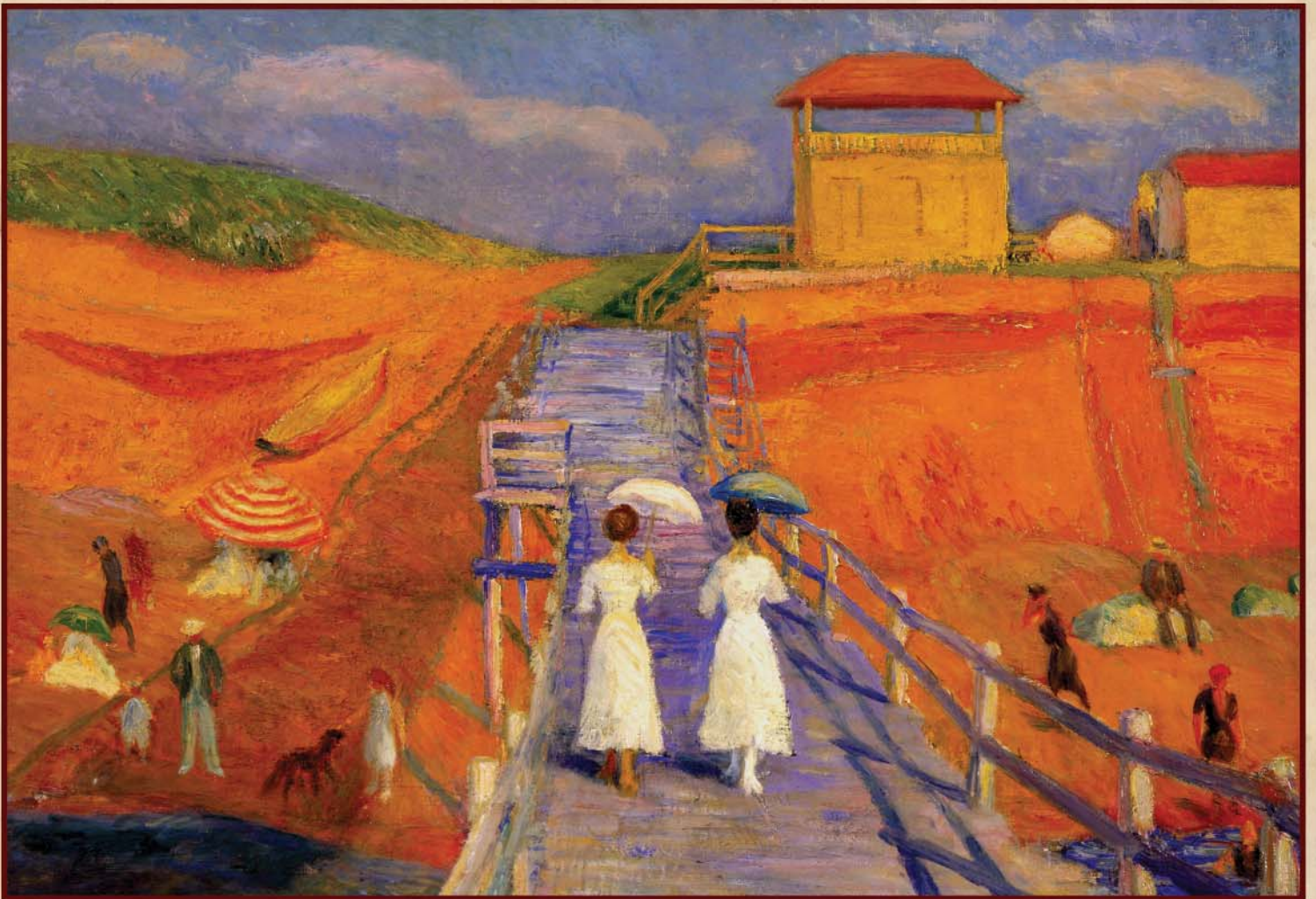


William J. Glackens

American Painter of Life

Teacher Resource Guide



**NSU ART
MUSEUM**

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William J. Glackens

American Painter of Life



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Image Credits:

