

A HISTORY OF THUNDER

A History of Thunder

The Fine Art Society

1 - 24 March, 2016

Michael Petry's work *Joshua D's Wall* was commissioned by the Palm Springs Art Museum in 2012, and sections of the wall have been shown in Venice, Houston, Santa Fe, Stavanger and Stockholm. It is based on the creation myth found in the Christian, the Muslim and the Jewish faiths, of Joshua and the battle of Jericho. In the story, Joshua blows the walls of the city down and then is instructed to kill all the citizens, children and animals, destroy the city brick by brick and salt the earth, which he does. This has created a textual document used to claim the right to cause the death of others at the word of a deity. In this case the same deity and the resultant trouble between these religions.

Petry's work is made up from hundreds of unique glass stones made at the Berengo studios in Murano, Italy. Each stone is a unique artwork in itself (a treasure) and like Joshua's instruction to destroy the city, Petry's installation is slowly destroyed as each stone is sold, the whole becomes smaller. It is the only work Petry has made where the multiple parts can be broken up.

Joshua D's Wall is placed directly on the floor, as if a glass wall has fallen over. On the surrounding walls will be works from the Fine Art Society's collection of paintings, drawings, and prints from artists working in the period of the First and Second World War. These will be accompanied by photographs of soldiers in Petry's collection of WWI memorabilia. The exhibition will connect his contemporary work (the performance and sculpture) with historical art dealing with similar subject matter.

The exhibition will coincide with the World Premiere performance of *A Prussian Requiem* (Powell: score, Petry: libretto) at the Royal Festival Hall. The Philharmonia Orchestra's WWI Commemoration Concert on March 6 will feature the requiem. Composer John Powell and Petry have worked on performance, opera and installation art projects for over 25 years.

Performance: A Prussian Requiem

6 March, 2016

Philharmonia Orchestra

Royal Festival Hall

The performance is roughly 40 minutes long and will incorporate the full orchestra and a choir of 120 singers. Samples from the requiem can be heard on the London Philharmonia website:

<https://soundcloud.com/philharmonia/introduction-to-moltke-john-powell-a-prussian-requiem>

Performance Synopsis:

The story takes place as the Archduke of Austria, Franz Ferdinand is shot by the Bosnian Serb, Gavrilo Princip, on June 28, 1914. Princip was a Yugoslav nationalist and the assassination was used as a pretext for Russia to come to Serbia's aid when Franz Joseph I of Austria declared war. Kaiser Wilhelm II (a close friend of Ferdinand) was generally regarded as a bit of a oaf. He was outplayed by his generals in order to bring Prussia into the war. Wilhelm was a cousin of both Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) and King George V (Great Britain) who joined forces against him. The Kaiser attempted to prevent Britain from joining the war in aid of France but Moltke The Younger refused to alter his battle plans and the 'Great War' commenced.

