



The exhibit is based on "They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art in Wartime," curated by Anthony L. Geist and Peter N. Carroll for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives of New York.

The original Spanish Civil War materials are owned by the Avery Library of Columbia University and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

They Still Draw Pictures:

Children's Art in Wartime from the Spanish Civil

About *They Still Draw Pictures*

They Still Draw Pictures collects and comments on a cross-section of children's art produced in wartime, with a particular focus on the Spanish Civil War.

Of the 600,000 refugees who sought shelter from Franco's tyranny in the relative security of Republican-controlled eastern Spain, more than 200,000 were children. The Republic responded to this crisis by establishing *colonias infantiles* (children's colonies), often in country estates and mansions that had been abandoned by fascist sympathizers. In these colonies, the young refugees--many of them orphaned or sent by their parents to safety--received schooling and medical care, kept each other company, and produced thousands of drawings that serve as a moving, collective testimony of the experience of being a child in wartime.

Born of the trauma of exile and separation, the drawings are invaluable historical documents, giving physical form to the children's experiences of air raids, brutality, destruction, and homelessness. These pictures also represent daily life in the colonies and preserve the children's clear memories of life before the war and hope for life after it. They are supplemented by a smaller selection of drawings from later wars, showing that this problem is contemporary as well as historical.



Exhibit Specifications

The complete version consists of 49 drawings created by Spanish refugee children and 23 children's drawings from other wars, all in facsimile, including World War II, Bosnia, Kosovo, Chiapas, and other military confrontations.

The exhibit also contains eight archival photographs, including four by Robert

Capa, and accompanying wall text. All pieces are framed and ready to mount. Requirements: 180-200 linear feet.

The unframed version of the exhibit consists of the 49 drawings created by Spanish refugee children, plus wall text ready for printing in the format preferred by the venue. It also includes

mounted, poster-sized reproductions of the eight archival photos, including four by Robert Capa (displayed throughout this catalog).

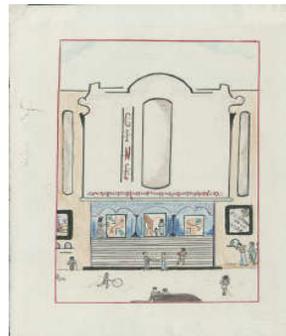
The cost of exhibiting *They Still Draw Pictures* is \$3,000, including shipping.

Life before the War



Among the most moving of the drawings are those that depict images of peace, either of life before the war or visions of the future.

The drawings in this section vary considerably in topic but all have an orderly air about them, a sense of daily life as usual. They evoke and idealize home, preserving on paper what they may never see again.



GUILLERMO GARCÍA MONTAÑO
Age 13
"Life in Madrid before the revolution."



VICTORIANO ACOSTA CEPEDA
Age 13

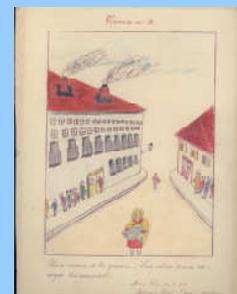
You could see by the dreadful perfection on detail, how well they knew their subjects. Now they are drawing flowers and apples and sail boats and little houses with smoke coming out of the chimneys. They are well children now.

-Dorothy Parker, 1937

War

Among the most numerous and powerful drawings in the exhibit are those depicting war. They vary greatly in style and skill of execution: they depict cityscapes and country scenes, yet almost all of them have one thing in common: airplanes.

Aerial combat and bombing were new and the greatest terror came from the air. Aviation historians can identify most of the models in the drawings.



ANTONIO PRAT OCARIZ
Age unknown
"A scene of war. Lines to pick up food rations."

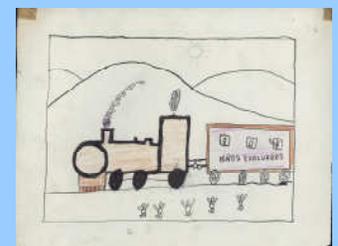


Evacuation

The Spanish Civil War displaced upwards of 200,000 children. In a number of drawings they depict scenes of their evacuation and flight.



MERCEDES COMELLAS RICART
Age 13



ÁNGEL CASTELLANOS
Age 13
Evacuation of Children

EXHIBITION CATALOG

Life in the *Colonias Infantiles*

After the grim realities of war depicted in these drawings it comes as a relief to know that the children who had witnessed such horrors could produce visions of joy.

One of the topics that their teachers frequently assigned was scenes of life in the colonies. Far from the front, the government-sponsored group homes offered comfort and security after the trauma of bombardment and death.



Boys in Colony



Casa Ben Leider

“Because evidently the men in planes have families too, and the men who sink food ships have families, and the men who run a war have sons who can also get killed, but none of this seems to have any serious effect upon behavior.”

-Letter from Martha Gellhorn to Eleanor Roosevelt

Life After the War

What gives these pictures a special poignancy that transcends our own children’s artistic efforts, fixed with magnets on refrigerator doors, is our knowledge of the special circumstances in which they were drawn.

Born of the trauma of exile and separation, the drawings are invaluable historical documents, picturing for us the effects of the Spanish Civil War on its youngest victims. At the same time, they stand as testimony to the human spirit in the face of adversity.



JUAN VERDAGUER
Age 14 “This drawing shows the farmers plowing their fields.”

Past Shows

October-December 2002, University of California, San Diego

January-March 2003, Zoellner Art Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

April-June 2003, Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

August-October 2003, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

February-March 2004, AXA Gallery, New York City

March-April 2005, Jacob Lawrence Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle WA

May-June 2006, Cervantes Institute, Moscow, Russia

April 2007, '62 Center for Theatre and Dance, Williams College, Williamstown, MA

May-August 2007, Cervantes Institute, New York City

November-December 2007, TBU Art Space, California State University, Chico

March-June 2008, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

September, 2009, Pablo de la Torriente Brau Cultural Center, Havana, Cuba. September 2009, Alachua County Library, Gainesville, Florida



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The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting public awareness, research, and discussion about the Spanish Civil War and the American volunteers who risked their lives to fight fascism in Spain.

Using its continually expanding archival collections in exhibitions, publications, performances, and educational programs, ALBA preserves the legacy of progressive activism and commitment of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade as an inspiration for present and future generations.



Reviews

The following are comments made at the opening reception of *They Still Draw Pictures* at the AXA Gallery in New York City, February 18, 2004.

“Powerful and moving”

“Inspiring...gives me hope”

“What a comment on the human spirit”

“Reminds us of our need to put pen to paper”

“The most moving art I've seen in a long time”

