

Binghamton University

The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB)

Research Days Posters 2022

Division of Research

2022

Rudolf Baranik and the Entanglement of Art and War

Ryan League

Binghamton University--SUNY

Follow this and additional works at: https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2022

Recommended Citation

League, Ryan, "Rudolf Baranik and the Entanglement of Art and War" (2022). *Research Days Posters 2022*. 128.

https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2022/128

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Division of Research at The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Days Posters 2022 by an authorized administrator of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Rudolf Baranik and the Entanglement of Art and War

Ryan League
Thinking Through Painting

The Scream, Edvard Munch, 1893, oil, tempera and pastel on cardboard



WW2 and Art

- Prior to the war, artists who depicted scenes of battle tended to glorify them
- However, depictions of the Second World War tended towards darker and more tragic themes
- These more agonizing depictions of war came to be mobilized in service of the Antiwar Movement in the 1960s
- Art increasingly became a more realistic depiction of war violence

Background

- Among the many young American men drafted to serve in World War II, many were artists who viewed its horrors firsthand
 - Rudolf Baranik was one such artist
- Their experiences during the war inevitably informed their subsequent art making



Homage to Munch III, Rudolf Baranik, 1963, oil on canvas

Rudolf Baranik, photo collage with canvas on cardboard



Homage to Munch III

- Rudolf Baranik's strong antiwar convictions suffused his work
 - These convictions were undoubtedly formed from his experience as a soldier in WWII
- *Homage to Munch III* is a powerful example of these influences
- His reference to Edvard Munch's *The Scream* intensifies the sense of suffering being expressed
 - *The Scream* was taken up as a symbol for protest against the Vietnam War
- The bleak, muted, smokey colors (common to his work) express the dark state of post-war trauma

