

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request

THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE EXPLORES PROCESS BEHIND FAMOUS WOODCUT SERIES IN *THE KRIEG CYCLE: KÄTHE KOLLWITZ AND WORLD WAR I*

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College presents ***The Krieg Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I***, an exhibition that offers visitors the singular opportunity to examine the genesis and impact of Käthe Kollwitz’s groundbreaking print series, *Krieg* (War), published nine years after her son was killed on a World War I battlefield in 1914. The woodcuts from the series will be displayed alongside supporting lithographs, sculpture, and rare preparatory drawings and trial proofs. On view September 16 through December 13, the exhibition will bring to the fore Kollwitz’s artistic development alongside her process of mourning—one that proceeded from very profound grief to a perspicacious meditation on war and its cost to society.

Following the death of her youngest son in World War I, Käthe Kollwitz’s intense sorrow motivated her to seek universal pictorial forms that communicated the devastation wrought by

war, not only in the trenches but beyond, in society at large. During the course of eight years, the artist produced sketches, etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts, ever editing and distilling her imagery in preparation for what would become one of her seminal series, *Krieg* (War). This famous work comprises seven powerful woodcuts depicting the anguish of war and its aftermath: wartime widows, mourning parents, and fatherless children left behind as combatants march off in the company of death.



Käthe Kollwitz, *The Parents* (plate 3) from the portfolio “War,” 1923.
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“Visitors to the exhibition will be able to view Kollwitz’s artistic process through the development of motifs and experimentations in printing methods, which will provide new insight into the artist’s working styles and innovation with works on paper,” said Claire

Whitner, Associate Curator, and curator of the exhibition. “Presented one hundred years after World War I, *The Krieg Cycle* seeks to acknowledge Kollwitz’s contribution to our understanding of this war and the role of women during this time. These topics should invite discussion of how Kollwitz’s meditation on the cost of war resonates with current global events.”

A subject-related publication, *Kollwitz and the Women of War: Femininity, Identity, and Art in Germany during World War I and II*, will launch in February 2016. This book will link exhibitions on Kollwitz’s work at the Davis Museum and the Smith College Museum of Art, both on view during the 2015-2016 academic year. The publication will feature essays by curators from both museums as well as original research from professors at both Wellesley and Smith Colleges.

The Krieg Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I was made possible with generous support from Wellesley College Friends of Arts, The Claire Freedman Lober ‘44 Davis Museum Program Endowment, and The Judith Blough Wentz ‘57 Museum Programs Fund.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Fall Opening Celebration

Wednesday, September 16 | 5-7 p.m. | Davis Lobby and Galleries

The Davis and the Wellesley College community will host a reception to celebrate the opening of the fall 2015 exhibitions, offering visitors the chance to view the Museum’s many new offerings. This event is free and open to the public.

Curatorial Gallery Talk

Thursday, September 24 | 3 p.m.

Associate Curator Claire Whitner will present a behind-the-scenes look at the historic, artistic, and psychological contexts of Käthe Kollwitz’s *Krieg* (War).

Film Series: Gender + Social Change in Weimar Cinema

All screenings begin at 6:30 p.m. in Collins Cinema

From the uncanny tale of terror that is Robert Wiene’s “Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” to the nuanced story of one young woman’s illicit love in “Mädchen in Uniform,” these films demonstrate the anxieties, uncertainties, and aspirations bound up with changing gender norms amidst the young Weimar republic (modern-day Germany). The experience of war and defeat, coupled with the radically changed socio-cultural norms introduced by democracy and the new constitution, are played out in cinema, which simultaneously celebrated and punished the transgressive bodies that populated it. This film series is generously supported by the Davis Museum Film Program Gift.

- Wednesday, September 30: “Metropolis” (Dir. Fritz Lang, 1927)*: The public will have the unique opportunity to view Fritz Lang’s groundbreaking “Metropolis” in its restored

form on 35mm. The film is considered a landmark in the history of the development of cinema as an art form.

- Wednesday, October 28: “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” (Dir. Robert Wiene, 1920)
- Wednesday, November 4: “The Blue Angel” (Der blaue Engel) (Dir. Josef von Sternberg, 1930)*
- Wednesday, November 18: “Mädchen in Uniform” (Dir. Leontine Sagan, 1931)

*Indicates special presentations in 35mm

Please check website to confirm show times.

DAVIS MUSEUM GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, Mass.

Museum Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays, holidays, and Wellesley College recesses.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Telephone: 781-283-2051

Website: www.theDavis.org

Parking: Free and available in the lot behind the museum. Additional parking in Davis Parking Facility.

Tours: Led by student tour guides. Free. Call 781-283-3045.

Accessible: The Davis, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. For accommodations, please contact Jim Wice, director of disability services at 781-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming– classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers–most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2300 undergraduates from every state and 75 countries.

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