1. *Curb Exchange No. 3* (detail), 1907-1910, Gouache and conté crayon, 26" x 18", Bequest of Ira Glackens
2. *Self Portrait*, not dated, Oil on board, 12" x 10", Bequest of Ira Glackens
3. *Breakfast Porch*, 1925, Oil on canvas, 30" x 25", Bequest of Ira Glackens
4. *Far from the Fresh Air Farm: The Crowded City Street, with Its Dangers and Temptations, Is a Pitiful Makeshift Playground for Children*, 1911, Original drawing for *Collier's Weekly* 47, no. 16 (July 8, 1911): ill. cover, p. 6., Crayon heightened with watercolor on paper, 24" x 16", Bequest of Ira Glackens
5. *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square* (detail), 1912, Crayon and watercolor on paper, 17" x 31", Bequest of Ira Glackens
6. *Philadelphia Landscape*, 1893, Oil on canvas, 17" x 24", Gift of the Sansom Foundation
7. *Cape Cod Pier*, 1908, Oil on canvas, 26" x 32", Gift of an anonymous donor
8. *Tugboat with Lighter*, 1908, Oil on canvas, 25" x 30", Bequest of Ira Glackens
9. *Dancer in Blue*, circa 1905, Oil on canvas, 48" x 30", Gift of the Sansom Foundation
10. *Lenna with Rabbit Hound*, 1922, Oil on canvas, 32" x 26", Bequest of Ira Glackens
11. *Artist's Daughter in Chinese Costume*, 1918, Oil on canvas, 48" x 30", Gift of the Sansom Foundation
12. *Sledding in Central Park*, 1912, Oil on canvas, 23" x 31", Gift of Ira Glackens



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Teacher Resource Guide

This guide for educators is a reflection of NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale's commitment to education, not only in the visual arts but across a broad curriculum. As part of Nova Southeastern University, the Museum has established an important relationship with the Fischler School of Education and Human Services to prepare materials for both educators and students exploring the work of American artist William Glackens. An important resource, the Museum's Glackens Collection includes more than 500 works by the world-renowned artist and his contemporaries, who are identified with early 20th century Realism and Impressionism. This guide encourages the discovery and investigation of the dominant themes within the Glackens Collection, including issues related to immigration, economics, technology, the environment and the family, as well as advances in the visual arts.



Peter A. Juley & Son
Portraits of William Glackens (detail), circa 1935
Black and white photographs
Bequest of Ira Glackens



William Glackens
Self Portrait, not dated
Oil on Board, 12" x 10"
Bequest of Ira Glackens

Artist Biography

William Glackens was one of the most influential American painters of the first half of the 20th century. He began his career at the age of 21 as an illustrator for a succession of his hometown Philadelphia newspapers, where he earned a reputation as a skilled draftsman with a photographic memory for detail. In 1896, he settled permanently in New York City, making a living as a magazine illustrator. Known for his ability to capture human emotions in his drawings, Glackens met with great success and his career as an illustrator flourished.

When he arrived in New York, Glackens joined a group of like-minded artists who were led by the prominent American painter Robert Henri. Rather than confining themselves to creating society portraits and idyllic landscapes, Henri and his circle attempted to paint life the way they saw it

being lived on the streets and sidewalks of New York. For their efforts, they earned the designation "disciples of the ugly," and famously became known as the Ashcan Group. As Glackens matured as an artist, his canvases brightened in tone and color, and he was unofficially awarded the accolade of "*the American Renoir*." Though staying true to his everyday subject matter, Glackens spent his last three decades painting canvases that were prized for their light-filled color and feathery brushstrokes, and he solidified his reputation as a premiere painter of American Impressionism.

General Activities (all grade levels)

1. Complete a biography of the painter William Glackens.
 - a. Where was the artist born?
 - b. Where did he live?
 - c. Where did he go to school?
 - d. Who were his friends and fellow artists?
2. Look at the images created by William Glackens.
 - a. What materials were used to create them?
 - b. How do the colors differ from work to work?
 - c. Look at *Tugboat and Lighter*, how does it differ visually from the other works?
 - d. Look at William Glackens' *Self Portrait*. How old do you think he is in this painting?
 - e. Create your own self portrait.
3. **Color**

Artists often use color to convey a sense of mood, season, or time of day. Create at least two similar compositions, but change the colors in each to convey differing times of year, day or mood.



William Glackens, *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square* (detail), 1912
Crayon and watercolor on paper, 17" x 31", Bequest of Ira Glackens

4. *The Artist's Daughter in Chinese Costume*

In this painting, the artist depicts his daughter in a Chinese costume. Do you have a favorite costume or character that you like to dress as? Create an image [various media may be utilized] of you in costume.

