

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

NO: 123

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1960

PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, October 25, 1960

11 am - 4 pm

368
Thirty-nine drawings and two etchings by the American artist Joseph Stella (1877? - 1946) will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, from October 26 through November 13, prior to a tour of museums throughout the country.

The exhibition, organized by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions, demonstrates the diversity of styles and subjects executed by the artist during half a century.

Stella's fame rests on his Futurist paintings and drawings of New York City and the Brooklyn Bridge in which, as James Schuyler says in the introductory label, "he found a concrete image of the twentieth century." In addition to several of these forceful abstractions, five of which are bridge studies in various media, the exhibition includes examples of Stella's less known styles: an early etching and a drawing of A Boy with a Bagpipe; an etched Study of a Tree shown with the original zinc plate; drawings of immigrants, laborers and factories; a self-portrait and portraits of the artists Marcel Duchamp and Louis Eilshemius and the poet Walt Whitman; colorful flower and bird studies. The works were loaned by 23 private collectors, galleries and museums.

Joseph Stella was born in the Italian hill town of Muro-Lucana, near Naples, about 1877. Some twenty years later he emigrated to the United States where he took up the study of medicine, abandoning it after two years to study at the Art Students' League and later with William Merritt Chase. His gift for drawing in the great Italian tradition was strengthened by a schooling which revered the Old Masters.

In 1905 Stella was commissioned by Outlook magazine to execute a series of drawings called "Americans in the Rough: Character Studies at Ellis Island". Many such commissions followed during the next two decades and the drawings of immigrants and factories, including Italian Leader, The New Comer, A Greener: Lad from Herzegovina and the black and red Night Fires, form an important part of his work.

Stella's Futurist period began around 1913 after four years in Europe where he met leading Parisian artists and the Italian Futurists Boccioni, Carrà and Severini. On his return to America he exhibited in the Armory Show and was associated with the New York Dada group. During the next eight years his art felt the full force of the Futurist aesthetic and received the impetus for the "Brooklyn Bridge" theme which re-occurred throughout his career.

During the twenties Stella's style became more decorative, gradually returning to a concern with nature evident in the pencil and watercolor Study for "The Tree of My Life" and the two silverpoint and crayon flower studies. His later work is essentially a development of the styles and subjects of this period.

The exhibition was selected by James Schuyler and Elaine Johnson under the supervision of the Museum's Curator of Prints and Drawings. It will be circulated throughout the United States with the aid of a CBS Foundation grant for the Museum's national program of travelling shows. Among the cities in which the exhibition will be seen are Manchester, N. H.; Andover, Mass.; Atlanta, Ga.; Dallas, Tex.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Columbus, O.; Baltimore, Md.; and Kansas City, Mo.

Photographs and additional information are available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. CI 5-8900.

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Check List October 26 - November 13, 1960

THE DRAWINGS OF JOSEPH STELLA: An exhibition organized by the Department of Circulating Exhibitions of The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Thirty nine drawings, two etchings, and an original zinc etching plate by Joseph Stella

Note: In statement of dimensions, height precedes width. Dates which appear on drawings in the artist's hand are stated without enclosing parentheses. The dates of many drawings are problematical.

1. BOY WITH BAGPIPE. (c. 1897). Charcoal, pastel and gouache. 20-7/8 x 15-7/8" (sight). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fillin, Rockville Centre, Long Island. 60.999.
2. ITALIAN IMMIGRANT. 1898, Pencil and conte crayon. 9 x 7-3/4" (sheet). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley S. Ross, Maplewood, New Jersey. 60.1001.
3. HEAD OF AN OLD ITALIAN. (c. 1898?). Conte crayon. 4 x 4" (sheet). Lent by Messrs. Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1009.
4. STUDY OF A HAT. (c. 1900). Crayon. 6-1/2 x 4-7/8" (sight). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Halpern, East Orange, New Jersey. 60.1000.
5. COAL PILE. (c. 1902; published in The Survey, 1924). Charcoal. 21-1/2 x 27-5/8" (sight). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whittelsey Fund, 1950. 60.1021.
6. SLEEPING BOY. (c. 1906?). Pencil. 2-7/8 x 4" (sheet). Lent by Zabriskie Gallery, New York. 60.1013.
7. THE APPRENTICE IN AN APRON. (c. 1906). Conte crayon on paper. 9-1/2 x 6-1/2" (sheet). Lent by Mrs. Elizabeth E. Schoelkopf, New York. 60.1017.
8. A GREENER: LAD FROM HERZEGOVINA. 1908, Pencil. 5-1/4 x 4" (sight). Lent by Mr. Robert J. Schoelkopf, Jr., New York. 60.1018.
9. ITALIAN LEADER. 1908, Conte crayon. 17-1/2 x 13-5/8" (sight). Lent by Zabriskie Gallery, New York. 60.1016.
10. OLD ITALIAN. 1908, Silverpoint and conte crayon. 11-5/8 x 9-3/8" (sheet). Lent by Zabriskie Gallery, New York. . . . 60.987
11. THE NEWCOMER. 1908. Pencil. 7-5/8 x 5-7/16" (sight). Lent by Joseph H. Hirshhorn, New York. 60.989.
12. UNTITLED (study of a millworker). 1908. 8-5/8 x 6-3/4" (sheet). Pencil and crayon. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel M. Turner, South Orange, New Jersey. 60.1005.
13. UNDERPASS. 1908. Charcoal. 11-3/8 x 16-1/4" (sheet). Anonymous loan. 60.993.
14. MILL INTERIOR. (c. 1908). Charcoal. 13-1/2 x 17-3/4" (sight). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Goldstone, New York. 60.983.
15. CHURCH AND LAKE. (1912). Charcoal and pastel. 11-3/4" (diameter). Lent by Mrs. Loring Smith, New York. 60.991.

