



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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## CONNECTICUT

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## Gallery Talk and Reception at University of Saint Joseph

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – On Thursday, **February 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.**, the Art Gallery at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will present a **gallery talk by Professor of History Kevin J. Callahan, Ph.D.** in conjunction with the current exhibition *Käthe Kollwitz – Graphics*. The talk will be **followed by a reception. Admission is free of charge.** The Art Gallery, located in The Bruyette Athenaeum on USJ's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, is open **Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday.**

Dr. Callahan will discuss *Civilization and its Discontents: European Culture, the Great War and Social Criticism in the Artwork of Käthe Kollwitz, 1890s-1930s*. German artist Käthe Kollwitz lived in a critical and contradictory period in European history. European civilization was at its zenith in terms of power and prestige from colonial empires and industrial might to technological, artistic, and intellectual innovation. At the same time, European society was rent by internal social divisions, political disenfranchisement and was a hotbed for xenophobic, racist and nationalist ideologies, all of which erupted in the devastation of World War I. The artwork of Käthe Kollwitz gives clear expression to German Jewish cultural critic Walter Benjamin's insight: "There is no document of civilization, which at the same time is not a document of barbarism."

Kevin J. Callahan is Professor of History at the University of Saint Joseph. He is the author of *Demonstration Culture: European Socialism and the Second International, 1889-1914* (Troubadour Publishing Ltd., 2010) and co-editor of *Views from the Margins: Creating Identities in Modern France* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008). Dr. Callahan earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University and his B.A. from Skidmore College. He is Vice President of the Peace History Society and review editor of the journal *Peace & Change*.

*Käthe Kollwitz – Graphics* was funded by John Piskor to honor of his late sister, Irene Teresa Piskor-Lewis '56 and features works of art on loan from the William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Also on view at the Art Gallery is an exhibition of *Recent Acquisitions*, including works by Anthonie Waterloo, Mary Cassatt, Vassily Kandinsky, Wilfredo Lam, John Buck, Jeanette Pasin Sloan, and Enrique Chagoya.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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