

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

# PAINTINGS DRAWINGS PRINTS BY

# GEORGE GROSZ

OCTOBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 2, 1941

The retrospective exhibition of the work of George Grosz, now being shown in the Museum of Modern Art, demonstrates the extraordinary versatility of this distinguished painter and caricaturist. Now one of the most brilliant American masters of watercolor, Grosz's work has elicited high praise from our critics; some of his oils command attention throughout the country; but it was his satirical drawings done in Germany during the 1920s which brought him world-wide fame.

Born in Berlin in 1893, Grosz was educated in Dresden and Berlin art schools where he earned a living by drawing illustrations for book jackets and humorous magazines. Dissatisfied with the routine training of drawing from plaster casts, he searched for other and newer inspiration. A visit to Paris in 1912 familiarized him with the work of Picasso and Chagall which proved to be a great impetus to the young artist. But it was the large Italian Futurist exhibition held in Berlin in 1913 which actually turned Grosz onto the path he was to follow. The direct influence of the Futurists is apparent in the early works included in the Museum's exhibition.

Except for two furloughs, Grosz served in the trenches from 1914 to 1918, but he nevertheless managed to produce so many drawings that he found himself famous upon his return to Berlin. For the next ten years, as Europe's most renowned caricaturist, he produced one volume of drawings after another. These caricatures combine angry satire with ferocious ridicule. The discouragement and desperate poverty in Germany following the close of the first World War moved the artist to protest against both military leaders and war profiteers. He lashed at their arrogance, callousness and stupidity with an even fiercer hatred than that of Dean Swift whose

implacable satire is at times close in spirit to that of Grosz. Like Swift, too, he was fascinated by the most sordid and bestial qualities of mankind. "We were young men in our formative years," says Grosz. "Perhaps unconsciously we became accusers, and fighters for a better humanity." So inciting were his vitriolic attacks that Grosz was actually jailed for a brief period in 1923 on fabricated charges of indecency and sacrilege.

Early in the rise of the Nazi movement Grosz turned his insulting attacks against this new outrage. By 1932 Grosz realized that he would have to leave Germany. On invitation of the Art Students League in New York, he came to the United States to teach and has returned only once to Germany to bring his family here.

This migration was, in a way, a fulfillment of a youthful dream, for even twenty-five years before Grosz had developed a romantic interest in America. He followed the American movies, read our comic strips and wore American ready-made clothes. Although he continued to depict the sordid and corrupt in some of his American work, he has nevertheless tried to forget the bitterness of his lost battle in Germany. In recent years his work has been largely in oils and watercolors rather than in caricature, and his vitriolic assaults upon human baseness have become less and less apparent. His satirical skill, however, may be seen in the recent drawings which illustrate Ben Hecht's "1001 New York Nights."

The current exhibition comprises 54 oils, drawings, watercolors and theatre designs from the years 1914 to 1940. This is one of the exhibitions which has been assembled and sent on tour through the country by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions. This is its first showing in New York City.

- 1914 **PANDEMONIUM AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR**  
 40.4096 Ink drawing ✓  
 Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Reis
- 4113 **WILD WEST**  
 Lithograph ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 4112 **MEMORIES OF NEW YORK**  
 Lithograph ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1915 **PRISONERS OF WAR**  
 40.4111 Lithograph ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4086 **STREET CORNER**  
 Oil on canvas ✓  
 Lent by Erich Cohn
- 1917 **"KLEINE GROSZ MAPPE"**  
 40.4085 Three lithographs from the portfolio  
 # 9-18-19 Published by Malik-Verlag, Berlin, 1917 ✓  
 ex. Lent by J. B. Neumann
- 40.4092 **CARD PLAYERS**  
 Oil on canvas ✓  
 Lent by Dr. Victor Steiner
- 40.4093 **BIG CITY**  
 Oil on canvas ✓  
 Lent by Herman Shulman
- 1918 **A PIECE OF MY WORLD**  
 40.5066 Watercolor and ink ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1919 **BERLIN**  
 40.4109 Lithograph ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1920 **STREET SCENE, BERLIN**  
 40.4115 Ink drawing (published in the portfolio  
 "Ecce Homo," 1922) ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4081 **THE ENGINEER HEARTFIELD**  
 Watercolor and *collage* ✓  
 Lent by A. Conger Goodyear
- 1921 **"METHUSALEM, THE ETERNAL BOURGEOIS"**  
 40.4124 ✓  
 40.4125 Four designs for dummies for the play  
 40.4126 Watercolor and ink  
 40.4127 ✓ Lent by Associated American Artists
- "HE"**  
 40.4090 Ink drawing (published in the portfolio  
 "Ecce Homo," 1922) ✓  
 Lent by Erich Cohn
- 1922 **"DIE RÄUBER"**  
 40.4099 Four lithographs from the portfolio  
 # 1-3-6-8 Published by Malik-Verlag, Berlin, 1922 ✓  
 ex. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Reis
- "DIE RÄUBER"**  
 41.1578. A portfolio of nine lithographs to  
 1-9 sentences from Schiller  
 1 thru 9 Published by Malik-Verlag, Berlin, 1922 ✓  
 ex. Lent by Erich Cohn
- "ANDROCLES AND THE LION"**  
 40.4108 Costume design for the play  
 Watercolor and ink ✓  
 Lent by Associated American Artists
- "ECCE HOMO"**  
 41.1579. A portfolio of one hundred lithographs  
 1-100 and watercolors  
 1 thru 100 Published by Malik-Verlag, 1922 ✓  
 ex. Lent by Erich Cohn

