

The Hyde Exhibits John Sloan's Rooftop Urban Scenes

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. — The Hyde Collection will exhibit “From the Rooftops: John Sloan and the Art of a New Urban Space,” organized by the Palmer Museum of Art at Pennsylvania State University, through September 15. The exhibition offers the first in-depth examination of Sloan’s career-long fascination with the life of the urban rooftop by bringing together nearly 30 of his paintings, prints and drawings.

The melting pot of early Twentieth Century New York City lured hopeful immigrants to the burgeoning city, where many took to the tenements with the rest of the working class. The city’s poor began to find refuge on the rooftops from the claustrophobia, summer heat and lack of fresh air in the city’s cramped sweat shops and apartments.

Ashcan School painter John Sloan (1871–1951) was, perhaps more than any other American artist in the first half of the Twentieth Century, pre-occupied with New York City rooftops. In “From the Rooftops: John Sloan and the Art of a New Urban Space,” some of Sloan’s most iconic works are celebrated.

Everyday life in the city — women laboring over laundry; families sleeping al fresco to escape the stifling heat of tenements; women drying their hair and gossiping; and men caring for pigeons — is depicted from a voyeur’s view.

The exhibition includes an additional 30 works from more than a dozen of Sloan’s notable

contemporaries. Among the artwork included are paintings by William Glackens and Charles Hoffbauer, photographs by Walter Rosenblum and Weegee, and prints by Martin Lewis and Armin Landeck, among others.

Sloan was born in Pennsylvania in 1871, the son of an amateur artist. He attended Central High School, where he was classmates with realist and fellow Ashcan artist Glackens. He worked as a commercial artist, eventually joining the art departments of *Philadelphia Inquirer* and later the *Philadelphia Press* while studying drawing at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts under noted painter and portraitist Thomas Pollock Anshutz.

In the 1890s, Sloan started painting portraits and scenes from the streets of Philadelphia. His first exhibition was in 1900 at the Pennsylvania Academy. He moved to New York City in 1904 and painted street scenes. After participating in the historic 1908 exhibition of The Eight at Macbeth Gallery, Sloan was considered a key figure in the Ashcan School — an artistic movement during the early Twentieth Century best known for works portraying scenes of daily life in New York, usually in the poorest neighborhoods.

The Hyde Collection is at 161 Warren Street. For additional information, 518-792-1761 or www.hydecollection.org.



“Sunday, Women Drying Their Hair” by John Sloan, 1912, oil on canvas, 26-1/8 by 32-1/8 inches. Addison Gallery of American Art, Museum purchase, 1938.67.

