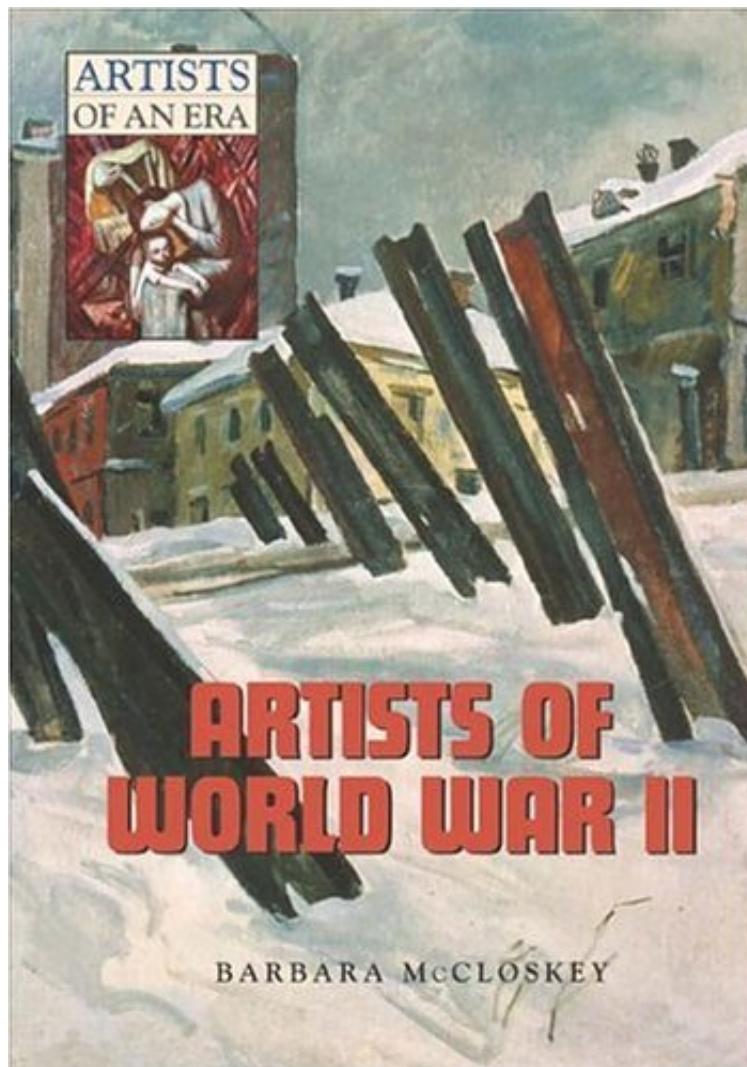


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## Artists of World War II (Artists of an Era)

*Barbara McCloskey*  
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**Barbara McCloskey : Artists of World War II (Artists of an Era)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Artists of World War II (Artists of an Era):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly RecommendedBy marsalunaBarbara McCloskey's book is a very good summary of international artistic reaction to WWII. It is a series of short but detailed and insightful summaries of artistic production and its relationship to the WWII in the countries that most prominently fought the war -- England, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, China and Japan -- followed by more in-depth essays on particular artists from each country. There is also material on Spanish art, including Picasso and the Spanish Civil War, a precursor of WWII. The chapters about China and Japan shed light on previously obscure material from those countries and the material on Western artists may challenge what you think you know about their politics and behavior

during the war--who spoke out against the Nazis, who sat mute, who suffered and who profited. This is such a good discussion of WWII artists that I'm sort of puzzled by the previous reviewer's comments; it's as if s/he is criticizing the author for not writing a different book rather than evaluating the one the author wrote. Really the single fault of the book is the relative lack of images. There are a number of color plates, but the author was apparently unable to secure the rights to some of the images she discusses. She gives citations to where they can be found, but, of course, it would have been nice to have them there to refer to. All in all, highly recommended. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A weak overview

By Matthew Widmer

This is a weak overview for people who know nothing about art. One could write 3-4 books on the info left out of this book. A big letdown. Didn't cover U.S. art during the war in any meaningful way.

