

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

ADVANCE FACT SHEET

Exhibition: JOHN SLOAN 1871-1971

A centennial retrospective of the work of the painter and graphic artist John Sloan (1871-1951), the seventh exhibition in the National Gallery of Art's American artists series.

Exhibition dates: On view at the National Gallery of Art from September 19 through October 31, 1971, the exhibition will also travel to five other museums across the country.

United States Commemorative Stamp: The Sloan centennial year will become a national occasion when, on August 2, the artist's birthday, a commemorative stamp, featuring his The Wake of the Ferry (1907, Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.), will be issued in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, the artist's birthplace, by the U.S. Postal Service, as part of its American Artists Series.

Range of the exhibition: The entire career of John Sloan as painter and graphic artist is covered by this comprehensive exhibition of work ranging from a self-portrait of 1890 to a painting he was working on the summer of his death in 1951.

Scope of the exhibition: A selection of 100 oil paintings and 76 drawings and prints have been gathered from the John Sloan Trust and other private and public collections in America. Among them are such well-known pictures as: Back Yards, Greenwich Village (Whitney Museum); City from Greenwich Village, a brilliantly lighted evening scene acquired by the National Gallery of Art in 1970; Dust Storm, Fifth Avenue (Metropolitan Museum); The Haymarket (Brooklyn Museum).

Also included are:

examples of his lesser-known art nouveau illustrations of the 1890's; his early and late cityscapes; views of Gloucester and Santa Fe, where he spent his summers for many years, along with other artists and writers

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such as Stuart Davis, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Willa Cather; interiors of the famed McSorley's Bar in New York; pictures of the dancer Isadora Duncan; and his later paintings and drawings of the figure.

Among other exhibition highlights will be: all of Sloan's paintings from the 1908 Macbeth Gallery exhibition of The Eight and from the historic 1913 Armory Show; a selection of photographs of the artist and his colleagues and students; some of the artist's sketchbooks and tools; and a selection of the drawings and etchings produced throughout his life, including comic strips, magazine illustrations, and drawings and covers for "The Masses," the Socialist monthly of the pre-World War I period, done while Sloan was the art editor.

Biographical information:

Born August 2, 1871, Lock Haven, Pa.

Attended evening classes at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Illustrator, Philadelphia (1890-1904) and New York (1904-1916).

Teacher at the Art Students League of New York, 1916-1938. Gloucester, summers 1914-1918.

Santa Fe, summers 1919-1950.

During the 1890's Sloan was considered one of the leading American exponents of the Art Nouveau poster style. After 1900 his paintings, illustrations and etchings came to typify the realism of the American scene movement. However, from the time of the first World War, he worked increasingly on landscapes and figure subjects.

As art editor for "The Masses," he set a new standard for magazine design and quality illustrations.

In his own studio in New York, as well as over 22 years at the Art Students League, he taught a whole generation of lively illustrators and artists, from Otto Soglow, creator of the comic strip called "The Little King," to modern sculptors and painters such as Alexander Calder, Reginald Marsh, Adolph Gottlieb, David Smith and Barnett Newman.

Gold Medal, American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1950.

President, Society of Independent Artists, 1918-1951.

President, Exposition of Indian Tribal Arts, 1931-1933.

Died, Hanover, New Hampshire, September 7, 1951.

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Exhibition staff:

David W. Scott, Consultant to the National Gallery of Art
and author of a forthcoming biography of Sloan
E. John Bullard, Curator, Special Projects

Exhibition publication: 216 pp - fully illustrated - 12 color
plates, 176 b & w; also numerous photos of Sloan and his
contemporaries; introduction by Helen Farr Sloan, widow of
the artist, with essays on Sloan's oils and graphics by
David W. Scott and E. John Bullard.

Concurrent lecture series:

"The Human Comedy of John Sloan," David W. Scott,
Consultant to the National Gallery of Art, September 19,
4 p.m.

"My Reminiscences of John Sloan," Helen Farr Sloan, the
artist's widow, September 26, 4 p.m.

"John Sloan as a Graphic Artist," E. John Bullard, Curator,
Special Projects, National Gallery of Art, October 3, 4 p.m.

---July 30, 1971

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For further information contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the
Director, or Alison Luchs, Public Information Office, National
Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565. Area code 202, 737-4215,
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