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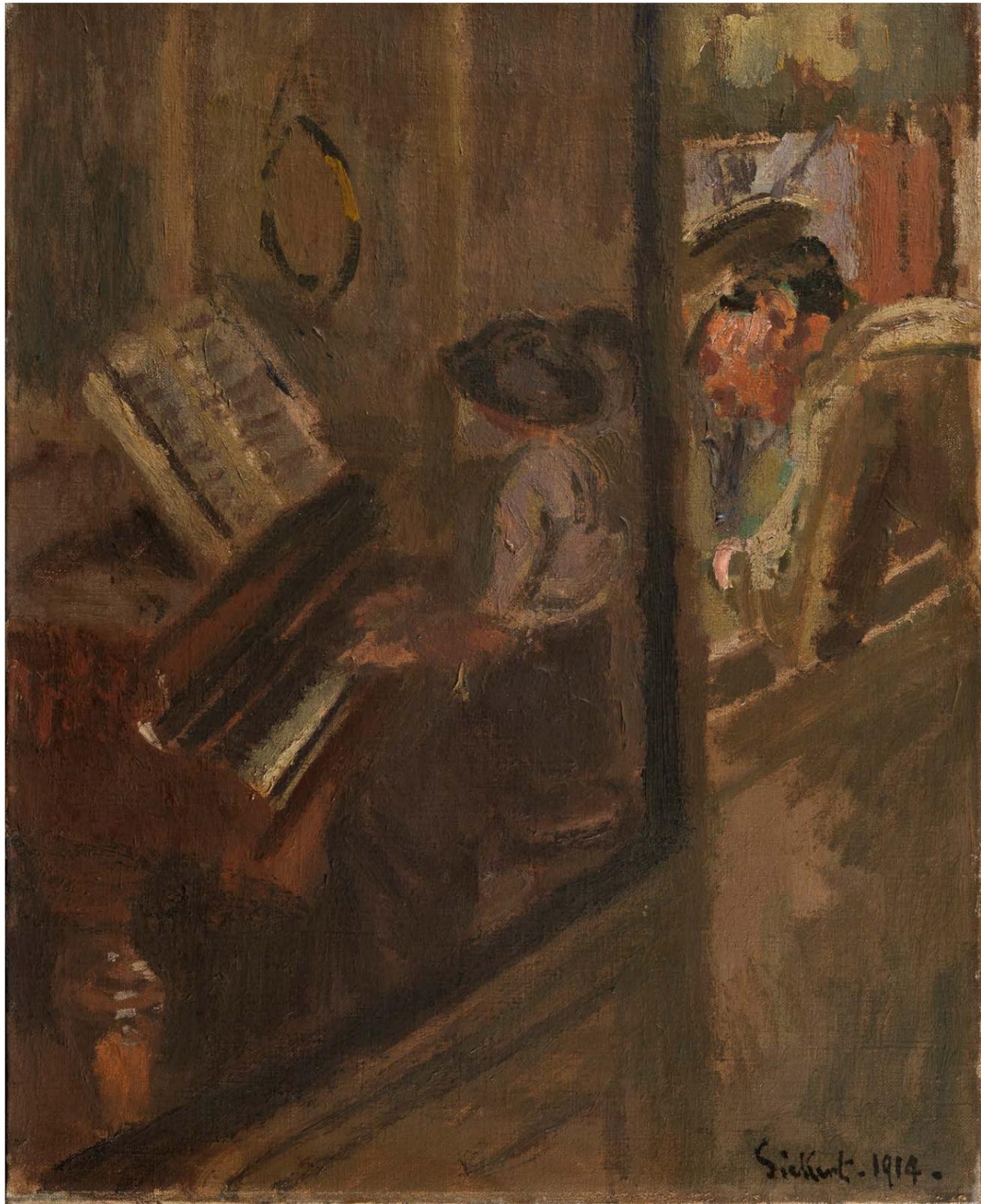
