Art is a vehicle and an opportunity for international diplomacy. It is also open to anyone, at any level. New Zealand, as a country, has a disproportionately strong voice in international affairs and, as with all countries, this is predicated upon knowledge gained of the Art of War, Art of Diplomacy and our broader Art and Culture. Gary Schofield will describe not only a personal journey, but also intertwine a history of warfare as much of his work is symbolic and represents thousands of years of conflict. To understand civilization we surely also have to understand the nature of warfare. U.S. and New Zealand foreign policies are shaped to a high degree by their histories of conflict. With the centennial of WWI approaching, Gallipoli and other conflicts will be given a fresh perspective by a New Zealander with 20 years experience at the Pentagon.

Gary Schofield is based in Washington DC but was born in Palmerston North, grew up in Hamilton and was educated at Otago and Massey universities. He has painted a number of major works for the US Government including The September 11th Painting for the Pentagon, The Congressional Medal of Honor Painting and The Washington National Cathedral. His work has been presented to world leaders by successive United States Secretaries of Defence and his paintings are displayed in a number of museums and institutions, including an original at Arlington National Cemetery. Gary Schofield is also a writer, producer, and, as the president of the Global Concern, Inc., is a keen humanitarian and environmentalist with great conviction as to the standards of education in New Zealand and the New Zealand’s place in International Institutions.

Among others Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan are recipients of his work, presented by the United States.