

PRESS RELEASE

The Age of Expression: Twentieth-century Northern European Prints from the Barber Institute

8 February – 25 March 2011

From February 8th to March 25th, 2011, UCL Art Collections at the Strang Print Room will host an exhibition which brings together a group of exceptional examples of Northern European printmaking to local audiences.

The Age of Expression: Twentieth-century Northern European Prints from the Barber Institute will showcase works by renowned 20th-century artists including Max Beckmann, George Grosz, Käthe Kollwitz, Franz Marc, Emil Nolde, Egon Schiele, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and other artists associated with German Expressionism. As responses to WWI and its aftermath, the works in this exhibition all use traditional printmaking techniques in innovative ways, to evoke powerful emotional reactions. The Expressionist aesthetic, featuring simple imagery and the bold use of contrast, lent itself well to the radical politics of the day and resonated with revolutionary movements around the world, reaching as far as Mexico.

Emil Nolde and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff reinvigorate the woodcut technique – perfected by German Renaissance printmakers such as Albrecht Dürer – by returning to the simplest oppositions of black and white. Max Beckmann and Lovis Corinth both address the futility and suffering of war through religious imagery in *Resurrection* (1918/19) and *Christ on the Cross* (1919), while George Grosz satirises post-WWI German society. The exhibition also includes one of Egon Schiele's rare prints, where the artist used the drypoint technique to create the bristling outline of a crouching woman.

This exhibition is part of a successful exhibition exchange programme between the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham and UCL Art Collections, University College London, designed to promote wider public access to university art collections. It follows on from *Highlights on Paper from UCL Art Collections* which was on display at the Barber Institute in 2009.

Notes for editors

1. UCL Art Collections is one of UCL's three public museums and holds more than 10,000 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures dating from the 1490s to the present day. Highlights include old master prints and drawings (16th-century German and Italian; 17th & 18th-century French, Dutch and Flemish), 18th-20th-century English prints and drawings and an unrivalled body of sculpture models and drawings by the Neo Classical sculptor John Flaxman. The collection of student prizewinning paintings, drawings and prints from the Slade School of Fine Art is an unparalleled resource for the study of art education in Britain, collected from the 1890s and to the present day. The Strang Print Room, home of UCL Art Collections, is a dynamic space for teaching, research and exhibition.
2. For more information about the exhibition please visit www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/uclart contact Nina Pearlman, Manager, UCL Art Collections, The Strang Print Room, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT, college.art@ucl.ac.uk, +44 (0)20 7679 2540
3. The Barber Institute contains one of the finest small collections of European art in the UK, which includes prime examples of paintings by artists such as Botticelli, Veronese, Rubens, Van Dyck, Poussin, Gainsborough, Turner, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Magritte. Its Works on Paper collection is one of the Barber's lesser known resources which includes over 1,000 drawings and prints spanning six centuries. www.barber.org.uk