The first global survey of art in WWII, this volume features selected biographies of artists and detailed discussions of war-era art worlds in China, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Spain, and the United States. Readers can compare and contrast artists' experiences of war in these different countries. They will observe the artists' wide range of responses to war, from producing art works that actively supported the war effort, to criticism of death and destruction. Chapters begin with short synopses of the art worlds in each of these countries leading up to World War II. Following this are approximately five detailed biographies of selected artists whose works exhibited a wide range of responses to the war efforts of their nation. Their works cover a range of artistic styles, from traditional to modern, and demonstrate the blurred boundaries of art and propaganda during this period. The influence of their works on World War II and how their communities, and the world, responded to those works, gives readers a unique view on the powerful influence of art in war.

"[A]n excellent, thought-provoking art history. Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty researchers; general readers." - Choice

"[E]xplores the work of representative artists within the political and social contexts of their timeshellip; [t]he writing vividly demonstrates the impact of war on art. Additional aids to students include a brief timeline and selective bibliographies for art in each country. This survey makes a useful addition to art history collections." - Lawrence Looks At Books

"[T]he first global survey of art during the war, and gathers biographies of such artists along with discussions of war-era art trends around the world. Of particular note are discussions which allow readers to compare not only artists' experiences of war in different countries, but their different responses to their experiences, from support of war efforts to criticism. Add discussions of the influence of artists' productions on war and you have an intriguing survey which goes beyond the art world." - MBR

Bookwatch

"[P]resents a survey of WWII artists from most of the regions involved in combat." - Reference Research Book News

Art Book News Annual

"[This] concisely written and well-structured historical account of art before and during World War II fills an important gap within available histories of modern art. McCloskey not only convincingly demonstrates that the production of art during these violent times is inseparable from the agendas of political systems, dictatorships and the democracies alike, but also stresses the coexistence of traditional, often regionally informed artistic endeavors, and progressive styleshellip;. Their biographies attest to the complexity of the politicization of aesthetics. Her book shouldn't be missed by anyone interested in the intersection of art and politics." (Sabine Eckmann, Washington University, author and co-editor of *Exiles+Emigr^D'es: The Flight of European Artists from Hitler*)

"In this systematic survey, Barbara McCloskey provides a panoramic overview of wartime artistic efforts in eight European and Asian countries and the United States and simultaneously offers more than thirty biographies of both famous and little-known artists who produced 'war art.' She includes both artists who resisted totalitarian regimes and those who collaborated with and exalted dictators and repressive military leaders as she explores the complex intersection between art and propaganda that determined artistic developments in many countries during this unique historical moment. By incorporating a summary of the avant-garde developments that characterized each nation's artistic history before the outbreak of war in 1939, she sets her story within the context of the history of modernism and highlights the conflict experienced by artists and governments as they tried to determine whether traditional, naturalistic modes or avant-garde developments could best serve a nation at war." (David Wilkins, University of Pittsburgh, author and co-editor of *Art Past/Art Present*)

"Barbara McCloskey's *Artists of World War II* is the first book that attempts to provide a synthetic survey of the art in the countries of major combatants in World War II, both east and west. The book is rich in institutional detail and, unlike most comparative discussions of art in these countries for the interwar period, does not short change either the political history or the artistic debates. Each chapter is coherently organized and accessible, with useful artistic biographies of key players. Global in scope and ambitious in scale, this book functions as a strong primer for students new to the field but also, for the specialist, details compelling questions of the political function of art in democratic, communist, and fascist states during times of military conflict." (Paul B. Jaskot, DePaul University, author of *The Architecture of Oppression: The SS, Forced Labor and the Nazi Monumental Building Economy*)

"Never has the story of World War II's artists been told with such breathtaking scope and clarity. McCloskey's gripping narrative will captivate students encountering this overlooked area of art history for the first time as well as historians and art historians well versed in the period. The unprecedented international reach of Artists

and World War II provides a much needed synthesis of the scholarship on art production and politics under the extreme conditions of modern warfare." (Keith Holz, Western Illinois University, author of *Modern German Art for Thirties Paris, Prague, and London: Resistance and Acquiescence in a Democratic Public Sphere*)About the AuthorBarbara McCloskey is an associate professor of art history at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of *George Grosz and the Communist Party: Art and Radicalism in Crisis, 1918 to 1936*.