



# MODERN LIFE: EDWARD HOPPER AND HIS TIME

OCT 28, 2010–APR 10,  
2011



*Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time* traces the development of realism in American art between 1900 and 1940, emphasizing the diverse ways that artists depicted the sweeping transformations in urban and rural life that occurred during this period. The exhibition highlights the work of Edward Hopper, whose use of the subject matter of modern life to portray universal human experiences made him America's most iconic realist painter of the 20th century. Drawn primarily from the Whitney Museum's extensive holdings, *Modern Life* places Hopper's achievements in the context of his contemporaries—the Ashcan School painters with whom he came of age as an artist in the century's first decades, the 1920's Precisionist artists, whose explorations of abstract architectural geometries mirrored those of Hopper, and a younger generation of American Scene painters, who worked alongside Hopper in New York during the 1930s. *Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time* includes approximately 80 works in a range of media by Hopper and artists such as John Sloan, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Paul Strand, Charles

Demuth, Guy Pène du Bois, Charles Sheeler,  
Charles Burchfield, Ben Shahn, Reginald Marsh.  
The show is accompanied by a 250-page  
illustrated catalogue with essays by American and  
German scholars, produced in conjunction with an  
exhibition of the same title which appeared at the  
Bucerius Kunst Forum, Hamburg, and the Kunsthal  
Rotterdam in 2009-10.

*Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time* is  
organized by Barbara Haskell and Sasha Nicholas.

Generous support is provided by

Deutsche Bank 

Additional support is provided by The Cowles Charitable Trust and  
The Gage Fund.

Media Partners [WNET.ORG](http://WNET.ORG) and [New York magazine](http://New York magazine)

---

# ARTWORKS



---

# ARTISTS

## **Berenice Abbott**

3 works in the collection

## **George C. Ault**

10 works in the collection

## **Milton Avery**

17 works in the collection

## **George Bellows**

18 works in the collection

## **Thomas Hart**

**Benton**  
32 works in the collection

## **Oscar Bluemner**

17 works in the collection

---

## VIDEOS



**Vlog: Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time**



**Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time**

---

## EVENTS

[View all >](#)

**SUN,  
MAR 20**

**Members-only**

**SAT,  
FEB 26**



**SAT,  
FEB 26**



**SAT,  
FEB 26**



**FRI,  
FEB 18**



**SAT,  
FEB 12**



**Morning Viewing Hours**  
9–11 am



**Art School:  
Figuring Out the  
Figure**  
1:30–3:30 pm



**Family Fun Art  
Workshop:  
Cityscapes and  
Landscapes**  
10:30 am–12:30 pm



**Family Fun Art  
Workshop:  
Cityscapes and  
Landscapes**  
10:30 am–12:30 pm



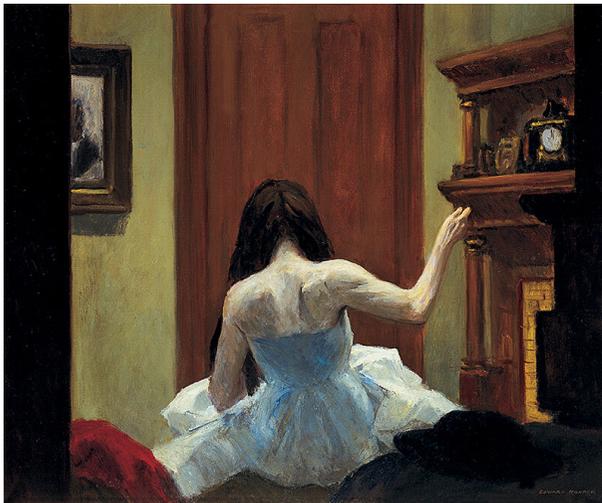
**Modern Life:  
Edward Hopper  
and His Time**  
12–1 pm



