

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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A FULL FLOOR OF EDWARD HOPPER'S WORKS OPENS AT THE WHITNEY AS PART OF *FULL HOUSE: VIEWS OF THE WHITNEY'S COLLECTION AT 75*



Edward Hopper, *Second Story Sunlight*, 1960

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Whitney Museum is mounting *Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75*, a major new look at works from the permanent collection. For *Full House*, the entire fifth floor of the museum is devoted to the art of Edward Hopper (1882-1967), the artist most closely identified with the Whitney, which is home to the most extensive holdings of his work in the world.

On view are not only the Whitney's most iconic Hopper paintings (*Seven A.M.*, *Second Story Sunlight*, *A Woman in the Sun*, and many more), but also an extraordinary selection of drawings and sketches made in preparation for these works. The Whitney's holdings include more than 2,500 paintings, watercolors, drawings, prints, and illustrated journals, which offer an unparalleled opportunity to see into the artist's creative processes and study his work in depth.

In addition to the Whitney's holdings, major works from other institutions have been borrowed for this installation in order that they may be seen with their corresponding preparatory works. Over the course of the six-month installation, such masterworks as *Nighthawks* (from the Art Institute of

Chicago), *Hotel Lobby* (Indianapolis Museum of Art), *Morning in the City* (Williams College Museum of Art), *Cape Cod Evening* (National Gallery), *Office at Night* (Walker Art Center), *Hotel Window* (from a private collection), and *New York Movie* (MoMA) will rotate into view along with Hopper's related drawings, studies, and ledger entries from the Whitney's collection.

The definition of an American original, Hopper created unforgettable images that capture an introspective quality of tense solitude. Through his extraordinary manipulation of space and light, Hopper's works hover between the theatrical and the strangely familiar. His scenes of everyday life are imbued with an understated dramatic force. In an essay in London's *Telegraph*, the writer Alain de Botton discussed the enduring fascination of Hopper's art: "We may, in contact with it, feel as if we had been carried back to some important place in ourselves, a place of stillness and sadness, of seriousness and authenticity: it can help us to remember ourselves."

The Museum's mezzanine level features a selection of works from the Whitney's photography collection that suggests a connection to Hopper's painting in sensibility, subject matter, or composition. Like Hopper, these artists mine everyday experience, observing and chronicling its beauty and, at times, anguish. From Walker Evans, whose subway portraits taken with a hidden camera highlight the increasingly complicated relationship between artist and subject, to Laurie Simmons, who staged photographs to offer critical perspectives on domesticity and gender, these artists reflect changing paradigms of realism. On view in the adjacent gallery is Nan Goldin's slide projection *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* (1979-96), a candid record of the artist and her friends' lives on the Lower East Side in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Hopper installation on the fifth floor remains on view through December 3.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:

Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75 *Edward Hopper on view through December 3, 2006	June 29-September 3, 2006*
Mark Grotjahn	September 15, 2006-January 7, 2007
Picasso and American Art	September 28, 2006-January 28, 2007
Albers and Moholy-Nagy	November 2, 2006-January 21, 2007
Kiki Smith	November 16, 2006-February 11, 2007
Terence Koh	January - May 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	Opens February 2007
Lorna Simpson	Opens Spring 2007

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, 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. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:

Trace	June 30 - November 12, 2006
Burgeoning Geometries	December 7, 2006 - March 11, 2007

The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc. Admission is free. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453.