

Scarlett Raven and Marc Marot at the ground-breaking exhibition
Pictures: IAN COOPER



The exhibition takes place in a gallery, designed to look like it has been bombed out



Each painting was digitally captured, layer by layer

News

NEWS WIRE

Mersey chef cleared of rape attack

A WIRRAL chef was found not guilty of the rape of a woman he met on a night out.

Adam Clifford, 24, was accused of raping a 19-year-old he met on a night out in Southport in August last year.

He denied three counts of rape during a trial which began on Tuesday at Liverpool Crown Court and ended with his acquittal on all charges.

Jurors took just 25 minutes to reach unanimous not guilty verdicts on the three counts.

The court heard Mr Clifford, of Montagu Road, Formby, had consensual intercourse with his accuser, but she changed her mind after she saw him on his mobile phone.

The trial centred on his actions after she claimed to have withdrawn consent, with prosecutors saying that constituted rape.

During the sexual incident between the pair, the woman's friend and Mr Clifford's friend were together in the house.

Mr Clifford told jurors that when the woman's friend asked why the woman she had been with was crying, he could not explain it, and when she accused him of raping her he was "in shock".

When he was arrested the following day, he said: "I had no idea what was going on."

He added that, since the incident, he had played what had happened in the bedroom over his head countless times "trying to think why she said that".

By **CATHERINE JONES**

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A HEARTRENDING new exhibition commemorating the centenary of the Battle of the Somme is going on show at the Albert Dock.

Award-winning film set designer Kave Quinn has created a bombed-out Flanders art gallery setting for The Danger Tree.

Artists Scarlett Raven and Marc Marot's show is described as a ground-breaking "augmented reality" exhibition, believed to be the first of its kind.

The paintings are inspired by the poetry of World War I soldiers like Birkenhead-raised Wilfred Owen, along with Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon.

Visitors to the free show, at the Martin Luther King Jnr Building, next to the Pump House, will be given one of 50 iPads with headphones to take a personal tour around the gallery.

Each painting was conceived, executed and digitally captured, layer by layer.

Around 10,000 photographs of every canvas were taken, becoming a stop-motion, time lapse-style video on screen, where they are then accompanied by specially-composed music, and by actors including Christopher Eccleston, Sean Bean and Liverpool's Stephen Graham reading the poignant poetry.

Two of the paintings are dedicated to the Liverpool Pals, including one titled The First and the Last.

Marc explains: "We were introduced to Tony Wainwright from the Liverpool Pals (Memorial Fund) and he opened up the Pals' archive to us.

"We chose one Pal, Arthur Seanor, who wrote a letter to his family in the event of his death. He died on the opening day of the Somme, July 1, 1916, and the letter found its way back to Liverpool."

The artists made contact with a number of descendants of the Liverpool Pals, and several are due to be at the exhibition's official opening today.

Meanwhile, a giant image of The First and the Last has been put up in Exchange Flags.

And passers-by who download the free Blippar app for iOS or Android will be able to see the film footage and hear the letter read by two Liverpool actors.

■ The Danger Tree is at the Albert Dock from November 19 to December 18.

'Bombed-out' gallery helps tell harrowing Somme tales

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