**Art School:  
Figuring Out the  
Figure**  
1:30–3:30 pm

---

## AUDIO GUIDES

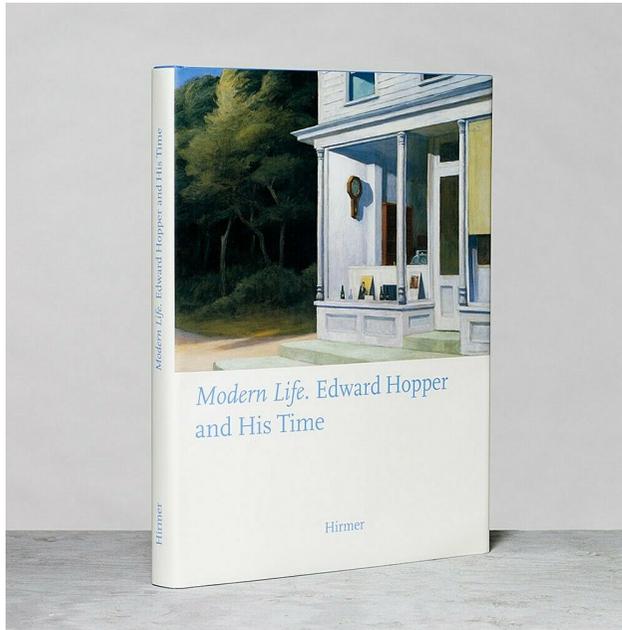


This audio guide, introduced by Alice Pratt Brown Director Adam Weinberg, highlights works from *Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time*, as curators and scholars discuss the diverse ways that artists depicted the sweeping transformations in urban and rural life from 1900–1940.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

---

# EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time traces the development of realism in American art between 1900 and 1940, emphasizing the diverse ways that artists depicted the sweeping transformations in urban and rural life that occurred during this period. The exhibition highlights the work of Edward Hopper, whose use of the subject matter of modern life to portray universal human experiences made him America's most iconic realist painter of the 20th century. Drawn primarily from the Whitney Museum's extensive holdings, Modern Life places Hopper's achievements in the context of his contemporaries—the Ashcan School painters with whom he came of age as an artist in the century's first decades, the 1920's Precisionist artists, whose explorations of abstract architectural geometries mirrored those of Hopper, and a younger generation of American Scene painters, who worked alongside Hopper in New York during the 1930s.

Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time includes approximately 80 works in a range of media by Hopper and artists such as John Sloan, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Paul Strand, Charles Demuth, Guy Pène du Bois, Charles Sheeler, Charles Burchfield,

Ben Shahn, Reginald Marsh.

Hardcover, 250 pages.

BUY NOW

---

## IN THE NEWS

Video: Curator Barbara Haskell walks through the exhibition

--[WNET/Thirteen Sunday Arts](#)

Review: "The Whitney's Good Friend is Joined by Some of His"

--[The New York Times](#)

Review: "It relieves Hopper from his 'lonely,' iconic status, clarifying his indebtedness to his time and honing our understanding of his originality."

--[The Boston Globe](#)

Review: "a superb, intelligent exhibition, intimating the extent to which Hopper was both of his time and spectacularly beyond

Review: "curator Barbara Haskell and assistant Sasha Nicholas have done a service for Hopper's many fans by showing his work within the broader artistic community of his era."

--[USA Today](#)

Review: "The show gives us the unlikely experience of seeing Hopper the great loner in the context of his friends."

--[The New York Observer](#)

Video: Steve Martin discusses Hopper and walks through the exhibition as part of profile of Martin's career

--[CBS Sunday Morning](#)

"In [Early Sunday Morning](#) (1930) we look out rather than in, but the piercing loneliness is just as palpable."

--[The New York Times](#), Ken Johnson's favorite paintings in New York

"Hopper is both a dreamer and a dream-slayer; he stills fashion, hope, solace, and conviction. He did that in his era; he can do it now."

--[New York](#)

An interview with exhibition co-curator Sasha Nicolas

--[amNY](#)

"Must See Arts in the City"

it."  
--[The Financial Times](#)

--[WNYC Culture Blog](#)

---

## SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Email address	SIGN UP
---------------	---------

### Get involved

[Support](#)

[Membership](#)

[Jobs & internships](#)

### About

[About us](#)

[About whitney.org](#)

[Land acknowledgment](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Press](#)

[Terms & conditions](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

### Whitney Museum of American Art

99 Gansevoort Street

New York, NY 10014

(212) 570-3600

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [TikTok](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

Dark

© 2023 Whitney Museum of American Art