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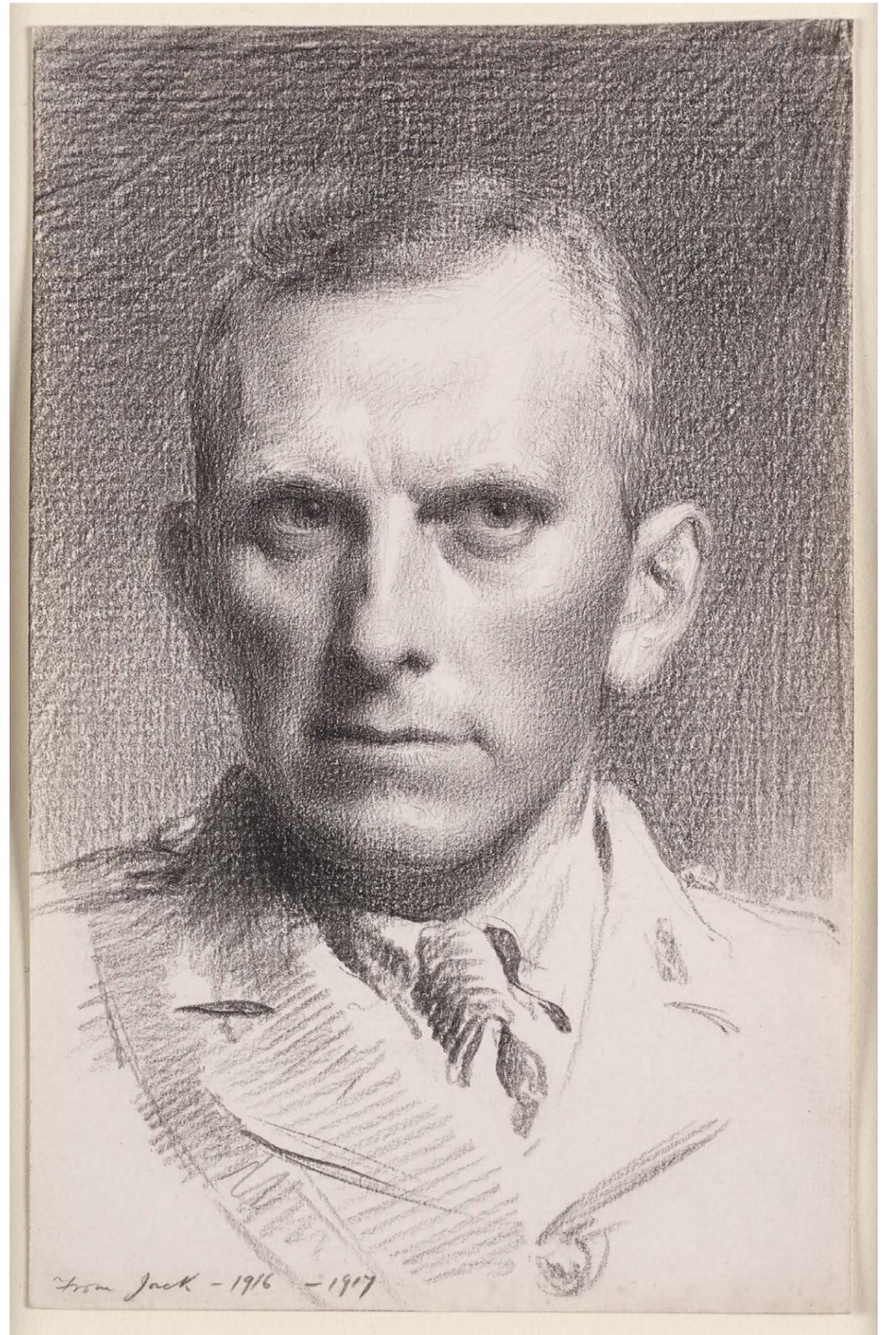








