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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
general 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 in­
forming 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
Semerjan, 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 consist­
ing 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.