



Art and the Second World War

Monica Bohm-Duchen



November 2013

288 pages

978-1-84822-033-1

Includes 185 colour and 30 b&w illustrations

260 x 220 mm

Hardback

£40.00

Art and the Second World War is the first book in English to provide a comprehensive and detailed international overview of the complex and often disturbing relationship between war and the fine arts during this crucial period of modern history. This generously illustrated volume starts by examining the art produced in reaction to the Spanish Civil War (often viewed as 'the first battle of World War II'), and then looks at painting, sculpture, prints, and drawing in each of the major combatant nations, including Japan and China. Breathtaking in scope, this scholarly yet accessible publication places wartime art within its broader cultural, political, and military contexts while never losing sight of the power and significance of the individual image and the individual artist.

Monica Bohm-Duchen's thought-provoking analysis ranges from iconic paintings such as Picasso's *Guernica* to unfamiliar works by little-known artists. She reinstates war art by major artists as an integral part of their oeuvres and examines neglected topics such as the art produced in the Japanese-American and British internment camps, by victims of the Holocaust, and in response to the dropping of the atom bomb in 1945. In so doing, Bohm-Duchen addresses a host of fundamental issues, including the relationship between art and propaganda and between art and atrocity, and the role of gender, religion, and censorship, both external and internal.

Art and the Second World War offers an unparalleled comparative perspective that will appeal to anyone interested in art history, military history, or political and cultural studies.

Contents

Introduction; Chapter 1: Civil War in Spain 1936-1939: 'The First Battle of World War II'; Chapter 2: Art in the Democracies: Great Britain; Chapter 3: Art in the Democracies: the Commonwealth; Chapter 4: Art in the Democracies: the USA; Chapter 5: 'France, Once the Haven of Exiles': Victim or Collaborator?; Chapter 6: Art under the Dictators: Russia's Great Patriotic War; Chapter 7: 'Imperfect Totalitarianism': Art and War in Fascist Italy; Chapter 8: Art under the Dictators: Nazi War Art Reassessed; Chapter 9: Art of the Holocaust: Creativity in Extremis; Chapter 10: Bitter Victory: China's War of Resistance against Japan 1937-1945; Chapter 11: Japan's Holy War 1931-1945; Chapter 12: Endgame: Hiroshima and Nagasaki; List of Illustrations; Timeline; Bibliography; Acknowledgements; Index.

About the Author

Monica Bohm-Duchen is an independent writer, lecturer, and curator. Based in London, she has worked for such leading institutions as the Tate, the National Gallery, and the Royal Academy of Arts. Her many books include *After Auschwitz: Responses to the Holocaust in Contemporary Art*. She teaches a course on art and war at Birkbeck, University of London, and at New York University in London.

www.lundhumphries.com/isbn/9781848220331

LUND HUMPHRIES

To order this book please visit www.lundhumphries.com, or email orders@ashgate.com
A 10% discount applies to orders placed through www.lundhumphries.com

The second world war had seismic effects on architecture, with reconstruction aimed not just at repairing war damage, but at creating a new society that would never let anything like fascism and world war happen again. As we get more distant from the events and actual memory, the war is increasingly remembered in terms of nostalgic kitsch.Â Broadcast, by Observer arts and media correspondent Vanessa Thorpe. Although television services were shut down for the duration, lessons learned from wartime radio still shape output today. The BBC was the power in the land and by 1944 George Orwell, a former BBC propagandist, noted that the phrase "I heard it on the BBC" had come to mean "I know it must be true". World War II summary: The carnage of World War II was unprecedented and brought the world closest to the term "total warfare." On average 27,000 people were killed each day between September 1, 1939, until the formal surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945. Western technological advances had turned upon itself, bringing about the most destructive war in human history. The primary combatants were the Axis nations of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Imperial Japan, and the Allied nations, Great Britain (and its Commonwealth nations), the Soviet Union, and the United States. Seven days after the suic