

Degenerate Art Show 1937

Dix, Beckmann, Chagall, Grosz, Heartfield,
Kandinsky, Klee, El Lissitzky . . .
“degenerate” because they won’t paint
golden bodies for the Reich.
In Goebbels’ “art” catalogue
Dix’s *War Cripples* cited as
“sabotage of the national defense.”

In '33, stripped of his post as art teacher.
Turns the corner—there’s the Gestapo.
Could he, should he,
get him in a stranglehold?
Black tongue thrust
from the Nazi skull.
Better: he’ll sketch him.

Politics bore him,
prefers whorehouses.
They're alive & so [he thinks] is he.
But not the conscript he cradled one night—
guts spilling out all over his hands.

So. Night sweats continue.
His wife snaps on the light,
bombs bursting in air.
His screams drowned
by thudding boots, raucous calls:
Jew Out!