

## **Otto Dix, "Lens wird mit Bomben belegt"**

The painting "Lens wird mit Bomben belegt" by Otto Dix is a black and white painting showing an airplane attack on a city. Otto Dix is a very famous painter who was especially active after the First World War.

The picture shows a street of a town with a lot of houses. Most of these houses are damaged or broken. Above the street there is an airplane in a steep nosedive. In the background and in the foreground you can see people running across the street, looking shocked and scared. Among these people are young babies and very old women.

The picture is drawn in black and white. This lack of color shows how bad the time was during the war. The lack of color also indicates that during the time of the First World War people were so scared and worried that there were no other feelings or emotions in their life at that time.

In the painting there are a lot of shadows in the houses, suggesting that people were hiding. This "hiding" indicates that people were so scared they didn't even dare to go outside unless there was an attack and they needed to go to safety. With really big eyes and opened mouths the painter captured their fright. With the people running forward to the viewer this feeling is reinforcing. Some people in the background are kneeling or lying down to show that they either surrender or that they are already dead. This also shows how bad the time during a war is.

In the foreground, there are people who have fallen on top of each other; everybody is in a hurry trying to get to safety. Otto Dix used a long shot to show this entire scene. Through the long shot the viewer is able to take in the whole scene and truly see how terrible the time of an air raid is.

I think the author tried to create a symbol to show that something like the First World War should never happen again because of all the casualties and damage done in a war like that. I think he was truly shocked, angry and sad after the war and combined all this into the painting, really showing the emotions all in black and white. He definitely created a depressed and sad atmosphere with this painting, which I think represents the feelings of the people who survived the First World War.

I think that Otto Dix did a great job with this painting because it seems like a quick sketch but it actually is so much more. It shows the feelings, emotions and actions of people who lived in this period of time. Furthermore, he captured the terror of this time with the air raid in the background. I also like the fact that the picture is in black and white because this indicates the lack of happiness, fun and joy during WWI.

Ben, Year 9