16. ABSTRACTION. (1912-13?). Pastel and gouache. 11-3/8" (diameter). Lent by Mrs. Edith Gregor Halpert, New York. 60.1023.
17. UNTITLED. 1914. Pastel. 17-3/8 x 22-3/4" (sheet). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel M. Turner, South Orange, New Jersey. 60.1003.
18. SERBIAN WOMAN. (1916). Conte crayon and pastel. 18-1/4 x 19-1/8" (sheet). Lent by Zabriskie Gallery, New York. 60.984.
19. PARADE. (1917). Charcoal. 15-7/8 x 17-1/8" (sight). Anonymous loan. 60.994.
20. BROOKLYN BRIDGE. 1917. Pencil and conte crayon. 17 x 15 1/4 (sheet). Lent by Dr. Hilde L. Mosse, New York. 60.1006
21. STUDIES OF A BRIDGE. (c. 1917-1922?). Crayon. 14-3/8" x 19 (sheet). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1011.
22. STUDY OF A BRIDGE. (c. 1917-22?). Ink. 7-7/8 " x 5" (sheet). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1008.
23. STUDY OF A BRIDGE. (c. 1917-22?). Pastel. 7-1/4" x 7-3/4" (sight). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1010.
24. UNTITLED. (study from futurist period). (c. 1917-22?). 20-1/8 x 16-1/8" (sheet). Watercolor. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sills, New York. 60.1002.
25. UNTITLED. (c. 1917-22?). Oil wash. 28-7/8 x 21-3/4" (sheet). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel M. Turner, South Orange, New Jersey. 60.1004.
26. THREE HEADS. 1918. Charcoal. 16" diameter (sight). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Graham, New York. 60.990.
27. BROOKLYN BRIDGE. 1919. Charcoal. 22" x 17-1/2" (sheet). Lent by Lawrence H. Bloedel, New York. 60.1020.
28. UNTITLED (flower study). 1919. Silverpoint and crayon. 21" x 7" (sight). Lent by M. Knoedler and Co., Inc., New York. 60.1026.
29. UNTITLED (flower study). Silverpoint and crayon. 13-3/8" x 10-5/8" (sight). Lent by M. Knoedler and Co., Inc., New York. 60.1014.
30. STUDY FOR "THE TREE OF MY LIFE". Pencil and watercolor. 9-3/4" x 8-5/8" (sheet). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1012.
31. WALT WHITMAN. (c. 1922?) Silverpoint. 8-3/4 x 7" (sheet). Lent by Mrs. Elizabeth E. Schoelkopf, New York. 60.986.
32. LOUIS EILSHEMIUS. Silverpoint and pencil. 26 x 20-15/16" (sight). Lent by Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. 60.992.
33. MARCEL DUCHAMP. (c. 1922?). Silverpoint. 19-7/8" x 15-1/2" (sight). Lent by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Katherine S. Dreier Collection. 210.42.
34. NIGHT FIRES. (published in The Survey, 1924). Charcoal and pastel. 21 1/2 x 27 5/8" (sheet). Lent by Mrs. Edith Gregor Halpert, New York. 60.1024.
35. STEEL MILL. Gouache. 17 1/2 x 12 1/4" (sheet). Lent by The Downtown Gallery, New York. 60.1022.
36. SELF PORTRAIT (WITH HAT). (c. 1928). Pastel and wash. 13-15/16 x 10-3/4" (sheet). Lent by Mr. Joseph H. Hirshhorn, New York. 60.988.
37. BIRTH OF DIONYSOS. 1938. Pastel. 21-1/2 x 17-3/8 (sight). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.1007.
38. STUDY OF A BIRD. 1940. Pencil and crayon. 7-7/8" x 9-3/4" (sheet). Lent by Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey. 60.970.
39. UNTITLED (bouquet of flowers). Crayon. 8" x 4-7/8 (sheet). Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Etche, New York. 60.1019.

ETCHINGS:

40. BOY WITH BAGPIPE. (c. 1900; printed in 1960 from the original plate by The Pratt Graphic Art Center, New York).
Etching 6 5/8 x 5 1/4".
Courtesy of Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey.
41. ORIGINAL ZINC PLATE FOR "STUDY OF A TREE". (c. 1900). 6 3/4 x 5 1/2"
Courtesy of Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey.
42. STUDY OF A TREE. (c. 1900; printed in 1960 from the original plate by The Pratt Graphic Art Center, New York.)
Etching 6 3/4 x 5 1/2"
Courtesy of Bernard Rabin and Nathan Krueger, Newark, New Jersey.

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October 21, 1960

To: Art Editors
City Desks

From: Elizabeth Shaw
Publicity Director

You are cordially invited to a press preview of

THE DRAWINGS OF JOSEPH STELLA:

An Exhibition Organized by the Department of Circulating Exhibitions

at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y.

on Tuesday, October 25, 1960 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This previously unannounced exhibition of 40 works will be on view at the Museum through November 13 prior to a tour of museums throughout the United States made possible by a grant from the CBS Foundation. It was selected by James Schuyler and Elaine Johnson under the supervision of the Museum's Curator of Prints and Drawings.