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University of **NOTRE DAME**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hesburgh Libraries and Snite Museum Commemorate Centennial of World War I with Exhibition of Russian Prints

Natalia Goncharova's Mystical Images of War, 1914

On view February 1 through March 22, 2015

NOTRE DAME, IN—December 12, 2014—In conjunction with a year-long commemoration of the centennial of World War I that began in September, the Hesburgh Libraries and the Snite Museum of Art team up to present Russian avant-garde artist Natalia Goncharova's dramatic portfolio *Mystical Images of War*, published in 1914. The exhibition runs from February 1 through March 22, 2015, at the Snite Museum on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.



Published in Moscow in the fall of 1914, these 14 lithographs represent one of the earliest and most profound artistic responses to the outbreak of the Great War. Natasha Lyandres, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections at Hesburgh Libraries and curator of the exhibition says, "They tell an epic and mystical story about the eternal struggle between good and evil, destruction and redemption, in which national, traditional, religious, apocalyptic, and contemporary images are intertwined."

After attending the Moscow College of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, Goncharova helped move Russian art towards abstraction. Early in 1914, she travelled to Paris where she became familiar with the work of French avant-garde artists Paul Gauguin, Paul Cézanne, and Henri Matisse. At the outbreak of the war, she returned to Moscow and published

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the *Mystical Images of War* portfolio. The interaction of heavenly and earthly beings lends the series its mysticism. Her images rely on native religious icons and folk art for their depth of feeling, reinforced by a style replete with sharp angles, bold lines, and stark contrasts.

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame initiated this re-examination of the war with a film and lecture series looking at the catastrophe that in many ways defined modern Europe. Challenging standard histories of the event, speakers from around the country continue to present new data and interpretations that examine the war's causes and long-term effects on politics, society, culture, and the environment.

Co-sponsored by the Hesburgh Libraries, the Snite Museum, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, this presentation of *Natalia Goncharova's Mystical Images of War, 1914* is part of a year-long series of events commemorating the First World War.

RELATED EVENTS

Nanovic Institute Lecture Series, dates TBD, at 4:30 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art. Free and open to the public. Visit <http://nanovic.nd.edu/programming/lectures-wwi/> for details.

Photo Caption:

Natalia Goncharova (Russian, 1881–1962), *The Christian Host*, no. 9 from the series *Mystical Images of War*, 1914, lithograph. The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Hesburgh Libraries, The University of Notre Dame.

For additional images, contact Gina Costa at gcosta@nd.edu or 574-631-4720.

The Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays Noon–5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574-631-5466 or at the Museum's website: sniteartmuseum.nd.edu. Driving directions and parking information are available at <http://nd.edu/visitors/directions/>. Find us at inthebend.com and facebook.com.

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As an integral unit of the University of Notre Dame, the museum supports teaching and research; furthers faith-based initiatives for greater campus diversity and service to the broader community; and reflects the traditions and values of the University.

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