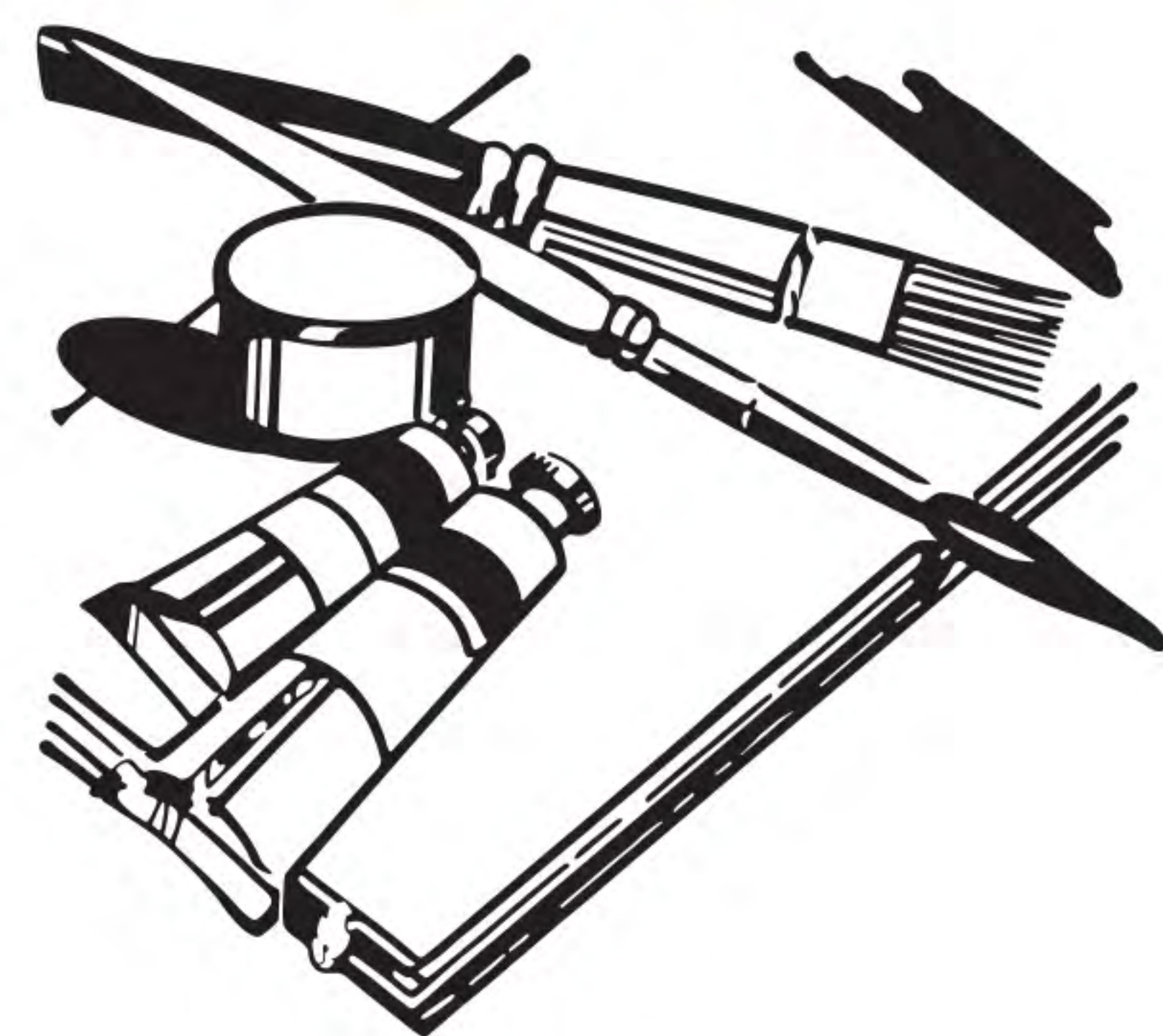




BECOME A WAR ARTIST



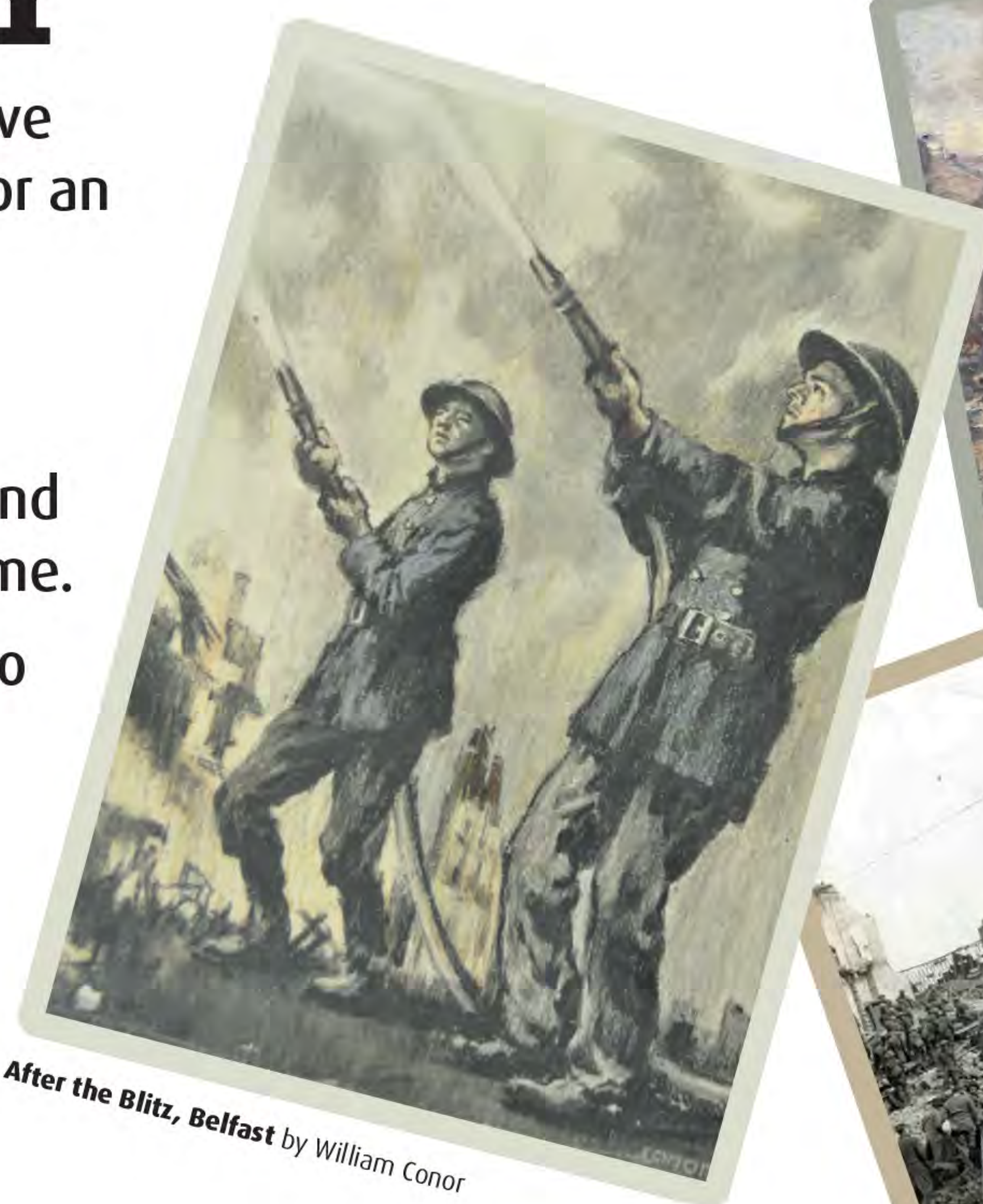
Belfast was bombed four times by the Luftwaffe (the German Air Force) in April and May 1941. Almost 1,000 people died and over half the houses in the city were damaged. Many people lost their homes and fled the city.

Newspapers such as the Belfast Telegraph, Northern Whig, Irish News and Belfast Newsletter continued printing during the Blitz, even when their offices were damaged. Newspaper photographers travelled across Belfast in dangerous conditions to take photographs of the devastation and the newspaper offices shared printing equipment to make sure their papers were ready on time. At the same time, artists were inspired to draw and paint what they witnessed.

Here are some photographs and artworks which show us what Belfast looked like after the Blitz...

ACTIVITY

- Draw what you might have seen as a photographer or an artist walking through Belfast after the Blitz.
- Be inspired by the photographs, drawings and paintings made at the time.
- Use whatever you have to hand; colouring pencils, crayons, paint, chalk...



After the Blitz, Belfast by William Conor



One thousand nine hundred and forty-one by William Jackson



©Belfast Telegraph



©Belfast Telegraph



Need more ideas?

As a museum we don't just collect objects and artefacts, we also interview people who experienced the Second World War. Read these memories of the Belfast Blitz to inspire your artwork.

