

BELLOWS AND THE BODY

THE REAL, THE IDEAL AND THE NUDE

EXHIBITION

21 October 2016 – 22 January 2017

George Bellows was one of the most significant American artists of the early 20th century, and perhaps the most talented of those associated with the 'Ashcan School'. Asserting their modernity by taking the gritty urban environment of New York as their subject, the Ashcanners painted street kids, prostitutes and wrestlers, carving out their lives among the tenements, sidewalks, subways, docksides and boxing clubs.

In 2015, the Barber acquired an early masterpiece by Bellows: *Nude, Miss Bentham*, of 1906 – only the second Bellows in a public collection in the UK – now supplemented this year by his lithograph, *The Life Class*, of 1917.

This exhibition focuses on the treatment of the human figure by Bellows and his contemporaries, both within and outside of the *Life Class*. Contextualising *Miss Bentham* with a series of key loans from the US and the UK, the display explores how style and subject matter demonstrated awareness of class and a commitment to social realism. Looking through the lens of the nude, the show opens up new and unexpected insights into the Ashcanners' practice and preoccupations in this pivotal period.

ADMISSION FREE

Monday – Friday: 10am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11am – 5pm

(Closed 31 October; 24-26 December; 1 January)



THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

PUBLIC EVENING LECTURE

Thursday 3 November

George Bellows and the Urban Scene
Professor David Peters Corbett

SYMPOSIUM

Friday 4 November

This full day of papers and a round-table discussion, from European and US academics and curators, explores how Bellows and other Ashcan School artists approached the body.

Papers will consider:

- Censorship
- The role of the artist's own body
- Connections to popular illustration and radical magazines
- The relationship of life class and studio work to paintings made in the street

£30; £25 concessions; £10 students (includes lunch and refreshments)
Student travel bursaries available. Details: www.barber.org.uk/symposium

For more information about the day see: barber.org.uk
To book: education@barber.org.uk / 00 44 (0)121 414 2261

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