

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art,
Washington, D. C.

June 5, 1944

RELEASE: Immediately

WASHINGTON, June 5: A special exhibition of American Battle Painting from the Revolution through World War I, will open on July 4 at the National Gallery of Art. Upon the close of the exhibition in Washington on September 4, a portion of it will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, from October 3 to November 18.

The exhibition will consist of original paintings and drawings done from actual memory or eye-witness accounts. The pictures will be arranged chronologically so as to present a record of the wars fought by the United States, from 1776 to 1918.

The material included in the exhibition has been assembled from private and public collections in many parts of this country, as well as Canada. Some of the pictures are famous, such as the battlepieces of West and Trumbull and the Civil War scenes of Winslow Homer. Other works, such as Glackens' sketches of the Spanish-American campaign and the A. E. F. artists' drawings of the last war, are not so well known. A number have never been previously exhibited.

One section of the exhibition will include drawings made by cadets at West Point. Sketches by such distinguished graduates as Jefferson Davis, Lee, Sherman, Grant, Meade, and others, will illustrate the admirable instruction in drawing provided by the United States Military Academy since its founding in 1802.

Another section of the exhibition will portray the long struggle with the Red Man, in paintings done by Indians, as well as by artists who served on the Frontier.

The exhibition will be the first to present American Battle Painting as a continuous tradition, from the Revolution through the first World War. It will demonstrate the precedent which history furnishes for the excellent work of the American artists who are recording the war today.