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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS SMALL EXHIBITION OF
ART IN WAR BY CIVILIANS

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will open to the public Saturday, March 14, Art in War, a small exhibition of paintings and drawings. With one exception, these paintings and drawings have been done by civilians. The exhibition, which will remain on view through March 25, forms an interesting parallel to the display of work done by soldiers at Fort Custer, Michigan, which preceded it in the same first-floor gallery at the Museum.

The paintings and drawings which compose the exhibition were selected from the one hundred and nine works purchased by the Office for Emergency Management from its first national open art competition held in collaboration with the Section of Fine Arts of the Public Buildings Administration. The competition was announced three days after the Pearl Harbor disaster and was held for the purpose of informing the public about war and defense activities. The purchase prizes were \$30 for each watercolor or oil sketch; \$15 for each drawing; and \$5 for each print. The total paid by the Office of Emergency Management for the works selected was \$2,410. The number of entries in the competition--which opened December 15, 1941 and closed January 15, 1942--was 2,582 submitted by 1,189 artists.

The artists represented in the exhibition include Henry Billings, Nicolai Cikovsky, Leonard Pytlak, Lewis Rubinstein, George Samerjan, Edward A. Wilson, and Ernst Halberstadt. The majority of the pictures are concerned with the production of war necessities, thus emphasizing civilian participation in the war.

The large exhibition from which the paintings and drawings were chosen for the showing at the Museum of Modern Art was held at the National Gallery in Washington and was selected by a jury consisting of Olin Dows, Consultant, Office for Civilian Defense; Charles Coiner, Consultant in Design, Office for Emergency Management; Holger Cahill, Director, WPA Art Program; Edward B. Rowan, Assistant Chief, Section of Fine Arts, Public Buildings Administration; and Forbes Watson, Special Assistant, Section of Fine Arts.