

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
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# PRESS RELEASE



Edward Hopper (1882–1967), *City Roofs*, 1932.  
Oil on canvas, 29 × 36in. (73.7 × 91.4 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; promised gift of an anonymous donor P.2016.11. © Heirs of Josephine N. Hopper, licensed by Whitney Museum of American Art

## **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION BY DO HO SUH DEBUTS ON JUNE THE WHITNEY TO RECEIVE TWO KEY PAINTINGS, A HOPPER AND A HASSAM**

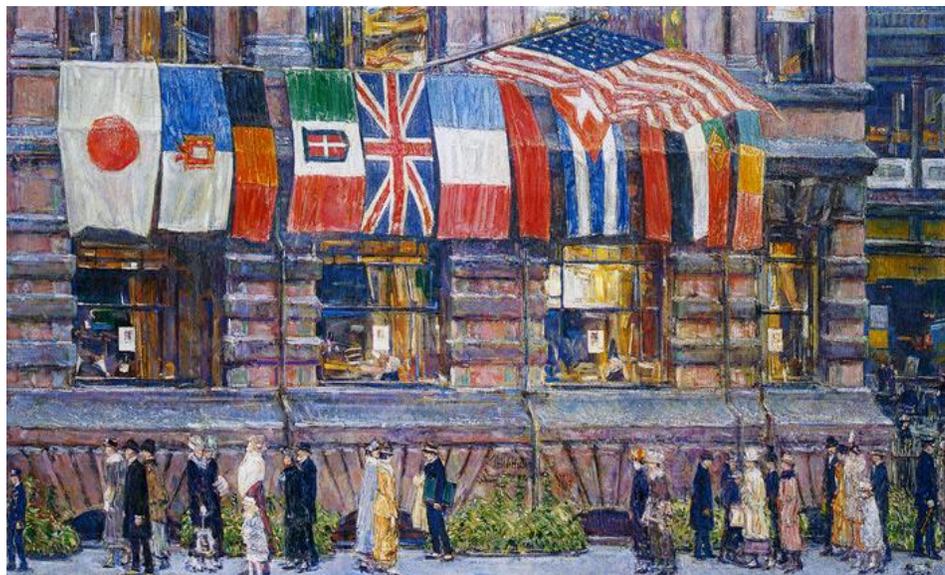
NEW YORK, June 16, 2017—Adam D. Weinberg, the Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, announced today that an anonymous donor has promised two major prewar American paintings to the Museum's permanent collection: Edward Hopper's 1932 painting *City Roofs* and Childe Hassam's *Allied Flags, April 1917*, also known as *Allied Flags, Union League Club* (1917).

"We are thrilled that these two wonderful paintings, *City Roofs* and *Allied Flags, April 1917*, have been promised to the Whitney," said Weinberg. "Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, these paintings, long held in private hands, will be available in coming years to new generations who visit the Whitney to see works from our iconic collection and discover the history of American art. These are among the Whitney's most important acquisitions of recent years, and they add tremendously to our holdings of early twentieth-century American art."

*City Roofs* depicts the rooftop of Edward Hopper's studio at 3 Washington Square North in Greenwich Village. Hopper (1882—1967) was frequently inspired by the two locations in which he spent most of his time: downtown New York, where he lived and worked in the same rented apartment from 1913 until his death in 1967, and Cape Cod, where, beginning in 1934, he maintained a home and studio.

Although Hopper made many works that revisit favorite sites and motifs, he completed only one painting of the roof of his New York home. A reflective and solitary man, Hopper was deeply attuned to the complex rhythms of everyday life. "The subject of an urban rooftop offers a metaphor for Hopper's artistic career," David Breslin, DeMartini Family Curator and Director of the Collection, noted. "The utterly ordinary yet frequently inaccessible location holds the same promise of uniqueness and hidden depth as the solitary figures populating so many of his compositions." *City Roofs* joins the Whitney's unparalleled collection of Hopper's work, which includes over

200 paintings, more than 2,500 drawings, as well as numerous prints and watercolors, many of which were bequeathed to the Museum by his widow, Josephine Nivison Hopper.



Childe Hassam (1859–1935), *Allied Flags*, April 1917, 1917. Oil on canvas, 30 1/2 x 49 in. (77.5 x 124.5 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; promised gift of an anonymous donor P.2016.12

Childe Hassam (1859–1935) was a pioneer of American Impressionism. The most well-known practitioner of this French-invented painting style, he was also one of the only American Impressionists to depict the home front during World War I. From 1916 until 1919, Hassam produced a series of flag paintings, approximately thirty works representing Fifth Avenue and adjacent streets decorated with patriotic banners. This is the first painting by Hassam to enter the Whitney's collection. "Hassam completed this work during the month the United States officially entered the war," explained Breslin, "and it is a particularly significant painting from the series because he depicts himself among the pedestrians. By including himself in this way, the artist seems to suggest that he, like all Americans at that moment, was personally involved in the war effort."

#### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

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

*Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection*

*Whitney Biennial 2017*

*Calder: Hypermobility*

*Bunny Rogers: Brig Und Ladder*

*Willa Nasatir*

*Hélio Oiticica: To Organize Delirium*

*Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World*

*Laura Owens*

*David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night*

Ongoing

Through June 11, 2017

June 9–October 23, 2017

Opens July 7, 2017

July 14–October 1, 2017

July 14–October 1, 2017

November 3, 2017–January 28, 2018

November 2017–February 2018

Summer 2018

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday, except in July and August. Adults: \$22 in advance via [whitney.org](http://whitney.org); \$25 day of visit. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$17 in advance via [whitney.org](http://whitney.org); \$18 day of visit. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).

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