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WAR DRESS

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Kate Daudy is an artist who works with poetry, following in the ancient Chinese tradition of writing on objects to celebrate the memories they represent, their provenance and their aesthetic impact.

This is an art form practiced by Chinese scholars and collectors from 3000BC to the early 20th century, and which Daudy has revived and brought to contemporary Western art, as well as back to China itself.

Through her work Daudy brings our attention to the nature of objects in the collective consciousness and makes us value them for the impact they have on our imaginations. The piece uses a couture wedding dress by British couturier Catherine Walker, found in a charity shop by Grant White.

Seeing the beautiful, discarded dress made Daudy call to mind the photographs one often sees in the paper when a young soldier dies, of the beaming man and his wife on their wedding day. The dress seemed to represent for her the tragic loss of these men to their wives and families, and to us all.

Kate Daudy has embellished the delicate dress with khaki lettering that she has cut out of felt. The words spell out Wilfred Owen's celebrated poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" which is about the horrors of war.

By Kate Daudy, through the generosity of Grant White