

Quotes from Max Beckmann's diaries. (Almost a year after finishing *Begin the Beguine*)

Shortly before sailing for America:

"Don't do it- Don't do it ... Don't cross over. It is dangerous and will destroy you and besides that, a great disgrace - the poor in body and soul expect you to revive them and you can't."

(Beckmann, *Diaries*, Entry for Sunday, August 3, 1947)

On his last Sunday in Holland he wrote with renewed courage:

"With the exception of death, this is sure to be the last sensational adventure which life can offer me- the departure, beautiful or ugly - so what - I'll enjoy it anyway - splendidly prepared by ten years imprisonment ... if I'm destroyed - so be it - much has been done- I still can do more - if I have to - but this great break in my life was absolutely necessary. Thanks to our miserable travel agency, I have to share - (oh God) a cabin with three others. But, no matter.