhibition with the same title. Matching professionals' work from around the globe with military artists' work, the exhibit features paintings, installations, sculptures and photography celebrating the spirit of sacrifice.

With about a quarter of its works coming from artists in the ranks, the exhibit has given military artists the opportunity to showcase their work in a studio setting alongside decorated artists such as Makoto Fujimura and Charles A. Westfall.

#### More online

To learn more, visit [www.internationalartsmovement.org/reflections-of-generosity](http://www.internationalartsmovement.org/reflections-of-generosity)

"Welcome to the Army," above, by Neil C. Jones, and "Homecoming IR Flag" by Army Sgt. Ron V. Kelsey are part of the "Reflections of Generosity" exhibit.

"It's really a collection of people from around the world trying to come to terms with war and peace and the way to support soldiers and their families as they deal with ongoing deployments," Kelsey said.

"Reflections of Generosity" opened at Fort Drum, N.Y., in August and now is traveling to Germany for a trio of exhibitions opening Memorial Day and Independence Day and culminating at Illesheim, Germany, on Sept. 11. It then travels to St. Louis' Art Underground in 2011. □

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