

Boy
New York (City), Macbeth gallery

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M12
1938



SIXTH AVENUE AND 30TH STREET

JOHN SLOAN

“THE EIGHT”

(of 1908)

Thirty Years After

January 4th-17th 1938.

MACBETH GALLERY

11 EAST 57th STREET

NEW YORK

"MEN OF THE REBELLION," they were termed by one art writer when "The Eight" held their First Annual Exhibition in our gallery thirty years ago. The name was apt for they were rebellionists all, some actively fighting the then current vogue of the "pretty picture," some content to let their work record a silent protest.

Davies and Prendergast had been controversial men ever since they had held their first one-man shows with us several years before. Henri was a comparatively recent arrival, having brought his direct and sometimes uncompromising methods from Philadelphia to our first little gallery downtown about the turn of the century. Luks, a few years younger, had already established himself as a free lance of whom anything but the expected might be expected. Sloan and, at that time, Glackens, were concerned with the people they knew in daily, or nightly, life and both their paintings and drawings showed keen observation of their fellow beings. Shinn combined the realism he had recently brought back from Paris with a gaiety which could see the fun in life, and he was not afraid to paint it. Lawson was the only one of the group who found his inspiration in the open country, painting it for its beauty in a realistic way that was quite at variance with generally accepted tenets of picture-making.

The men, personally, were as little alike as their art. Except that they uniformly objected to the type of picture popularly approved, and that, for the most part, they would not submit their works to exhibition juries, they had little in common. Henri, Davies, Sloan and Glackens were probably responsible for getting the exhibition together, but the group, as such, never had a meeting and the First Annual Exhibition, after its showing here and later in Philadelphia by special invitation, was also its last.

It, however, achieved a very definite result. The critics gave it columns of space, pro and con, with the con predominating. It became a matter of controversy, so of course attracted a tremendous audience and two weeks proved far too short a time for everyone to see it. Artists flocked to it and it was not long before "realism" began to have its effect on many of the younger painters.

What has happened since is a matter of general knowledge. Whatever the "isms" that have crept in from time to time, the best of the pupils and other followers of "The Eight," and particularly of Henri and Luks, have stood by their guns. In turn, their successors have been responsible for the "American Scene" which has until very recently dominated exhibitions.

With the apparent wane of this latest movement, the recent exhibition at the Whitney Museum of "American Realists" was most timely, for it pointed the way back to sources too often forgotten. Mention of "The Eight" was frequently made in connection with that exhibition, and special prominence was given to six of the individuals making up that group. Now, almost exactly thirty years after the first exhibition, it seems appropriate to present these men once more, both through work of that long-ago period and through their later developments. Individually they are important figures; as a group in their "First Annual Exhibition," they were an important mile-stone in the history of American Art.

Many of canvases in the original exhibition are now in Museums and other collections; three, however, have been secured for re-showing now. We are grateful to the dealers who have generously loaned special examples to make this exhibition possible.

ARTHUR B. DAVIES (1862-1928)

- 1 August Evening 1895
- 2 Redwood Grove 1905
Loaned by the Toledo Museum
- 3 Silvered Heights 1910
- 4 Night Image 1915

WILLIAM J. GLACKENS (1870-)

- 5 Coasting, Central Park 1895
- 6 Washington Square 1910
- 7 Flowers 1937

All from the Kraushaar Galleries

ROBERT HENRI (1865-1930)

- 8 Cafe Terrace 1899
- 9 Bridge at Chareton 1899
- 10 Portrait of George Luks 1904
- 11 Janie 1927

ERNEST LAWSON (1873-)

- 12 Night, Sound Beach 1906
From the Ferargil Gallery
- 13 Winter 1908
- 14 The Boat Club, Harlem River 1910
- 15 Harlem River 1915

14-15 from the Milch Galleries

GEORGE LUKS (1867-1933)

- 16 Portrait of Robert Henri 1902
- 17 Boy with Violin 1908
- 18 Wedding Cake 1910
- 19 Nursemaids, High Bridge Park 1915

18-19 from the Kraushaar Galleries

MAURICE PRENDERGAST (1861-1924)

- 20 East Boston Ferry 1905
- 21 New England Harbor 1917
- 22 The Beach, SanMalo 1909 (In original exhibition)
- 23 St. Malo Study 1909 (In original exhibition)

All from the Kraushaar Galleries

EVERETT SHINN (1873-)

- 24 Early Morning 1901
- 25 The Job Hunter 1936
- 26 Rehearsal on the Swing 1937

JOHN SLOAN (1871-)

- 27 Sixth Avenue and 30th Street (In original exhibition)
- 28 Landscape—Croquet 1908
- 29 Bridle Path, Central Park 1908
- 30 The White Way 1926
- 31 Sea Food 1933

All from the Kraushaar Galleries

*Dates, in some cases, are approximate
Drawings in South Gallery not catalogued*

“The Art Spirit”

by

Robert Henri

By special arrangement with the J. B. Lippincott Co., publishers, a few of these books still remaining are made available here at three dollars a copy