

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE ART INSTITUTE WINS 2011 GEORGE WITTENBORN MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD FOR  
*WINDOWS ON THE WAR: SOVIET TASS POSTERS CATALOGUE***

The Art Institute of Chicago has received the 2011 **George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award** for the landmark exhibition catalogue *Windows on the War: Soviet TASS Posters at Home and Abroad, 1941–1945*. The award was presented on March 31, 2012, during the annual conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) in Toronto, Canada. The catalogue accompanied a major 2011 exhibition of the same name mounted at the Art Institute. This is the third time that the Art Institute has received this prestigious publishing award.

“We are honored to be once again recognized by the ARLIS/NA with this distinctive award,” said Douglas Druick, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute. “The catalogue was a major scholarly undertaking that we are exceptionally proud of. Thanks to the contributions of many scholars and researchers, one of the most significant government-sponsored cultural efforts of the 20th century has been brought into the public eye for the first time in six decades.”

The handsome 400-page *Windows on the War* catalogue, which is the first major scholarly English-language text on the posters’ production, was underwritten by Ne Boltai! and features essays by Peter Kort Zegers, Douglas Druick, Jill Bugajski, Cher Schneider, Konstantin Akinsha, Adam Jolles, and Robert Bird, with contributions by Lauren Makholm and Molly Zimmerman-Feeley. The richly illustrated catalogue includes chapters on the founding of the TASS studio; its stylistic choices, and its role in the war; the poster studio’s poetic and literary collaborators; the international dissemination and American reception of the works; and a technical study of the posters’ medium and assemblage. Chicago’s Studio Blue designed the catalogue.



“When these enormous handmade posters were unearthed from deep within a storage area of the museum’s Department of Prints and Drawings, the discovery spurred a major research and conservation initiative that took years to complete,” said Robert Sharp, the Art Institute’s executive director of publications. “Our task was to present the rich historical and cultural context of these posters through a selection of photographs, documentary material, and scholarly essays in a way that would illuminate the visual culture of US–USSR relations before and during the war. We are thrilled that our efforts have been recognized with such an honor.”

Established in 1980 to honor the memory of premier New York City art book dealer and publisher George Wittenborn, the award is given each year to a North American art publication that represents the highest standards of content, documentation, layout, and format in art publishing. ARLIS/NA, founded in 1972, has a combined membership of 1,300 individuals, institutions, and vendors in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and overseas. It is the only professional organization in North America devoted exclusively to the concerns of art information specialists. Members of the 32nd Annual George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award are: Deborah Ultan Boudewyns, University of Minnesota (chair); Bailey Diers, Minneapolis Public Library; Rosemary Furtak, Walker Art Center; Shannon Klug, University of Minnesota; Jessica McIntyre, Minneapolis Institute of Arts; and Jessica Shaykett, American Craft Council.

Previously, the Art Institute received the George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award for *Odilon Redon: Prince of Dreams, 1840–1916* (1994) and for the two-volume *The Lithographs of James McNeill Whistler* (1998). The museum also received an honorable mention for the exhibition catalogue *Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Studio of the South* catalogue (2001). *Windows on the War*, published by the Art Institute and distributed by Yale University Press, is available for \$65 at the Art Institute’s Museum Shop.

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**MUSEUM HOURS**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

**Museum free to Illinois residents on first and second Wednesdays of every month.**

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

**ADMISSION**

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

**City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.**