**Public Programs**

3.04 Reception / Party: Spring at the Spencer / 5:30-7:30 PM / Central Court / Sponsored by the Spencer and the Friends of the Art Museum / Celebrate the spring exhibitions at the Spencer.

3.11 Machine in a Void Book Discussion / Film Series*  
**Book Discussion:** One of Ours by Willa Cather / 6 PM / Kress Gallery  
**Film:** A Very Long Engagement / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

3.25 Machine in a Void Book Discussion / Film Series*  
[Please note today’s location: Lawrence Public Library, 7th & Vermont]  
**Book Discussion:** All Quiet on the Western Front  
by Erich Maria Remarque / 6 PM  
**Film:** All Quiet on the Western Front / 7 PM

3.26 Panel Discussion: 
Town & Gown Forum: The Long Shadows of the “Great War” / 10 AM / Kress Gallery / Co-Sponsored by Hall Center for the Humanities / Join independent scholar, James Grauerholz, and KU faculty members, Nathan Wood and William Woods for a gallery presentation about the Spencer’s exhibition  
Machine in a Void: World War I and the Graphic Arts

3.29 Panel Discussion:  
KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute: Machine in a Void:  
World War I and the Graphic Arts / 2 PM / Kress Gallery / Co-Sponsored by KU Continuing Education / Enrollment required / $ / Class sponsored by KU Continuing Education. Please contact Continuing Education, 785-864-ELUC (3523), www.ku.edu or kuci@ku.edu

4.08 Machine in a Void Book Discussion / Film Series*  
**Book Discussion:** The Sea Altar Rite by Ernest Hemingway / 6:30 PM / Kress Gallery  
**Film:** Die See Altar Rite / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

4.10 It Starts with Art** Children’s Art Appreciation Class: War of the Worlds: Pencil v. Print / 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM / Central Court / Study line and composition in the Machine in a Void: World War I and the Graphic Arts exhibition, then experiment with creating the same image in both print and pencil.

4.22 Machine in a Void Book Discussion / Film Series*  
**Book Discussion:** Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf / 6 PM / Kress Gallery  
**Film:** Mrs. Dalloway (1997) / 7 PM / SMA Auditorium

4.29 Reception:  
Spring Student Night & Juried Art Show Opening / 5:30-7:30 PM / Central Court and galleries / Co-Sponsored by SMA Student Advisory Board

5.01 Reception:  
Arts & Culture Festival / 1-4 PM / SMA Front Lawn / Co-Sponsored by SMA Student Advisory Board

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**Machine in a Void:**  
World War I & the Graphic Arts

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**Public Programs**

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**It Starts with Art**  
Children’s Art Appreciation Class  
Our entertaining, interactive programs for children ages 5-14 combine art education with hands-on creation. In each class, students explore selected artworks in the Museum and make their own art based on the techniques, media, and traditions they discover. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Ages 5-8 meet 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, and ages 9-14 meet 1:30-3:30 PM. Classes are $12 / $10 for Friends of the Art Museum members. Enroll in four or more classes and receive the FAM price. To enroll, contact the Education Department, 785.864.0137 or smakids@ku.edu, or visit www.spencerart.ku.edu

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**Image Credits**

above // Paul Klee / Der Tod für die Idee (Death for the Idea) and Willi Geiger / Don’t Bide (Don’t Hide)  
/ etching, aquatint / Munich: Graphik-Verlag 1914-1915 / Museum purchase: Helen Foresman Spencer Art Acquisition Fund, 2005.0146  
/ original lithographs / Munich: Zeit-Echo 1 (1914/15) nos. 7 and 9 / pp. 93, 129 / Museum: Graphik-Verlag 1914-1915 / Museum purchase: Helen Foresman Spencer Art Acquisition Fund, 2010.0002  
cover // Henry de Groux / La croix de gueule (Grenade-Throat), 1914-1916 / etching  
/ Museum purchase: Helen Foresman Spencer Art Acquisition Fund, 2005.0159  
interior left // André Desandre / Le feu (The Flare-Maker), 1915-1917 / etching  
interior middle // Henry de Groux / L’e[jeu de strate]gie (The Wager of Strategy), 1914-1916  
/ Museum purchase: Helen Foresman Spencer Art Acquisition Fund, 2005.0146  
interior right // Erich Heckel / Mann in der Ebene (Man on a Plain), 1917 / woodcut  
/ printed 1921 / Museum purchase: Letha Churchill Walker Memorial Art Fund, 2007.0023

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*Machine in a Void*  
This collaborative program pairs film screenings at the Spencer with book discussions sponsored by the Lawrence Public Library. In conjunction with the exhibition Machine in a Void, the Library has created a book discussion group on the subject, and the Spencer has assembled a series of films with storylines or themes similar to those found in the literature. A book discussion precedes each screening. To register for the book discussion group, please contact Maria Butler at 785.843.3833 ext. 123, or email mbutler@lawrence.lib.ks.us

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**It Starts with Art**  
Children’s Art Appreciation Class
In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, The First World War (also known as “The Great War” and “The War to End all Wars”) witnessed unprecedented use of machines and new technologies in warfare. The ability to kill from a distance afforded by aircraft, tanks, machine guns and powerful exploding shells is often discussed in terms of the mechanization and subsequent dehumanization of war. These ideas are echoed in the remarks that Belgian artist Henri de Groux set down in introduction to his 1916 print portfolio, The Face of Victory, “[the war is an] undeniable and colossal absurdity, like a machine functioning in a void,” and an “opulent excess of perfect horror.” This exhibition invites visitors to consider the many ways that the graphic arts were implicated in telling the story of the War, whether as documentation, official propaganda, or as expressions of loss and dissent. The exhibition concludes with a section dedicated to some of the many directions in which the arts expanded during the years shortly after the War; a period that is often described as the “Machine Age,” the culmination of the industrial revolution.

Most of the works in this exhibition come from the Spencer Museum’s permanent collection. Our collection is strong in German, French, and Belgian material concerning the War, but less extensive in British and American works. For this reason we cannot offer a comprehensive overview of graphic art associated with the War, but we can introduce many of the often encountered themes, including the plight of horses, hand-to-hand combat, devastated landscapes, refugees, captive hostages, trench warfare, the role of nurses, soldiers on leave, and the psychological toll of war.

Please refer to the exhibition website for additional information, future publications, and programming details: www.spencerart.ku.edu

As much as possible our labels indicate if the artists in the exhibition experienced the War first-hand. A passage from a letter of November 18, 1917 written by the English official war artist, Paul Nash (who is not in the exhibition), offers a meaningful text in this regard:

The rain drives on, the stinking mud becomes more evilly yellow, the shell holes fill up with green-white water, the roads and tracks are covered in inches of slime, the black dying trees ooze and sweat and the shells never cease. They alone plunge overhead, tearing away the rotting tree stumps, breaking the plank roads, striking down horses and mules, annihilating, maiming, maddening, they plunge into the grave which is this land; one huge grave, and cast upon it the poor dead.

It is unspeakable, godless, hopeless. I am no longer an artist interested and curious, I am a messenger who will bring back the word from the men who are fighting to those who want the war to go on for ever. Feeble, inarticulate will be my message, but it will have a bitter truth, and may it burn their lousy souls.

This exhibition was organized by Stephen Goddard with the assistance of curatorial interns Rachel Voorhies and Olena Chervonik, and with additional help from Lorie Vanchena and Andrea Weiss.

Machine in a Void is made possible by the generous support of the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation.