



## **Francis Derwent Wood**

Francis Derwent Wood was a well-known British artist who was too old to for military service during the First World War. He was so moved by the disfiguring injuries received by British troops that he created sculpted metal masks for covering badly mutilated faces and painted with realistic features. Wood accepted Beaverbrook's commission to create a work of art for the Canadian War Memorials Exhibition at the Royal Academy. His sculpture deliberately reflected the traditional composition of a Christian depiction of the Crucifixion with the cruel German soldiers in similar positions to those of Roman soldiers at the foot of the cross. The sculpture invited the viewer to compare the suffering and sacrifice of the Canadian soldier with that of Christ.