

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

RELEASE:

AMS, Sunday, November 21, 1943

WASHINGTON, November 20: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening tomorrow of a special exhibition of paintings and drawings illustrating the war-time activities of Naval Aviation. The exhibition, held in cooperation with the Navy Department, will continue through December 12th, and will then be sent on tour throughout the country.

The paintings are the work of a distinguished group of American artists - Don Freeman, Joseph Hirsch, Georges Schreiber, Adolf Dehn, Howard Baer, Lawrence Beall Smith and Robert Benney.

The project was undertaken with the cooperation of the Naval Aeronautic Association. In order to gather material for their work, the artists lived at Naval Air Stations in every part of the country. They were quartered with the men, made numerous flights in Navy planes, and thus succeeded in portraying with accuracy and feeling the life of Navy and Marine personnel.

All phases of Naval Aviation are covered, including Pre-flight Training, Primary and Intermediate Training, Lighter-than-air, WAVES in Aviation, Carrier Operations, and Combat Operations.

Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, in his preface to the catalogue of the exhibition, says:

"The notable group of paintings and drawings by American artists included in this exhibition, depicting the various phases of Naval Aviation from pre-flight to combat, is an interesting survey in pictorial form of this highly important branch of Naval activity. It is with pride that the Navy shows, through this medium, its men and planes in action, as well as the intensive program of training which Naval aviators and ground crews receive for their difficult and exacting tasks."

This exhibition also includes a group of Naval aviation photographs, the work of a special unit directed by Commander Edward J. Steichen, U.S.N.R.

#####