DAYTON ART INSTITUTE’S ‘CALL TO DUTY’ EXHIBITION FEATURES ORIGINAL WORLD WAR I & II POSTERS

Companion exhibition ‘Tears of Stone’ highlights Cincinnati photographer Jane Alden Stevens’ images of World War I monuments, cemeteries and battlegrounds

(DAYTON, OHIO) – June 23, 2015 – The Dayton Art Institute will offer a look back at the World Wars this summer, with the special exhibitions Call to Duty: World War Posters and Tears of Stone: World War I Remembered, Photographs by Jane Alden Stevens, on view at the museum July 4 – October 4.

Call to Duty features more than 80 original war posters from World War I and World War II, by such greats of American illustration as Howard Chandler Christy, James Montgomery Flagg and Norman Rockwell. The posters help tell the story of the massive human efforts put forth during these 20th-century global conflicts.

Chief Curator Aimee Marcereau DeGalan notes that, “The exhibition demonstrates how all Americans, including children, played active roles during the war. Every citizen was a soldier, whose collective efforts were advertised as patriotic and would lead to victory for the soldiers overseas. With a focus on the efforts at home rather than the efforts and struggles overseas, this exhibition has a strong narrative, yet does not overtly reference many of the tragic realities that occurred during the wars, but focuses rather on the creative spirit of those involved, both on the home front as well as the front lines.”
Displayed in public locations such as post offices, train stations, city halls and businesses, war posters and the messages they communicated were ubiquitous throughout the United States during both World Wars. The posters explored themes of recruitment into the armed services; funding of the wars through bonds and other methods; home-front efforts which contributed to victory such as conservation and work ethic; campaigns by service organizations such as the Salvation Army, YMCA and Boy Scouts; and the role of women in the war effort. Many of the posters featured in the exhibition are American, with additional examples from Canada, France, Great Britain and other allied nations.

The Dayton Art Institute has also partnered with the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force to borrow objects to supplement the exhibition, including an original Howard Chandler Christy painting, World War I squadron insignias (including one from Captain Eddie Rickenbacker’s Nieuport 28 airplane), trench art made by POWs during World War II, an infantry helmet worn by the Wright brothers’ nephew during World War I, and other items. In addition, uniform items from the Dayton Chapter of the American Red Cross, as well as other original items, such as signed photographs of five-star generals and war bond books with local connections among other items, will also be included in the exhibition.

In conjunction with Call to Duty, The DAI will present works by Cincinnati-based photographer Jane Alden Stevens in the exhibition Tears of Stone: World War I Remembered.

Over the course of two years and five trips to Europe, Stevens photographed World War I monuments, cemeteries and battlefields. Nearly 20 large-format prints highlight Stevens’ interests in the visible manifestations of grief, memory and memorialization. Her reverential imagery employs both visual elegance and restraint as she pays homage to the loss and yet, at the same time, finds beauty in her representation of these hallowed grounds.

“With the Dayton area’s longstanding connection to the armed forces, these two exhibitions are sure to resonate with young and old alike, throughout our community,” said DAI Director & CEO Michael R. Roediger. “I’m especially pleased that we are able to partner with the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the Red Cross and others to help further connect Call to Duty with the region’s contributions to these 20th-century war efforts.”

Call to Duty and Tears of Stone are presented with support from Benefactor Sponsor Premier Health, Patron Sponsors DP&L, U.S. Bank and Wanda and Bill Lukens, Supporting Sponsors Suzi and Jeff Mikutis, Miller-Valentine Group, and the White Allen Family of Dealerships, with additional support from School of Advertising Art, Square One Salon and Spa, University of Dayton, Jessup Wealth Management and Taft/.

A number of related programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibitions, including: Dayton Print Day on Saturday, August 8; the talk Every Citizen a Soldier: The Power of Posters in War, by Christina Douglass, Manuscript Curator at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, on Thursday, August 20; a talk on women’s roles during the World Wars by Laura Sextro, lecturer for the history department of the University of Dayton, on Thursday, September 3; and a talk by photographer Jane Alden Stevens on Thursday, September 17.

For more about the exhibitions and related programs, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/calltoduty or call 937-223-4ART (4278).
The DAI will also offer the public the unique opportunity to help support the museum and become part of this special commemoration, through its **Adopt a Poster Program**. The posters featured in *Call to Duty* have been grouped at $2,500 and $500 levels, and they are available for “adoption” on a first-come, first-served basis. When an individual or organization adopts a poster, a label with the adopter’s name and a brief designation will be displayed in the exhibition with the artwork. For more information about the program, contact Joan Jacobson at 937-512-0138 or jjacobson@daytonart.org, or visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org/adoptions](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/adoptions).

A related focus exhibition, **War: Works on Paper from the Permanent Collection**, will be on view in the museum’s Lower Court Galleries from July 18 – November 1. Presenting about 20 works from The DAI’s permanent collection, it will showcase artistic interpretations of battle scenes, bombardments and soldiers, with intents ranging from glorifying to condemning these events.

Admission to *Call to Duty* and *Tears of Stone* is free for [museum members](http); $14 adults; $11 seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more); $6 youth (ages 7-17); and free for children (ages 6 & under). Prices include admission to both special exhibitions and the museum’s permanent collection.

Tickets for the exhibitions and related programs may be purchased at the museum’s Guest Services Desk, by phone at 937-223-4ART (4278), or online at [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org).

[Docent-led tours](http) of the special exhibitions are available for individuals, groups and schools. Contact The DAI’s Group Sales and Tour Coordinator, at 937-512-0152 or dyoung@daytonart.org, for more information or to book a tour.

To learn more about The Dayton Art Institute, please visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org) or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Tickets for most Dayton Art Institute events, exhibitions and programs may also be purchased online at [www.etix.com](http://www.etix.com). Be sure to connect with The Dayton Art Institute on [Facebook](http), [Twitter](http), [Instagram](http) and [Pinterest](http) for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and videos, and exclusive offers.

*Call to Duty* has been organized by the [Reading Public Museum](http), Reading, PA, with additional loans provided by the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Red Cross Dayton, and private collections.

**ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE**

As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Leo Bistro serves lunch Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4 – 8 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org). The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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