

## Spencer Art Reference Library

### Library Guide

#### Painting Modern America: American Art in the 1940s

Book Display and Resource List | October 1, 2011 – January 8, 2012

American art during the 1940s encompassed a variety of styles, and many artists were interested in creating images of American society. This book display, presented in conjunction with the exhibition *To Make a World: George Ault and 1940's America*, includes titles on artists who were active during the 1940s. Also included are books about the art movements of Precisionism and Modernism, and items about the 1940s in general. Lastly, we have listed some online resources that relate to American art in the 1940s. The For Further Reading Section incorporates items held by the Educator Resource Center, as indicated.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone: 816.751.1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum's website at [www.nelson-atkins.org](http://www.nelson-atkins.org).

Selected by: Roberta Wagener | Library Assistant, Public Services

#### Artists of the 1940s

1. Nemerov, Alexander. *To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America*. Washington: Smithsonian American Art Museum; New Haven: in association with Yale University Press, 2011.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .A848 A4 2011 AULT  
GEORGE

2. Troyen, Carol, Judith A. Barter, Janet L. Comey, Elliot Bostwich Davis, and Ellen E. Roberts. *Edward Hopper*. Boston: MFA Publications, 2007.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .H6 A4 2007 HOPPER

3. Roswell Museum and Art Center. *Peter Hurd in the Collection of the Roswell Museum and Art Center*. Roswell: The Museum, 1985.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 H872 .R67 1985

4. Welsh, Caroline M. and Scott R. Ferris. *The View from Asgaard: Rockwell Kent's Adirondack Legacy*. Blue Mountain Lake: The Adirondack Museum, 1999.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .K47 A4 1999 KENT  
ROCKWELL

5. McGrath, Robert L., and Paula F. Glick. *Paul Sample: Painter of the American Scene*. Hanover: Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, 1988.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .S264 A4 1988 SAMPLE

6. Hoving, Thomas. *Andrew Wyeth: Autobiography*. Boston: Little, Brown; Kansas City: In association with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 1995.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .W93 A2 1995 WYETH

7. New York Cultural Center. *Leonid and His Friends: Tchelitchev, Berman, Bérard*. New York: The Center, 1974.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6490 .N5 L46 1974

8. Brock, Charles. *Charles Sheeler: Across Media*. Washington: National Gallery of Art; Berkeley: in association with University of California Press, 2006.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .S523 A4 2006 SHEELER

### **Precisionism and American Modernism**

9. Montclair Art Museum. *Precisionism in America 1915–1941: Reordering Reality*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in association with The Montclair Art Museum, 1994.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .P67 P7 1994

10. Ward, Meredith E. *Streamlined: The Precisionist Impulse in American Art*. New York: Hirschl & Adler Galleries, 1996.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .P67 W37 1995

11. Lochridge, Katherine and Susan Fillin Yeh. *The Precisionist Painters 1916–1949: Interpretations of a Mechanical Age*. Huntington: Heckscher Museum, 1978.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .P67 P73

12. Tsujimoto, Karen. *Images of America: Precisionist Painting and Modern Photography*. Seattle: Published for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art by the University of Washington Press, 1982.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 212.5 .P67 T83 1982

13. Green, Nancy E. *American Modernism: Precisionist Works on Paper*. Ithaca: Office of Publication Services, Cornell University, 1986.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .P67 G73 1986

14. Marsden-Atlass, Lynn, Andrea Dale Smith, Kendall Scully, and Carol Irish. *Power and Whimsy: A Private Collection of American Modernism*. New York: Vance Jordan Fine Art, Inc., 2003.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 212 .S618 2003

15. Gerald Peters Gallery. *American Modernism: The Françoise & Harvey Rambach Collection*. New York: Gerald Peters Gallery, 1999.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .M63 R36 1999

16. McClintic, Miranda. *Modernism & Abstraction: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications; Washington: Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2001.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512.5 .M63 M39 2001

### **1940s America**

17. Sickels, Robert. *The 1940s*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2004.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: E 169.1 .S497 2004

18. Olian, JoAnne. *Everyday Fashions of the Forties: As Pictured in Sears Catalogs*. New York: Dover Publications, 1992.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: GT 615 .E945 1992

19. Littleton, Taylor and Maltby Sykes. *Advancing American Art: Painting, Politics, and Cultural Confrontation at Mid-Century*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2005.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 212 .A28 2005

20. Wigmore, Deedee. *1930s–1940's Regionalism: Evolution of a Style*. New York: D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc., 2010.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 212 .A15 2010