"There were parachute bombs that came down. They actually had a parachute attached and they floated down and people could see them coming down. One landed in the Glen but didn't explode. As soon as the sirens went off there was a steady stream of people all coming down the avenue, and most of them had bin lids over their heads. This was to protect them from firebombs, but as children we thought it was funny at the time. The adults didn't think it was funny at all."

Maureen Mawhinney

"They came to Belfast over what is now the zoo and started dropping their bombs there and where we lived in Lismoyne Park. The next set of bombs landed more towards the Cavehill Road and I remember hearing the wardens shouting, "There's another of those terrible things above us" and it was a five-tonne mine on a parachute and it was getting lower and lower, and it drifted over our house and landed in Sunningdale Park where it blew the fronts off a number of houses."

David Gooding

"My mother realised she better get us out of bed, and I remember coming down the stairs and the stairs shaking as we came down. Because there was no light under the stairs my little brother Roy panicked (he was scared of the dark) so we all sat under the table and mummy had Roy on her knee and she was reading to us to keep us as calm as possible. Shortly after that the whole house seemed to shake and then it just collapsed. I managed to get out and an air raid warden helped my mother and brother out. My father went up to the house the next day, after he had got us away down to the countryside, to see if there was anything that could be saved, but there wasn't a thing. Then he came across the pennies that had been in our money boxes fused and melted together with the blast."

Esther Fyffe

