

Release Date: September 30, 2011

First Comprehensive Exhibition in Three Decades of George Bellows' Prolific Career to Open at National Gallery of Art, Washington, June 10 through October 8, 2012; Travels to New York and London



George Bellows, *Both Members of This Club*, 1909, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Chester Dale Collection

Washington, DC—When George Bellows died at the age of forty-two in 1925, he was hailed as one of the greatest artists America had yet produced. In 2012, the National Gallery of Art will present the first comprehensive exhibition of Bellows' career in more than three decades. Including some 140 paintings, drawings, and lithographs, *George Bellows (1882–1925)* will then travel to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, November 14, 2012, through February 18, 2013, and close at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, March 16 through June 9, 2013. The accompanying catalogue will document and define Bellows' unique place in the history of American art and in the annals of modernism.

"George Bellows is arguably the most important figure in the generation of artists who negotiated the transition from the Victorian to the modern era in American culture," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "This exhibition will provide the most complete account of his achievements to date and will

introduce Bellows to new generations."

Exhibition Organization and Support

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

The Terra Foundation for American Art is the proud sponsor of the exhibition in Washington and London.

The exhibition and catalogue are generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation.

In Washington, the exhibition is also made possible by the Cordover Family Foundation with additional support provided by The Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts.

The Exhibition

The exhibition will begin with Bellows' renowned paintings of tenement children, boxers, and the urban landscape of New York. These iconic images of the modern city were made during an extraordinary period of creativity for the artist, beginning shortly after his arrival from Columbus, Ohio, in 1904, up to the Armory Show in 1913, and remain his best-known works. They include *Forty-Two Kids* (1907, Corcoran Gallery of Art), *New York* (1911, National Gallery of Art), *Stag at Sharkey's* (1909, Cleveland Museum of Art), and *Snow Dumpers* (1911, Columbus Museum of Art).

Complementing the earlier signature masterpieces will be groupings that bring to light other crucial, yet less familiar aspects of Bellows' prodigious achievement, including his Maine seascapes, sporting scenes (polo and tennis), World War I subjects, family portraits, and Woodstock, NY, subjects. Drawings and lithographs will illustrate Bellows' working methods and the relationships between his various media.

Shore House (1911, private collection) and *The Big Dory* (1913, New Britain Museum of American Art) are among Bellows' most important seascapes and pay homage to his great American predecessor, Winslow Homer (1836–1910). The show will end with paintings from 1924, the year before his sudden death from peritonitis. These

last works, including *Dempsey and Firpo* (1924, Whitney Museum of American Art), *Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wase* (1924, Smithsonian American Art Museum), and *The White Horse* (1924, Worcester Art Museum), will prompt visitors to contemplate the artist Bellows might have become had he lived into the 1960s, as did his friend and contemporary Edward Hopper (1882–1967).

The exhibition curator is Charles Brock, associate curator, American and British paintings, National Gallery of Art. Work on the exhibition began some ten years ago under the direction of Franklin Kelly, deputy director at the National Gallery of Art and former senior curator of American and British paintings.

At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the coordinating curators are Gary Tinterow, Engelhard Chairman of the Department of Nineteenth-Century, Modern, and Contemporary Art, and H. Barbara Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture; and Ann Dumas is the coordinating curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into

the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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