21. Orvell, Miles, ed. *John Vachon's America: Photographs and Letters from the Depression to World War II*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: TR 23 .V33 2003 VACHON JOHN

22. Prelinger, Elizabeth. *Scenes of American Life: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*. New York: Watson-Guptill Publications; Washington: Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2001.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512 .S62 2001

23. Saab, A. Joan. *For the Millions: American Art and Culture Between the Wars*. Philadelphia: PENN, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512 .S23 2004

24. Kennedy, Roger G. and David Larkin. *When Art Worked*. New York: Rizzoli, 2009.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 8838 .K45 2009

25. McCloskey, Barbara. *Artists of World War II*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2005.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 9160 .M33 2005

### **For Further Reading**

Doezema, Marianne. *American Realism and the Industrial Age*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1980.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6510.5 .R4 D6 1980

Martin, Constance, and Richard V. West. *Distant Shores: The Odyssey of Rockwell Kent*. Chesterfield: Chameleon Books; Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .K46 A4 2000 KENT

Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of America in the Early Twentieth Century*. New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1974.

Educator Resource Center  
Call No: Juv 214B Glu974

Wien, Jake Milgram. *Rockwell Kent: The Mythic and the Modern*. New York: Hudson Hills Press in association with the Portland Museum of Art, 2005.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .K46 A4 2005 KENT

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. *American Painters: Responding and Evolving*. [slide kit]. Kansas City: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2003.

Educator Resource Center  
Call No: 214SK Nel003

Berman, Leonid. *The Three Worlds of Leonid*. New York: Basic Books, 1978.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 L4666 .A179 1978

Balken, Debra Bricker. *Debating American Modernism: Stieglitz, Duchamp, and the New York Avant-Garde*. New York: American Federation of Arts, 2003.

Educator Resource Center  
Call No: 600B Bal003

Lyons, Deborah and Adam D. Weinberg. *Edward Hopper and the American Imagination*. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art: W.W. Norton, 1995.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: ND 237 .H75 A4 1995 HOPPER

Wilson, Richard Guy. *The Machine Age in America (1918-1941)*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1986.

Educator Resource Center  
Call No: 214B Wil986

Rawlinson, Mark. *Charles Sheeler: Modernism, Precisionism and the Borders of Abstraction*. London, New York: I.B. Tauris, 2007.

Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6537 .S523 R39 2007 SHEELER

West, Richard V. "An Enkindled Eye":  
*The Paintings of Rockwell Kent*. Santa Barbara:  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1985.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N44 K457r .W47 1985

McCormick, Ken and Hamilton Darby Perry.  
*Images of War: The Artist's Vision of World War II*.  
New York: Orion Books, 1990.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 8260 .I62 1990

*The Great Depression and the New Deal*.  
[videorecording]. Wynnewood:  
Schlessinger Media, 2003.  
Educator Resource Center  
Call No: 214D Sch003

Doss, Erika. *Twentieth-Century American Art*.  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.  
Spencer Art Reference Library  
Call No: N 6512 .D668 2002

### **Online Resources**

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.  
*To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America*.  
2011. 24 June 2011.  
<<http://www.nelson-atkins.org/art/Exhibitions.cfm?id=125>>.

Smithsonian American Art Museum.  
*To Make a World: George Ault and 1940's America*.  
2011. 20 April 2011.  
<<http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/archive/2011/ault/>>.

Library of Congress. American Memory.  
*America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935–1945*. 15  
December 1998. 5 May 2011.  
<<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html>>.

Library of Congress. American Memory.  
*By the People, For the People: Posters from the WPA, 1936–1943*. 31 August 2000. 5 May 2011.  
<<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaposters/wpahome.html>>.

Lone Star College — Kingwood. *American Cultural History, 1940–1949*. July 2009.  
6 May 2011.  
<<http://kclibrary.lonestar.edu/decade40.html>>.

Metropolitan Museum of Art. Heilbrunn  
Timeline of Art History. Murphy, Jessica.  
"Precisionism." 2000–2011. 6 May 2011.  
<[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/prec/hd\\_prec.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/prec/hd_prec.htm)>.

The Art Institute of Chicago. *Charles Sheeler: Across Media*. 2006. 8 July 2011.  
<<http://www.artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/sheeler/index.html>>.

Archives of American Art. *Rockwell Kent Papers, [circa 1840]–1993, bulk 1935–1961*. 2008.  
8 July 2011.  
<<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/rockwell-kent-papers-9557>>.

Nemerov, Alexander. "George Ault and 1940's America". *The Magazine Antiques*. 2011.  
8 July 2011.  
<<http://www.themagazineantiques.com/article/s/george-ault-and-1940s-america/>>  
