

## Within the Margins of Erickson's Liu Institute: Allen Ball

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Compelled to gain a deeper understanding of Canada's global commitments by directly experiencing Canadians at war, I accepted a volunteer post in the Canadian Forces Artist Program in December 2005. In June 2007, I undertook a tour of duty in Egypt under the auspices of Operation CALUMET at the Multinational Force and Observers North Camp, El Gorah, northern Sinai. My mission, as an official Canadian War Artist, was to witness and document the daily lives of Canadians serving at the base.

Utilizing images taken during my tour of duty, this paper maps the development and presentation of my art installation, "*Photography in a State of Exception*", at The Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in May 2011.

The site for the pilot project installation is unique on, at least, two levels. First, the Liu Institute for Global Issues is a signature building designed by renowned and internationally celebrated

Canadian architect and urban planner Arthur Erickson. Second, as a hub for global research and emerging global issues, the institute seeks new ways to catalyze innovative thinking and positive societal change. The presentation of these images on the exterior of such a high-profile institute significantly augments the documentation of the working lives of Canadians serving in the armed forces, encouraging broader discussions on war conflict and military realities.

A hallmark of the Institute is to provide innovative learning and research opportunities for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and community members that help to bridge the gap between academics and practitioners. The Lobby Gallery is a prime example of such research opportunities, a place of contemporary and political documentary work housed in the lobby of the Liu Institute. The gallery's mandate is to foster alternative and artistic forms of research dissemination through critical artistic expression, enabling space for creative dialogue about global issues, as it seeks to build communication among students, faculty, researchers and the Vancouver public through the exhibition of innovative, engaging and responsible art work.