WALTER R. SICKERT
Tipperary, 1918
Etching



JOHN BULLOCH SOUTER
Portrait of an Officer, 1916-17
Pencil



Death Refuses.

Percy Smith

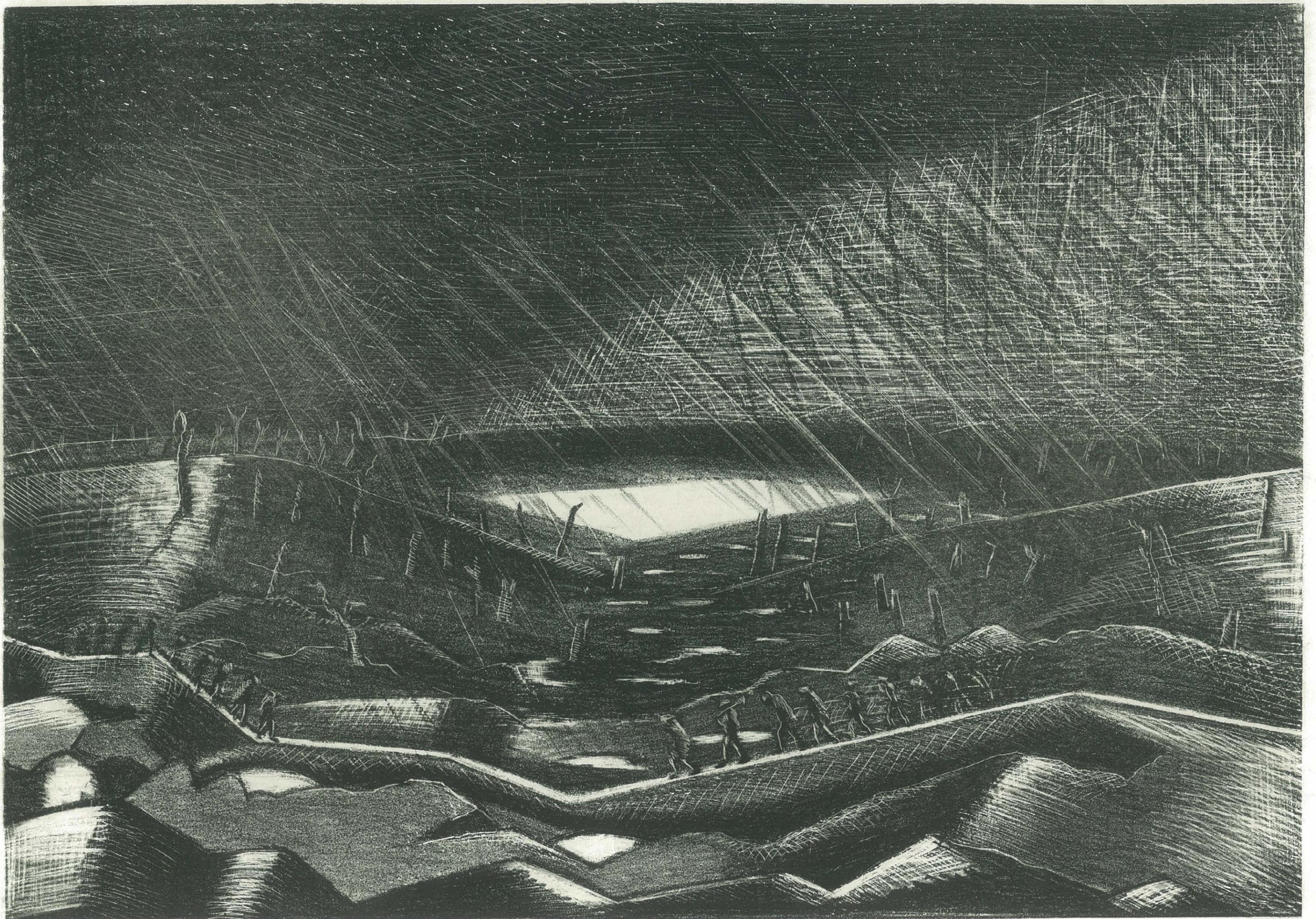
PERCY SMITH
Death Refuses, 1918
Etching

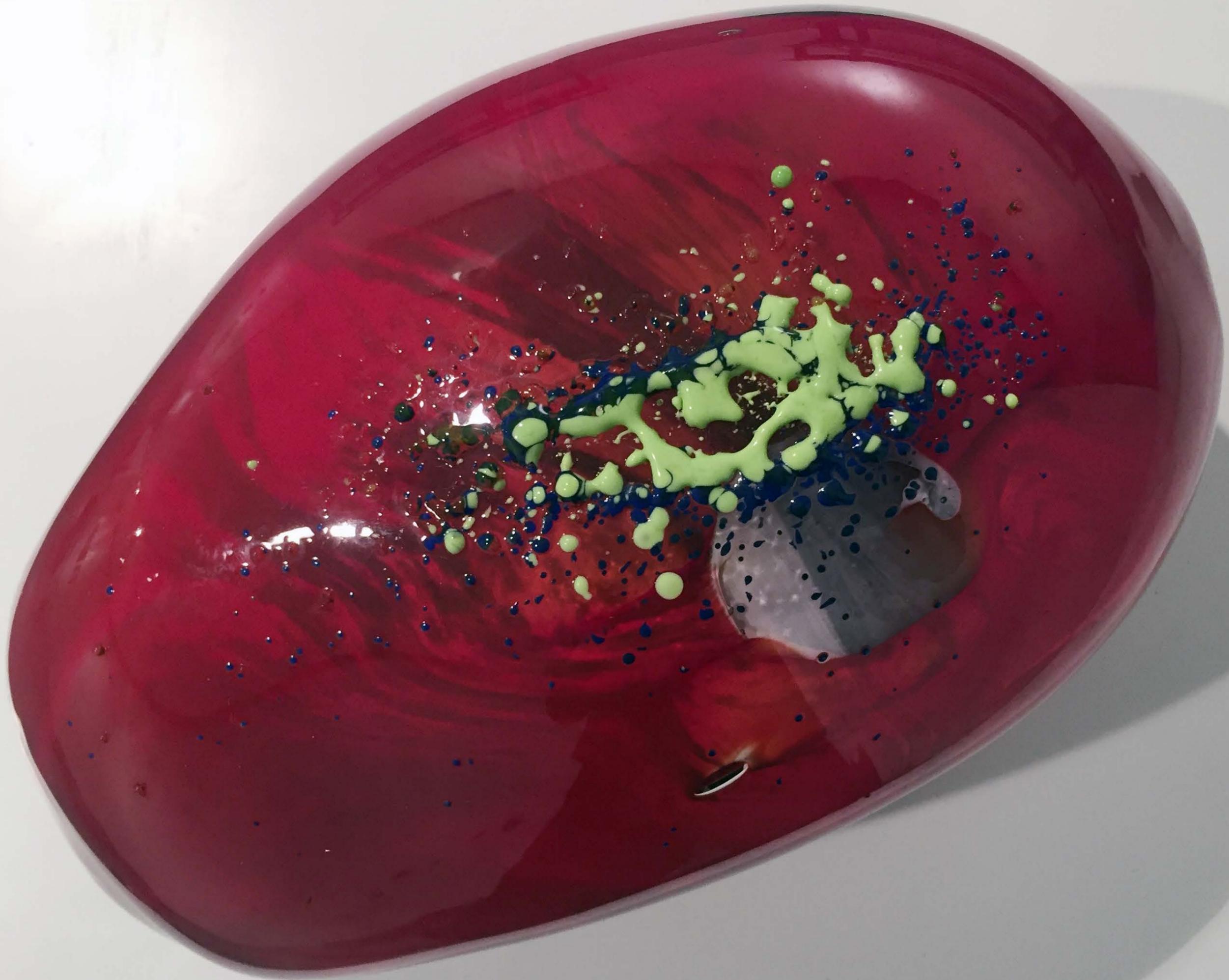


Eric Robertson
Poilly
August 1918

ERIC ROBERTSON
Poilly, 1918
