

## Student Guide

### World War I: War of Images, Images of War

#### Section: Aftermath

Max Beckmann fought in the German military until 1915, when he suffered a mental breakdown. He continued to have nightmares of his experiences, however.



*The Way Home*, 1919, Max Beckmann (German, 1884–1950), Lithograph, *Die Hölle* (Berlin, 1919), pl. 2, St. Louis Museum of Art

#### Explore

- › How is this image composed? What do you notice about the lines?
- › Identify how the two main characters in the image are different.
- › Citing evidence from the artwork, reflect on what the artist could have wanted the viewer to focus on.
- › This image was created after the war. Why is it important to have post-war work in the exhibition?

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#### Section: Apocalypse

At the outbreak of war, Frans Masereel did not live in his native Belgium, but in Paris, where he avoided a draft. After seeing the devastation that the war caused with families who stayed at home, he created a series of images to capture those experiences.



*Soldiers on Barbed Wire 1917*, Frans Masereel (Belgian, 1889-1972), Woodcuts, Los Angeles, Getty Research Institute, 94-135804

#### Explore

- › Pick one image from the group. Describe its elements (line, color, shape, texture, value [light and dark], space).
- › Why did you choose this piece? What made it stand out to you?
- › What shapes do you see? What objects could they be in reality?
- › Consider the action of the character(s) in the piece you chose. Are they passive or active? Why do you think Masereel made these choices?

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**Section:**  
**War of Cultures**

This poster is an example of American propaganda. Propaganda was a way in which artists waged a cultural war with their enemies. The United States entered the war after Germany's resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917.



*Destroy this Mad Brute—Enlist* Harry R. Hopps (American, 1869–1937), ca. 1917, Color lithograph, Modern Graphic History Library, Washington University Libraries.

**Explore**

- › What point of view do you, as a viewer, have of this piece? What is the first thing you notice?
- › What do you notice about the background?
- › Why do you think there is a space between the background and foreground?
- › Who do you think the “mad brute” represents?
- › What is the function of this piece?