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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Believing that American veterans would be interested in seeing how the World War looked to a German veteran, the Museum of Modern Art will open Tuesday, September 21, in its temporary galleries at 14 West 49 Street, an exhibition of war etchings by Otto Dix. The exhibition has been arranged to coincide with the American Legion Convention the week of September 20 but will extend for several weeks longer, possibly until November 1st.

The Dix etchings are from a folio of ^{fifty}~~sixty~~ under the title Der Krieg (The War). It was not necessary for the artist to draw on his imagination to represent war in a grimly realistic light. He needed only to transfer to copper plate the actual scenes etched on his memory by his four years on the Western Front. After the war Otto Dix became the leader of the German movement toward extreme realism. Until 1935 he was a professor of painting at the Dresden Academy.

To form a contrast with the actual horrors of war which Dix reveals so realistically in his etchings, a painting, Armored Train by Gino Severini, the Italian Futurist, is exhibited. The Italian Futurists announced that war was both hygienic and beautiful. Armored Train, painted in 1915, glorifies in a semi-abstract style the exciting dynamics of war.

In presenting these two diametrically opposite ideas of the same thing--in this case, the World War--the Museum is continuing its method begun early in the summer of showing by dramatic contrast the many different points of view expressed in modern art. The Dix etchings are from the Museum's permanent collection; Severini's Armored Train is an anonymous loan from a private collection.

Hours at the Museum for the fall and winter season will be the same as during the summer: weekdays including Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Admission 25¢ daily except Mondays, which are free to the public.

In connection with the artists mentioned above the following may be of interest:

Otto Dix was born in 1891 at Unterhaus, Germany. At the age of fourteen he began his painting career as a Dekorations-maler, one step below a house painter. Five years later, in 1910, he entered the Arts and Crafts School in Dresden, where he mastered academic draughtsmanship. The war interrupted his studies and he fought four years on the Western Front.

In commenting on the work of Otto Dix, Mr. Barr has said:

"All Quiet on the Western Front, written by Dix's compatriot, is frequently named the greatest novel on the war. The memories and sketches which Otto Dix preserved from these years were ultimately made permanent in a folio of etchings and in a single great painting, works worthy to rank with Remarque's novel, for which they might serve as illustrations. The painting, one of the most famous pictures painted in post war Europe, is called, simply, War, and is a masterpiece of unspeakable horror. In 1924, Dix purged himself finally of war poison in a folio of fifty etchings bearing the title Der Krieg. These are documents in the spirit of the great painting, cumulatively as powerful and affording, naturally, a far greater variety.

"Huysman, Poe or Baudelaire might, perhaps, have done justice in words to Dix's war painting and etchings though there is little about his work which suggests the love of the horrible or the decomposed for its own sake. Dix is no decadent taster of gamey delights nor a mere amateur of the macabre. He is an artist who has gone through four year's of 'quiet' on the Western Front and expressed himself subsequently with a certain lack of restraint."

Gino Severini was born in 1883 at Cortona, Italy. He went to Rome in 1901 and to Paris in 1906. He is one of the five original Italian Futurist painters, 1910-1915. He later turned to Cubism and Neo-Classicism. He now lives in Paris.

Severini's painting, Armored Train, brings to mind the statement made by another Italian artist, F.T. Marinetti, founder and leader of the Italian Futurist movement. In his Manifesto of Futurism, 1909, Marinetti wrote:

"We Futurists want to glorify war--the world's only health-giver--and militarism, patriotism, the beautiful ideas that kill....."

Last year Marinetti, now an Italian Senator, and still leader of the Italian Futurists, said of war:

"We, Futurist poets and artists, have recognized for twenty-seven years that war is the only world hygiene. War is beautiful because it creates new architectures, as the heavy tank. It creates the flying geometries of the aeroplane, the spiral smoke of burning villages. War is beautiful because it completes the beauty of a flowery meadow with the passionate orchids of machine-gun fire."