5. *Cape Cod Pier*

Cape Cod Pier is a composite of many studies Glackens made of beach goers. He took photographs and sketched small groups of people at the beach, and sketched the board walk and buildings from different angles. He compiled several of these sketches and photographs in the final painting. Choose a subject, and begin to create studies for use in the final composition. Select several studies and combine them to create a larger final work.

6. *Far from the Fresh Air Farm: The Crowded City Street, with its Dangers and Temptations, is a Pitiful Makeshift Playground for Children*

This illustration was a social commentary on the dangers facing children growing up in urban New York City in the early 20th century. Draw a street corner near you.

7. *Dancer in Blue*

Many of Glackens' works depict entertainers such as actresses, dancers, and circus performers. Create a portrait of an entertainer that you like.

8. *Lenna with Rabbit Hound*

Glackens often painted his children with their pets. Do you have a favorite pet? Create an image depicting you and your pet.

9. *Landscapes*

Compare *Philadelphia Landscape*, *Sledding in Central Park*, and *Cape Cod Pier*. Which seasons are depicted in the paintings? How has the artist conveyed the differing seasons in each painting? Create a series of the same landscape during different seasons.



William Glackens
The Artist's Daughter in Chinese Costume, 1918
Oil on canvas, 48" x 30"
Bequest of Ira Glackens

Elementary (K-5th)

FAMILY: *Breakfast Porch*

1. Who is sitting at the table?
2. Which meal is being served?
3. What are they eating?

VISUAL ARTS: *Cape Cod Pier*

1. Name and locate the shapes in the painting.
2. Which colors can you name? What are the two main colors?
3. Compare the shapes and colors between *Cape Cod Pier* and *Tugboat and Lighter*.



William Glackens
Cape Cod Pier, 1908
Oil on canvas, 26" x 32"
Gift of an anonymous donor

COMMUNITIES: *Curb Exchange, No. 3*

1. This drawing was created in 1910. How can you tell it's an image of the past?
2. What are the people doing in this scene?
3. Have you ever been on a street like the one in the picture? Talk about it.

ECONOMICS/TECHNOLOGY: *Far from the Fresh Air Farm: The Crowded City Street, with Its Dangers and Temptations, is a Pitiful Makeshift Playground for Children*

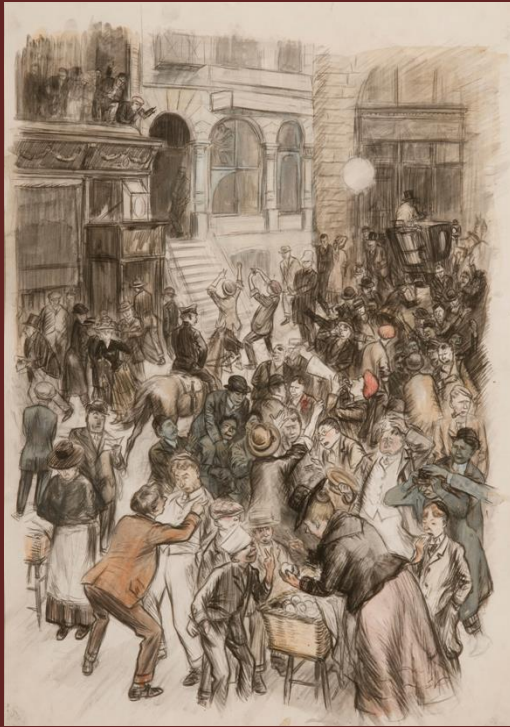
1. In the drawing, people are making purchases. What are they buying and how much are they spending on those purchases? How much would those items cost today?
2. This is a busy street - do you see any cars? What types of transportation are being used instead?

SEASONS /ENVIRONMENT: *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square*

1. What makes you think this is Christmas time?
2. How else might you know the drawing was completed in the winter?
3. How is Christmas and the winter season celebrated differently here in Florida than in this drawing?

LIFESTYLES/ACTIVITIES: *Cape Cod Pier*

1. Where is Cape Cod? Does this beach look like the one you go to?
2. Look at the two ladies on the boardwalk and describe how they are dressed. Would you wear the same thing to the beach today?
3. Look at the picture and find the child with a dog. Are dogs allowed on the beaches you visit?



William Glackens
Curb Exchange No. 3, 1907-1910
Gouache and conte crayon, 26" x 18"
Bequest of Ira Glackens

Middle School (6th -8th)

VISUAL ART: *Tugboat and Lighter*

1. What information does Glackens give us about this scene? Consider location, time of day and the different types of boats.
2. Was this work painted from the artist's imagination or from real life?
3. Where was the artist when he painted this?
4. Describe the sounds and smells in this painting.
5. Is there an object in the distance that your eyes rest on? How did the artist accomplish this? What does this symbol mean to you?

