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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

FOR RELEASE Sunday, November 25,
1934, or any time during that
week for the broadcast Saturday
night, December 1.

In cooperation with the Museum of Modern Art, the American Federation of Arts announces the ninth of its new series of "Art in America" programs, to be broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company over Station WJZ and national network, Saturday, December 1, from 8:00 to 8:20 P.M., Eastern Standard Time. The program will be in dialogue, from material prepared by Holger Cahill, noted art critic and director. The subject will be "The Impressionists, Robinson, Twachtman and Mary Cassatt; and the American Scene, Henri, Sloan, Luks, Davies, and Bellows."

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, the American Impressionists carried to a logical conclusion the naturalistic type of painting begun early in the century by the Hudson River painters. An entire generation of painters felt the stimulating force of Impressionism; it had a leavening effect on American art. The earliest American Impressionist was Theodore Robinson, but John H. Twachtman was the first teacher to bring the theories and methods of Impressionism before art students in this country. Twachtman was one of the most delicately sensitive of American Impressionists and one of the strongest. The only artist to dispute his supremacy in the field was Mary Cassatt, an American painter born in Pittsburgh, who spent most of her mature life in or near Paris.

A young, independent group of painters that began to attract attention early in the twentieth century was known as the Henri group. Its original members were Robert Henri, John Sloan, George Luks, William J. Glackens and Everett Shinn. With the exception of Henri, who was an artist and teacher, all the members of the group had been newspaper illustrators. When they first showed in New York as a group, in 1908, they were anathematized as "The Ashcan School" and "The Revolutionary Black Gang." Today it is hard to understand why their work aroused such excitement and bitter ridicule. Now, only a

quarter of a century later, their paintings seem conservative -- though vivid and sometimes powerful -- records on canvas of the life of their times.

The Henri group was joined by Arthur B. Davies, Ernest Lawson, and by George Bellows, a pupil of Henri, who had a broad, swift technique and a great deal of vigor and masculinity. Bellows died young, but he made a tremendous impression and was by far the most popular artist of the group. He was the he-man of American art in a time of too many soft, delicate painters. He emphasized the doctrine of "painting American" that was taught by Henri. John Sloan, another member of the group, taught and practiced the same doctrine and continues to do so today. Like Henri, he is a teacher as well as a painter, and has profoundly influenced the younger generation of American artists.

Before modern methods of photo-engraving were perfected, the pictorial reporter was a standard feature of the daily newspaper. Such training gave an artist experience in depicting scenes from everyday life and a belief in the relevance of art to life. Our pictorial reporters in independence did a great deal to free American art from its Victorian sentimentality and insipid prettiness. Instead of the sugary beauty that was the ideal of conventional artists all over the world at that time, the Henri group and other artists like them in the early 1900's painted the passing show of the city streets. They caught character and life on their canvas, and brought American art closer to the life of the man in the street.

The "Art in America" programs broadcast every Saturday night from October 6 to January 26 are a continuation of the series initiated by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and made possible through the cooperation of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the American Federation of Arts, the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, The National Broadcasting Company, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art.