The Personal is Public and Political: Käthe Kollwitz’s Final Lithograph

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Käthe Kollwitz, *Woman with Dead Child (Frau mit totem Kind)*, 1903, etching, 16 1/4 × 18 9/16"

Röttgen Pietà, c. 1300-25, painted wood, 34 1/2" high
Käthe Kollwitz, The Mothers (Die Mütter), 1921-22, woodcut on paper, 11 1/4 x 13 1/16 in.
Käthe Kollwitz, Seeds for Sowing Must Not Be Ground, 1941 crayon lithograph, 14 1/2 × 15 1/2 in.
"I have decided – for the 3rd time – to take up the same theme and said to Hans a few days ago: This is now my legacy: “Seed for sowing should not be milled” [...] So I painted the same scene again: Boys, proper Berlin boys, who greedily scent the air outside like young horses, are held back by a woman. The woman (an old woman) has wrapped the boys into her protective mantle, spreading her arms and hands over them in a violent and dominant gesture. “Seeds for sowing must not be ground” – this demand is, like “Never again War”, not a sentimental yearning, but a command, a demand”. – Käthe Kollwitz, December 1941