

'Only force of will enables one to carry on art or art education'

Researching Home Front Activities at The Glasgow School of Art During WWI

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The Home Front Memorial Project

The project aims to uncover information about students and staff who remained at The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) and contributed to Home Front activities during WWI.

Alongside an online resource documenting the lives of these individuals and the activities they were involved in, a memorial acting as a partnership piece to the existing WWI Roll of Honour (pictured below) will be commissioned.

Fundraising through the arts

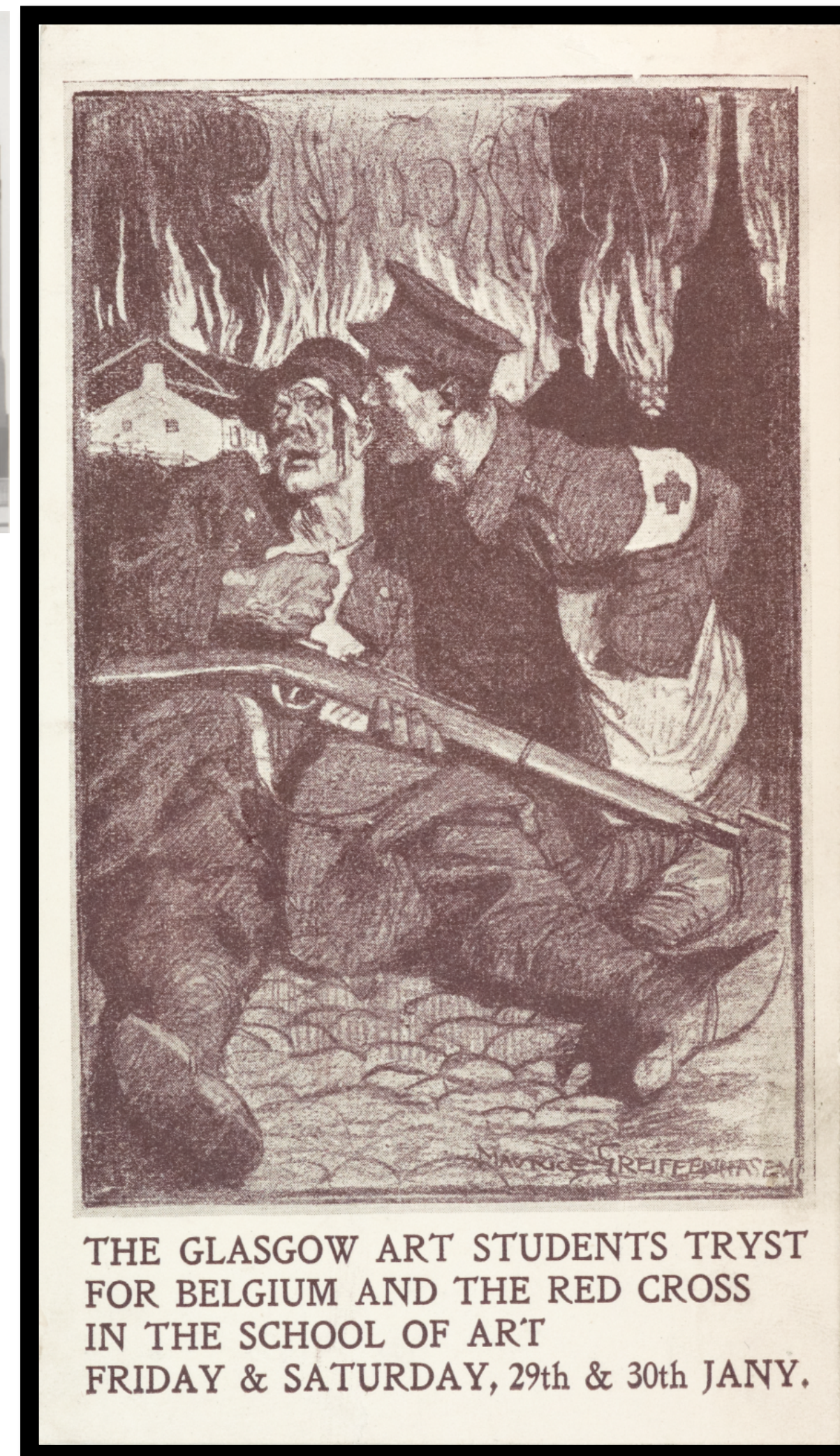
The Belgian Tryst

Approximately 8000 Belgians came to reside in Glasgow and the surrounding area from 1914-1919.

Prompted by George Baltus, GSA students decided to raise funds for the Belgian Relief Fund and the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

Held in the school in January 1915, events included concerts, a play, Futurist dancing and a Chamber of Horrors.

Funds were also raised through an Art Subscription, which included art work for sale by members of staff.



THE GLASGOW ART STUDENTS TRYST
FOR BELGIUM AND THE RED CROSS
IN THE SCHOOL OF ART
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th JANY.

Other Home Front Activities

- Concert held in 1915 for Relief Funds for Poland and Galicia; entertainments held to raise funds for Scottish regiments too
- Students executed two large painted signs for the Scottish Red Cross Hospital in Paris
- Comforts for French soldiers were sent to Professor Bourdon and his men at the front
- Funds were raised for the Roll of Honour and the Bourdon Memorial, to honour Professor Bourdon

Ancient and Modern Needlecraft Exhibition

Supported by the Scottish Education Department, the exhibition brought together over 1000 examples of needlework from across the UK and overseas.

The exhibition was organised by well known Glasgow Girls including Ann Macbeth and Dorothy Carleton Smyth.

Although its remit was educational, proceeds from the exhibition went to several war charities including the Italian Red Cross and VAD Hospital Perth.



THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART.

NOTICE.

CAPTAIN BOURDON, D.S.M.

Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, whose photograph is beneath attached, asks for comforts for his men in the trenches, such as, mufflers, mittens, etc. Gifts will gladly be received and acknowledged by Miss Arthur. The articles will be forwarded by Mlle. Ceccaldi.

Further research...

- Conscientious objectors at GSA
- Links between GSA and the Suffrage movement
- GSA students and war memorials in Glasgow
- Belgian refugees and GSA
- Moral role of art during wartime

Students enrolled 1913 - 1919

