



HIRSCHL & ADLER GALLERIES

For Immediate Release

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The Madding Crowd: 150 Years of American Urban Landscapes

On View, Thursday, June 17 – Friday, August 20, 2021

Hirschl & Adler is pleased to present its summer exhibition, *The Madding Crowd*, featuring American fine and decorative arts from the 19th century to the present. Encompassing pieces from over 25 artists, the show includes work by Berenice Abbott, Lawrence Edwin Blazey, Frederick Brosen, Colin Brown, Nicolino Calyo, Colin Campbell Cooper, Thomas Fransioli, William Glackens, Childe Hassam, Hilaire Hiler, Diana Horowitz, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Reginald Marsh, Andy Mister, John Moore, Jane Peterson, Edmund Quincy, Winold Reiss, Marc Trujillo, and Purvis Young, among others.

The Madding Crowd commemorates the city and its inhabitants, celebrating them through artistic representation. Due to the high density of people in cities, the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and our responses to it have been intensely felt by its constituents. Quotidian city life continues to remain disrupted, but as the pandemic wanes, we hope to reflect on what cities have been through but still have to offer.

This wide-ranging selection of works represents two visions of urban life. On the one hand, some artists depict the highly organized, rational city as conceptualized by urban planners—a version visible through skyscrapers, bridges, aerials views, and mechanical structures. Consider Lawrence Edwin Blazey's *Euclid Avenue, Cleveland* (about 1930), rendered in clean, architectonic lines. The high-vantage-point perspective is taken from a towering skyscraper, looking downward to the busy commercial thoroughfare dotted with vehicles and electric trolleys. Blazey's Precisionism and daring perspective capture the dynamism and modernity of this booming center of Cleveland's economy.

On the other hand, other works also delve into an individual's experience within the metropolis, which is visible through various subjects, including scenes of recreation and entertainment or bustling, energetic crowds. One such crowd is seen in Andy Mister's *Disobedience*. With its absence of specific signifiers of an issue or cause, the monochromatic drawing creates a timeless scene, one which beckons the viewer to imagine themselves immersed in the crowd and participating in the protest.

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Artists portray the city as a place of vitalism, leisure, and liberation made possible through its organizational structures in these selections. Here too, the artists demonstrate the transitory, adaptable nature of the city and its inhabitants: progressive energy that will prove essential in our collective shift out of pandemic life. Forging connections across numerous cities, eras, and artistic styles, this exhibition offers a wealth of parallels between the contemporary viewer's experience and the artistic distillation of city life.

The Madding Crowd opens at Hirschl & Adler on Thursday, June 17, and runs through Friday, August 20, 2021. Located on the 9th floor of the landmark Fuller Building at the corner of 57th Street and Madison Avenue, Hirschl & Adler is open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

For additional information or images, contact Ellyn Basky or Kelsey Gallagher at 212-535-8810 or by email at EllynB@HirschlAndAdler.com or KelseyG@HirschlAndAdler.com. Please visit our website at www.HirschlAndAdler.com for an online preview of the exhibition.

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