

National Gallery of Art Archives: World War II Research Resources

World War II-Related Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art

During the war years, the National Gallery of Art presented a series of exhibitions explicitly related to the war or presenting works of art for which the museum held custody during the hostilities.

Descriptions of each of the exhibitions is available online on the past exhibition web pages. Catalogs, brochures, press releases, news reports, and photographs also may be available for examination in the archives for some of the exhibitions.

The Great Fire of London, 1940

18 December 1941-28 January 1942

American Artists' Record of War and Defense

7 February-8 March 1942

French Government Loan

2 March 1942-1945, periodically

Soldiers of Production

17 March-15 April 1942

Three Triptychs by Contemporary Artists

8-15 April 1942

Paintings, Posters, Watercolors, and Prints, Showing the Activities of the American Red Cross

2-30 May 1942

Art Exhibition by Men of the Armed Forces

5 July-2 August 1942

War Posters

17 January-18 February 1943

Belgian Government Loan

7 February 1943-January 1946

War Art

20 June-1 August 1943

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Drawings and Watercolors from French Museums and Private Collections

8 August-5 September 1943 (second showing)

Art for Bonds

12 September-10 October 1943

Marine Watercolors and Drawings

12 September-10 October 1943

Paintings of Naval Aviation by American Artists

21 November-12 December 1943

The Army at War

20 February-19 March 1944

British War Paintings

23 April-20 May 1944

American Battle Painting 1776-1918

4 July-4 September 1944

Paintings of Naval Medicine

10 September-8 October 1944

Paintings and Drawings of the United States Coast Guard

17 September-8 October 1944

Wartime Paintings of the Army Air Forces

15 October-12 November 1944

French Drawings

19 November 1944-8 May 1945

The War Against Japan

27 May-19 June 1945

Soldier Art

4 July-4 September 1945

Marine Corps Battle Art

10 November-16 December 1945

Paintings and Drawings on Loan from the French Government

23 December 1945-5 February 1946 (last showing)

Fine Arts under Fire

14 May-2 June 1946

Paintings Looted from Holland, Returned through the Efforts of the United States Armed Forces

7 December 1946-1 January 1947

Men of Action of the Naval Services, World War II

23 November-14 December 1947

Paintings from the Berlin Museums

17 March-25 April 1948

Michelangelo's David, from the Bargello Museum, Florence

24 January-28 June 1949

Art Treasures from the Vienna Collections

20 November 1949-22 January 1950