ECONOMICS/TECHNOLOGY: *Curb Exchange, No. 3*

1. Analyze the title of the drawing. Describe the activities. How does the title reflect the activities?
2. Research the first decade of the twentieth century (1900-1910) in America as it relates to: technology, transportation, economics and lifestyle.

LIFESTYLES/ACTIVITIES: *Cape Cod Pier*

1. What is your impression of the scene when you look at the painting? How does this painting make you feel?
2. Look at this painting and note the way people are dressed. How has clothing changed in the last 100 years?
3. What activities typically take place at a pier?
4. Using a map of the United States, locate Cape Cod. How far is it from where you live?

SEASONS/ENVIRONMENT: *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square*

1. During which season was the drawing created? How can you tell?
2. If *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square* was painted in Fort Lauderdale rather than New York City, how would people be dressed?
3. What would a scene like this sound and smell like?

FAMILY: *Breakfast Porch*

1. Describe what comes to mind as you look at *Breakfast Porch*.
2. Discuss why it is important for families to spend time together.
3. Create your family tree.

COMMUNITIES: *Far from the Fresh Air Farm: The Crowded City Street, with its Dangers and Temptations, is a Pitiful Makeshift Playground for Children, 1911*

1. The street is filled with people. What activities are they engaged in?
2. Do you think the drawing is an accurate representation of a city street today?
3. What is the general feeling of this scene? What do the facial expressions and hand gestures tell you?
4. What did children do for fun in those days?



William Glackens
Breakfast Porch, 1925
 Oil on canvas, 30" x 25"
 Bequest of Ira Glackens

EXTENSION:

Look at *Breakfast Porch*. What do you think is going on in the painting? Consider this painting as the cover of a book and write a story about it.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

High School (9th-12th)

ECONOMICS/TECHNOLOGY: *Curb Exchange, No. 3*

1. The title implies commercial activity. Do you see such activity taking place?
2. Compare the economic climate of the drawing to the economic climate today.
3. Select a literary work from this time period and write a brief summary, including any insights into *Curb Exchange* you gain from your selection.
4. There aren't any cars in this drawing. Which company or companies first began building automobiles in America? What advances in technology made cars affordable?



William Glackens
Tugboat and Lighter, 1908
Oil on canvas, 25" x 30"
Bequest of Ira Glackens

LIFESTYLES/ACTIVITIES: *Cape Cod Pier*

1. What does the clothing reveal about the moral codes of the time? How do they differ from today?
2. What lifestyles are available on Cape Cod? Which ones would interest you the most?

FAMILY: *Breakfast Porch*

1. Can we assume *Breakfast Porch* shows a mother and her children?
2. Conduct research into your family and local community's history and analyze how the experiences of relatives and neighbors connect to local, national and world events.
3. Describe the mother's mood. How does this scene relate to your own family gatherings?

SEASONS/ENVIRONMENT: *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square*

1. The drawing depicts life nearly a century ago. Are there differences in how the winter season is celebrated in this scene in comparison to today?
2. After looking carefully at the drawing, estimate the temperature on the day William Glackens painted *Christmas Shoppers, Madison Square*. Provide at least three visual examples supporting your findings.
3. What activities in this scene are positive or negative for the environment?



William Glackens
Lenna with Rabbit Hound, 1922
Oil on canvas, 32" x 26"
Bequest of Ira Glackens

COMMUNITIES: *Far from the Fresh Air Farm: The Crowded City Street, with its Dangers and Temptations, is a Pitiful Makeshift Playground for Children*

1. Discuss the difference between urban and rural communities.
2. Explain where and when the scene portrayed in this drawing is taking place. Discuss how you reached your conclusions.
3. Identify and discuss at least five things you see in this picture that are of interest to you.

VISUAL ARTS:

1. Describe the differences between drawing and painting.
2. Sketch an everyday scene from your life. What did you include and what did you leave out? Why?

Research Topics

1. The painter Robert Henri (1865-1929) was a great influence on Glackens. Who influences your life (friend, teacher, celebrity?) How?
2. Research the Amory Show that took place in 1913 in New York City. What was its effect on the development of American art in the 20th century?



Gertrude Kasebier
Portrait of Robert Henri, 1900
Black and white photograph