Pastel

Following page:
PAUL NASH
Rain, Lake Zillebeke, 1918
Lithograph







WWI British found material

WWI German found material

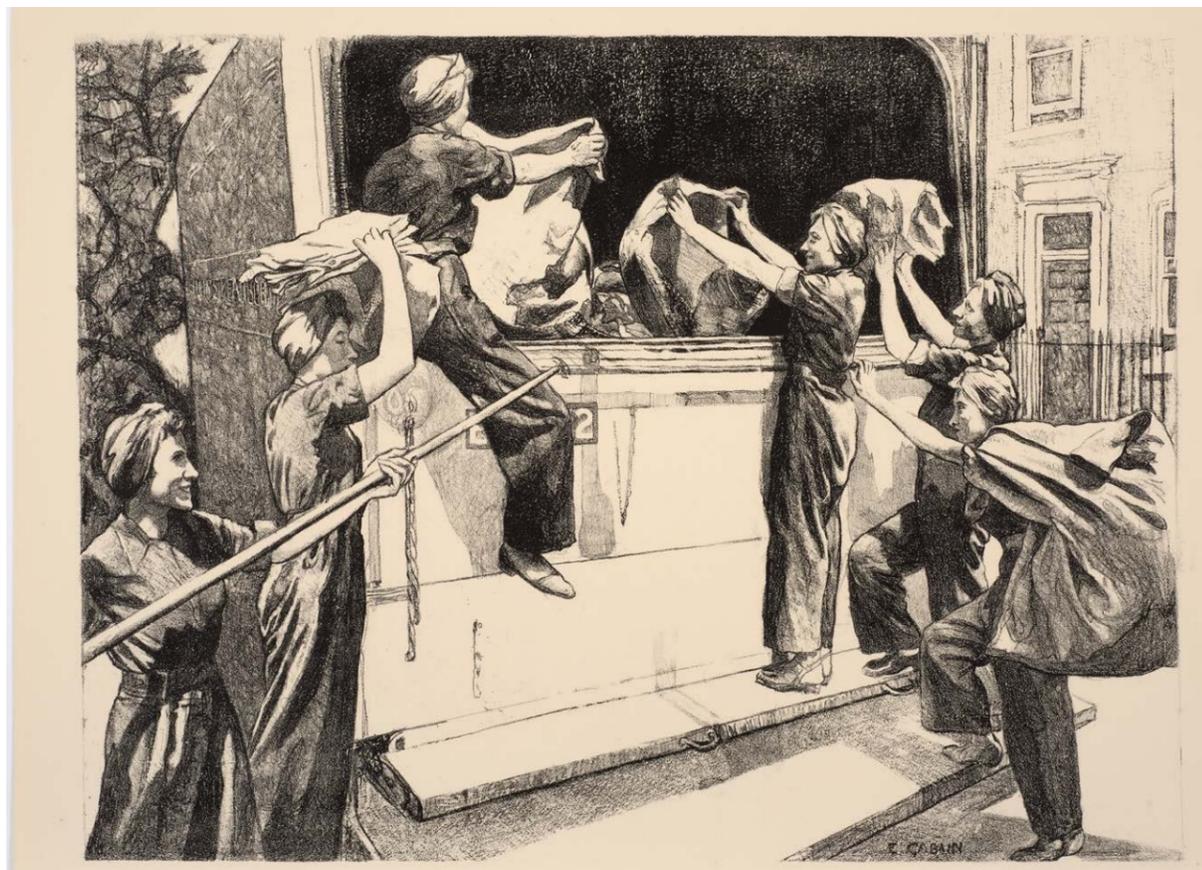




ERIC HENRY KENNINGTON
Head of a Soldier, c.1942-3
Pastel on paper

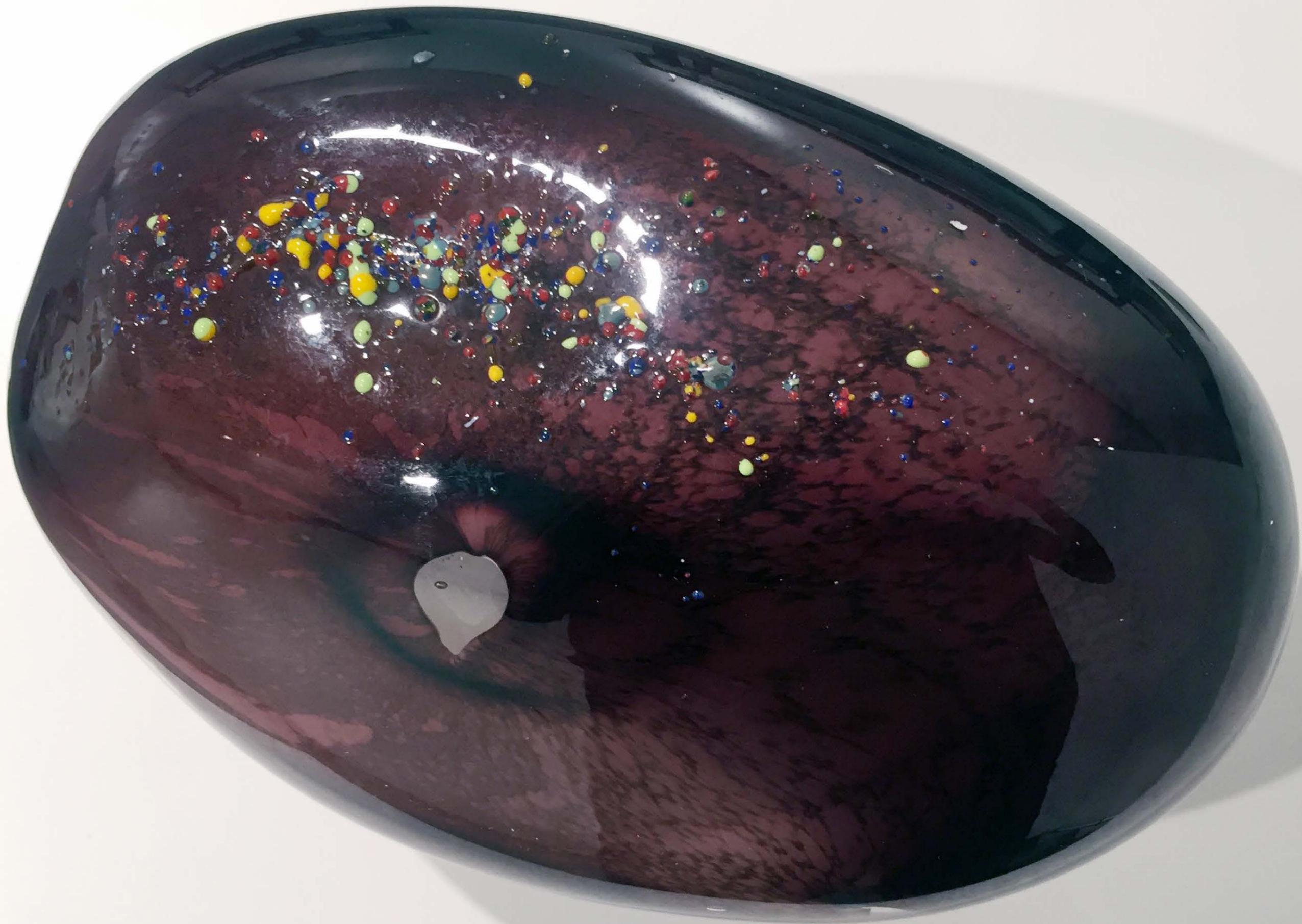


GRAHAMVIVIAN SUTHERLAND
Big Gun Manufacture, Woolwich, 1942-43
Gouache, watercolour, ink, pencil and chalk on paper



Ethel Gabain, Women's work in the war (other than the services) series, Lithographs
Top: *Captain Pauline Gower of the Women's Air Transport Auxiliary*
Bottom: *Sanlvage workers*

Ethel Gabain, Women's work in the war (other than the services) series, Lithographs
Top: *Sandbag workers*
Bottom: *Work on a Weir Pump*





ERIC RAVILIOUS
Working Controls when Submerged, 1940
Watercolour and pencil



CHARLES GINNER
The Building of HMS The Prince of Wales, c. 1940
Oil on canvas





WW2 British found material

WW2 German found material



