

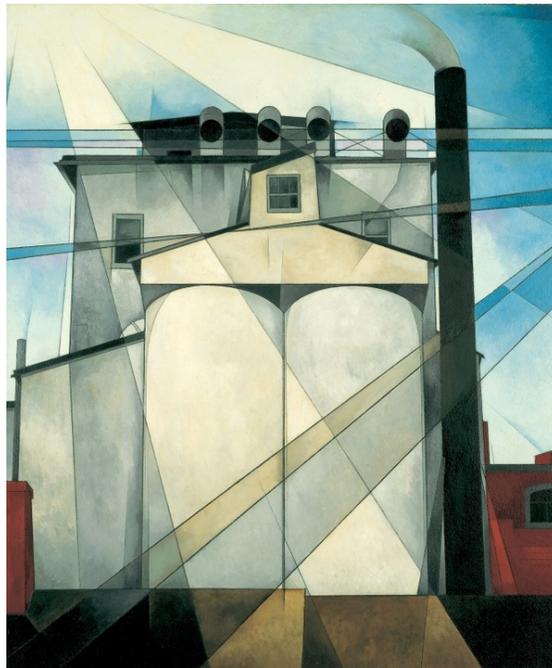
# WHITNEY

## Press Release

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## THE WHITNEY TO PRESENT *AMERICAN LEGENDS:* *FROM CALDER TO O'KEEFFE*



Charles Demuth, *My Egypt*, 1927. Oil on fiberboard, 35 3/4 x 30 in. (90.8 x 76.2 cm). Whitney Museum of [American Art](#), New York; purchase with funds from Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney 31.172

**NEW YORK, December 3, 2012**—Eighteen early to mid-century American artists who forged distinctly modern styles are the subjects of *American Legends: From Calder to O'Keeffe*, opening December 22 at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Drawing from the Whitney's

permanent collection, the year-long show features iconic as well as lesser known works by Oscar Bluemner, Charles Burchfield, Paul Cadmus, Alexander Calder, Joseph Cornell, Ralston Crawford, Stuart Davis, Charles Demuth, Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, Edward Hopper, Gaston Lachaise, Jacob Lawrence, John Marin, Reginald Marsh, Elie Nadelman, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Joseph Stella.

Curator Barbara Haskell has organized the museum's holdings of each of these artists' work into small-scale retrospectives. Many of the works included will be on view for the first time in years; others, such as Hopper's *A Woman in the Sun*, Calder's *Circus*, Jacob Lawrence's *War Series*, and Georgia O'Keeffe's *Summer Days*, are cornerstones of the Whitney's collection. The show will run for a year in the museum's fifth-floor Leonard & Evelyn Lauder Galleries and both the Sondra Gilman Gallery and Howard & Jean Lipman Gallery on the fifth-floor mezzanine. To showcase the breadth and depth of the Museum's impressive modern art collection, a rotation will occur in May 2013 in order that other artists and works can be installed.

In the late nineteenth century artistic innovation was largely driven by European art. For aspiring young painters and sculptors in America, traveling to Europe and assimilating European styles was considered integral to becoming a modern artist. By the turn of the twentieth century, with America's emergence as an international power, the nation's artists began to reassess their earlier dependence on Europe in favor of creating independent styles, inspired by American subjects and forms of expression.

Two clear movements dominated art in the first half of the twentieth century: realism and modernism. "Despite their seemingly antithetical styles and subject matter, the two groups shared a determination to portray their intense connection to American subjects," Haskell explains. "Together, they charted a new direction in American art and, in the process, redefined the relationship between art and modern life."

By featuring realists, such as Hopper and Burchfield, alongside modernists, such as Bluemner and Stella, *American Legends: From Calder to O'Keeffe* represents the vitality and diversity of early twentieth-century American art. The Whitney has a long and proud history of supporting

this work, as evidenced by the depth of its holdings of the eighteen artists in this exhibition. As the Whitney looks to its future in a new building in 2015, it is pleased to reaffirm its commitment to the great artists at the core of its collection.

### **Exhibition Support**

Ongoing support for the permanent collection and major support for *American Legends: From Calder to O'Keeffe* is provided by Bank of America.



Support for this exhibition is provided by Susan R. Malloy, The Gage Fund and Lynn G. Straus.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 19,000 works by more than 2,900 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is moving forward with a new building project, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

### **Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

<b>...as apple pie</b>	Through early 2013
<b>Wade Guyton OS</b>	Through January 13, 2013
<b>Richard Artschwager!</b>	Through February 3, 2013
<b>Trisha Baga: Plymouth Rock 2</b>	Through January 13, 2013
<b>Sinister Pop</b>	Through March 31, 2013
<b>Dark and Deadpan: Pop in TV and the Movies</b>	Through March 31, 2013
<b>Blues for Smoke</b>	February 7-April 28, 2013
<b>Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective</b>	February 28-June 2, 2013

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$14. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).*