**AMERICAN ARTISTS** of the early twentieth century sought to interpret the beauty, power, and anxiety of the modern age in diverse ways. Some turned to abstraction borrowed from European modernism, but those represented in this gallery took a realistic approach, manipulating light and shadow to create scenes imbued with vitality and imagination. These artists employed precise detail and descriptive clarity to characterize experience, suggest meanings, and convey a narrative. The representation of twentieth-century urban life provided them endless opportunities to probe the modern human condition.

The urban panorama offered unprecedented vistas. Skyscrapers, bridges, and other technological marvels projected wealth and opportunity, while the city’s towering forms invoked the sublime. Simultaneously, the streets and dwellings of the metropolis hosted life’s theater. Depictions of harmonious communities and workers suggest a utopian vision, whereas scenes of crowding, poverty, and hunger point to society’s ills and failures. The same buildings glorified from one perspective could be interpreted from another as blocking light, deepening shadows, and heightening a sense of enclosure and confinement.

Artists chose their subjects, arranged their compositions, and scrutinized details to convey particular aspects of urban life. They used line to capture the specific features of a face or the unique character of a building, and tone to mimic the play of light — from great shafts of morning sunshine spilling onto avenues to the poetry of the city’s riverside at night with reflections in the water. By selectively emphasizing certain elements and minimizing others, images were distilled to their atmospheric or narrative essence. The best artists balanced specificity with ambiguity, drawing our attention to the fundamental while leaving open to interpretation the implied, the hidden, and the undefined.

During the past decade, the Gallery has added extraordinary collections of prints and drawings to its holdings, from the Reba and Dave Williams Collection to the Corcoran Collection and works donated and promised by Bob Stana and Tom Judy. This exhibition highlights some of these acquisitions and reveals how the Gallery’s American print holdings continue to develop, incorporating new artists as well as works that expand our view of printmakers already represented in the collection.
Martin Lewis
American, born Australia, 1881 – 1962
Quarter of Nine – Saturday’s Children
(New York), 1929
drypoint
Gift of Addie Burr Clark, 1946

Mabel Dwight
American, 1875 – 1955
The Clinch
(New York), 1928
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Paul Cadmus
American, 1904 – 1999
Shore Leave
(New York), 1935
etching
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Florian Carr Fund,
and Gift of the Print Research Foundation, 2008

Reynold Weidenaar
American, 1915 – 1985
Locomotive Shops
(Grand Rapids, Michigan), 1947
etching and aquatint
Corcoran Collection (Bequest of Frank B. Bristow), 2015
**Leo Meissner**  
*American, 1895 – 1977*  
*War Bulletins*  
*c. 1942*  
*wood engraving*  
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,  
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

**Benton Spruance**  
*American, 1904 – 1967*  
*The People Work – Evening*  
*(Philadelphia), 1937*  
*lithograph*  
Rosenwald Collection, 1943

**Reginald Marsh**  
*American, born France, 1898 – 1954*  
*Tattoo – Shave – Haircut*  
*(New York), 1932*  
*etching and engraving*  
Corcoran Collection (Gift of Olga Hirshhorn), 2015

**John Wilson**  
*American, 1922 – 2015*  
*Adolescence*  
*(Boston), 1943*  
*lithograph*  
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,  
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008
Clare Leighton  
American, born England, 1898 – 1989  
**Breadline, New York**  
1931  
wood engraving  
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,  
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Millard Sheets  
American, 1907 – 1989  
**Family Flats**  
(Los Angeles), 1935  
lithograph  
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,  
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Martin Lewis  
American, born Australia, 1881 – 1962  
**Building a Babylon, Tudor City, N.Y.C.**  
1929  
etching and drypoint  
Gift of Bob Stana and Tom Judy, 2016

Victoria Hutson Huntley  
American, 1900 – 1971  
**Lower New York**  
1934  
lithograph  
Gift of Bob Stana and Tom Judy, 2015
Lawrence Kupferman  
American, 1909 – 1982  
*Victorian Mansion*  
(Boston), 1938  
drypoint  
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,  
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Martin Lewis  
American, born Australia, 1881 – 1962  
*Yorkville Night*  
(New York), 1947  
drypoint  
Corcoran Collection (Bequest of Frank B. Bristow), 2015

Stow Wengenroth  
American, 1906 – 1978  
*Quiet Hour*  
(New York), 1947  
lithograph  
Corcoran Collection (Bequest of Frank B. Bristow), 2015

John Taylor Arms  
American, 1887 – 1953  
*West Forty-Second Street, Night*  
(New York), 1922  
aquatint and etching on yellow laid paper  
Donald and Nancy deLaski Fund, 2010
Armin Landeck
American, 1905 – 1984
*View of New York*
1932
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Gerald Geerlings
American, 1897 – 1998
*Civic Insomnia (New York)*
1932
aquatint
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Louis Lozowick
American, born Ukraine, 1892 – 1973
*Allen Street*
(New York), 1929
lithograph
Gift of Jacob Kainen, 2002

Gerald Geerlings
American, 1897 – 1998
*Grand Canal, America*
(Chicago), 1933
drypoint
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008
**Samuel Chamberlain**
American, 1895 – 1975

*Manhattan, Old and New*
1929
drypoint
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

**Asa Cheffetz**
American, 1896 – 1965

*Monday (The American Scene)*
(Holyoke, Massachusetts), c. 1932
wood engraving
Gift of Bob Stana and Tom Judy, 2016

**Howard Cook**
American, 1901 – 1980

*Looking up Broadway*
(New York), 1937
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

**Isac Friedlander**
American, born Latvia, 1888 – 1968

*3 A.M.*
(New York), 1934
etching
Rosenwald Collection, 1943
Gerald Geerlings
American, 1897 – 1998

*Olympus (New York)*
1929
drypoint on blue paper
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Samuel L. Margolies
American, 1897 – 1974

*Men of Steel*
(New York), c. 1939
drypoint
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Thomas Nason
American, 1889 – 1971

*Louisburg Square*
(Boston), 1930
wood engraving
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Salvatore Pinto
American, born Italy, 1905 – 1966

*Mills*
c. 1937
wood engraving
Reba and Dave Williams Collection,
Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008
Fermin Rocker
American, born England, 1907 – 2004

Subway Entrance
(New York), 1940
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008

Robert Riggs
American, 1896 – 1970

Germantown & Chelten
(Philadelphia), c. 1950
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Florian Carr Fund, and Gift of the Print Research Foundation, 2008

Edward Arthur Wilson
American, born Scotland, 1886 – 1970

Untitled (Laying Pipe in New York City)
1941
lithograph
Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams, 2008