- 40.4097 **TWO OLD MEN** ✓  
Ink drawing  
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Reis
- 1924 **CASSIS**  
40.4104 Watercolor and ink ✓  
Lent by ~~Associated American Artists~~ EDWIN HEWITT
- 1926 **PORTRAIT OF JOHN FÖRSTE** ✓  
40.4088 Oil on canvas  
Lent by Erich Cohn
- c. **PORTRAIT STUDY**  
4.29 Pencil drawing  
Collection the Museum of Modern Art  
Gift of Paul J. Sachs
- 1928 **TEN POUNDS TOO MUCH**  
41.1562 Watercolor and ink  
Lent by Erich Cohn
- 41.1568 **THIRD CLASS FUNERAL** (1930.7) ✓  
Watercolor and ink  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4120 **NOCTURNE** ✓  
Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1930 **THE FAT RELATIVE** •  
40.4114 Watercolor and ink ✓  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4114 **AFTER THE BATH**  
Ink drawing  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1932 **THE BUTCHER SHOP** ✓  
40.4119 Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1933 **NUNS**  
41.1563 Watercolor  
Lent by Erich Cohn
- 1934 **IN THE SUBWAY**  
40.5028 Watercolor ✓  
Lent by Erich Cohn
- AFTER THE THEATRE** ✓  
40.4094 Watercolor  
Lent by Herman Shulman
- 40.4112 **THE TIRED BOOTBLACK** ✓  
Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4105 **LOWER MANHATTAN** ✓  
Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1935 **MORRO CASTLE**  
41.1569 Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 1936 **NEW YORK HARBOR**  
40.4118 Watercolor ✓  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4121 **CENTRAL PARK** ✓  
Watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4123 **THE WANDERER**  
Watercolor ✓  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 40.4107 **STREET FIGHT** ✓  
Oil on canvas  
Lent by Associated American Artists
- 41.1565 **THE RIDER IS LOOSE AGAIN**  
Ink drawing  
Lent by Erich Cohn
- 1937 **A PIECE OF MY WORLD, OR THE  
LAST BATTALION**  
41.4110 Ink drawing ✓  
Lent by Associated American Artists

**THE THIN AND THE FAT**

41.1564 Ink and watercolor  
Lent by Erich Cohn

**STANDING NUDE**

40.4129 Oil on canvas  
Lent by Harold Goldsmith

**THE TRAMP**

41.4100 Oil on canvas  
Lent by Associated American Artists

**STILL LIFE WITH WALNUTS**

40.4349 Oil on canvas  
Lent by the Metropolitan Museum of Art

**1938 A PIECE OF MY WORLD, OR THE**

40.4132 **LAST BATTALION**  
Oil on canvas  
Lent by Associated American Artists

**40.4089 PORTRAIT OF ERICH COHN**

Oil on canvas  
Lent by Erich Cohn

**1939 DUNES AT TRURO**

40.4095 Watercolor  
Lent by Herman Shulman

**41.4103 CAPE COD, 6**

Chalk and watercolor  
Lent by Associated American Artists

**40.4429 CAPE COD, 12**

Watercolor  
Lent by the Art Institute of Chicago  
Watson F. Blair Purchase Prize

**1940 NUDE**

41.1566 Chalk drawing on tinted paper  
Lent by Erich Cohn

**41.1629 NUDE**

Oil on canvas  
Lent by Associated American Artists

**41.1582 A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM**

Oil on canvas  
Lent by the artist

**41.1581 SELF PORTRAIT**

Oil on canvas  
Lent by the artist

41.1567 **NO LET UP** o/c LENT BY A.A.A. (1940)

40.4106 **PORTRAIT OF THE ARTISTS Mother - pencil -** Lent by A.A.A. (1924)

N.B. Originally many loans were made to This Circ. Exh. by  
Walker Galleries which closed June 1941. Asso. Am.  
has now taken over Gray's work. M. Allen