

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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ARGENTINE ARTISTS WIN MOST PRIZES
IN UNITED HEMISPHERE POSTER COMPETITION

Five prizes, the greatest number to go to any of the twenty Latin American nations in the United Hemisphere Poster Competition held by the Museum of Modern Art, were won by artists of Argentina. Four prizes went to artists of Brazil. An artist of Mexico, D.F. won the first prize of \$500. Two women, both of Havana, received the two prizes that went to Cuba. The other prize winners in the Latin American Section of the Competition are artists of Chile, Guatemala and Uruguay.

A total of 855 posters was received in the Competition, 473 of which came from Latin American countries. The quality of the entries was exceedingly high, which made it difficult for the judges to narrow the choice down to the thirty-four prize winners. In addition to the prize winners 19 posters that received honorable mention will be hung in an exhibition opening at the Museum of Modern Art Wednesday, October 21. The exhibition will be sent on a tour throughout the Hemisphere after it closes at the Museum and the designs will be placed at the disposal of agencies of the United States Government for reproduction and use in the Americas. A complete catalog of the exhibition, illustrated with reproductions of the winning posters, will be published later with text in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions for the Museum, commented on the Competition as follows:

"All citizens of the Western Hemisphere may take pride in the way the artists of the American Republics have answered this challenge to produce posters showing their united determination to remain free. In spite of serious transportation difficulties, more entries were received from Latin American countries than from the United States and Canada, and the letters which accompanied the posters expressed, again and again, the most passionate devotion to the cause of hemisphere liberty.

"Both in imagination and in execution the quality of the posters was extremely high, and it was distressing to the jury that there were only thirty-four prizes to divide among the 855 contestants. The submissions constitute an amazing inventory of democratically inspired talent from Argentina to Canada. The posters from the United States showed great professional accomplishment, but those from Latin America showed a greater fecundity

of imagination, even in the work of many avowed amateurs and child artists.

"Plans are already under way to reproduce a number of the winning designs for distribution throughout the Americas."

The thirty-four cash prizes, totalling \$2,500, were equally divided between the two sections. They were awarded as follows:

1st Prize - \$500 - Latin American Section

Won by José Renau, Mexico, D.F., Mexico. Slogan: "Unite Against Aggression." Poster, employing both painting and photography, shows a snake coiled against a composite flag of the twenty-one republics of the Western Hemisphere. Three strongly muscled hands coming in at the left of the poster grasp a stake which is also the flagpole, the sharp point of which plunges into the snake, pinning it down.

1st Prize - \$500 - United States and Canadian Section

Won by Stanley W. Crane, Woodstock, N. Y. Slogan: "Unite Against Aggression." Poster shows a starved child crucified against a stake, its hands pierced with the symbols of the Nazi and the Jap, while below wave the banners of the Swastika and the Rising Sun.

2nd Prize - \$250 - Latin American Section

Won by José Roberto Gayoso, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Slogan: "Unámonos contra la agresión" (Unite Against Aggression). Poster shows the sword of the enemy breaking against the welded links of the Americas.

2nd Prize - \$250 - United States and Canadian Section

Won by John A. Gaydos, New York City. Slogan: "Hands off the Americas." Poster shows the enormous hand of the enemy stabbed as it rises over the horizon to clutch the Americas.

3rd Prizes - each \$50 - Latin American Section

Maggie Dufau de Campos, Vedado, Havana, Cuba
Benjamin de Araújo Carvalho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Otto Durá, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Ary Fagundes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oscar Fetellán, Buenos Aires, Argentina

3rd Prizes - each \$50 - in United States and Canadian Section

Victor Ancona and Karl Koehler, New York City
Harold Barnett, New York City
John Amory Gibbs, New York City
Alex Steinweiss, Bridgeport, Conn.
Miriam Troop, Philadelphia

4th Prizes - each \$25 - Latin American Section

Julio Bonelli, Montevideo, Uruguay
Cristina Brull, Vedado, Havana, Cuba
Florencio Molina Campos, Los Angeles, Calif. (Argentine citizen)
Ovidio Rodas Corzo, Guatemala, Guatemala
Nelson Boeira Faedrich, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Juan de Felipe, New York City (Mexican citizen)
Rodrigo F. Frank, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Elmano Henrique, São Paulo, Brazil
Luis Troncoso Ossandón, Santiago, Chile
Demetrio Urruchúa, Buenos Aires, Argentina

4th Prizes - each \$25 - in United States and Canadian Section

Frank Greco, New York City
Robert L. Greenwell, Jackson Heights, L. I., N.Y.
Kurt Herz, New York City
Irvine Kamens, Kew Gardens, L. I., N.Y. (received two prizes)
James Patrick, Los Angeles
Antonio Petruccelli, Mt. Tabor, N. J.
Jack J. Rosenblatt, Brooklyn, N. Y.
William Sporer, Astoria, L. I., N.Y.
Gordon Webber, Chicago

Several motifs were repeated again and again in the posters, the most popular one being a chain of three strong links representing North, Central and South America invincibly welded into unity. The second most popular theme was that of the flags of the twenty-one republics worked out in many compositional forms. In one such poster the combined flags form the figure of a fighter. This won a third prize. Another prize winner from Latin America shows the flags of the twenty-one nations combined to make a very beautiful Victory head. A frequently recurring motif in posters from Latin America was the Dove of Peace, sometimes with the flag motif imprinted on it. Other often repeated designs were the figures of Bolivar, the great Latin American liberator, and George Washington; one such poster was awarded a fourth prize.

The posters receiving honorable mention and hung in the exhibition are:

Howard Alber, Philadelphia, Pa.
Alma M. Duncan, Montreal, Canada
Ary Fagundes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Carlos Frederico Ferreira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Sol Freedman, Philadelphia, Pa.
Elizabeth K. Gall, Seattle, Wash.
John Amory Gibbs, New York City
Frank Greco, New York City
Francisco Eppens Helguera, Mexico, D. F.
Robert L. Leslie ("Silten"), New York City
Julian Oliva Martinez, Mexico, D. F.
Sascha Maurer, New York City
Camilo Mori, Santiago, Chile
Juan Oliver, New York City (Chilean citizen)
Jose Renau, Mexico, D. F.
Arnold Roston, Forest Hills, L. I., N.Y.
Ramon Torrago, Mexico, D. F.
Luis Jorge Urrea, Bogota, Colombia (age 13 years)
(One poster without any means of identification;
probably from United States)