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Approached as a cast of characters and activities, the group presents American life and society between the catastrophic horrors of the Civil War and World War I—a period when the profound implications of the industrial revolution and seismic demographic change defined the ordinary lives of most Americans.

The very rich and very poor, the educated and ignorant, the old rich and nouveau riche, the native born and the hopeful immigrant—all these sorts of citizens played their roles in American life of this era and many are depicted here. So too, there is the social conflict allegorized in James Henry Beard’s dogs cowering in the face of rats; the inevitable despoliation of landscape and shrinking of space and time symbolized by the powerful smoke-spewing locomotive in Edward Lamson Henry’s 9:45 A.M. Accommodation; the tenderness of George De Forest Brush’s Mother and Child; the grace of John George Brown’s lovely lass; and the precious life in a bell jar depicted by Walter Gay in Lady at Writing Desk.

Also represented are such humble enjoyments as Carducius Plantagenet Ream’s lifelike grapes and cherries and Childe Hassam’s dreamy harmony of home and landscape.

Together the works in this gallery of mostly American paintings tell us something of the time our country came of age and of the life and art of this dynamic period.
Unless otherwise noted, artists are American either by birth or residence.

1) Mother and Child, 1909
Oil on wood panel
George De Forest Brush, 1855–1941
Signed, lower left: Geo De Forest Brush / 1909 / George De Forest Brush 1909
(P-083-80)

2) Reverie, 1878
Oil on canvas
John George Brown, 1831–1913
(P-016-86)

3) Madonna and Child, c. 1880
Oil on canvas
Johannes Adam Simon Oertel, 1823–1909
Signed, lower right: [conjoined O/E]
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. George D. James
(P-062-85)

4) A Visit to the Studio, c. 1885
Oil on wood panel
Unknown artist
Signed, lower right: [illegible]mann
(P-030-92)

5) Top to bottom:

Madonna and Child, late 19th century
Enamel on porcelain
Unknown artist
Marked, reverse: K / 1
(P-094-80)

6) Lady at Writing Desk, c. 1890s
Oil on wood panel
Walter Gay, 1856–1937
Signed, lower left: Walter Gay
(P-014-87)

7) Harpers Ferry, [West] Va., 1894
Oil on canvas
Edward Lamson Henry, 1841–1919
(P-087-80)

8) Sunset, Tropical Marshes, Florida, c. 1880
Oil on canvas
Martin Johnson Heade, 1819–1904
Signed, lower right: M J Heade
(P-054-80)

9) Top to bottom:

The Growing Danger, c. 1860
Oil on canvas
James Henry Beard, 1812–93
Signed, lower left: J. Beard
(P-047-80)

A Memory of Lake George, late 19th century
Oil on canvas
Samuel Colman, 1832–1920
Marks, on reverse: A memory of Lake George – / Painted by Saml. Colman –
(P-027-81)

10) After the Storm, Catskills, c. 1850
Oil on canvas
Thomas Doughty, 1793–1856
(P-040-80)

11) Summer in New England, c. 1890s
Oil on canvas
Childe Hassam, 1859–1935
Signed, lower left: Childe Hassam
(P-012-86)

12) Woodland with Deer, c. 1885–1900
Oil on canvas
Herman Herzog, 1831–1932
Signed, lower left: H. Herzog
(P-016-92)

13) 9:45 A.M. Accommodation, Stratford, Connecticut, April 1864
Oil on wood panel
Edward Lamson Henry, 1841–1919
Signed, lower right: E. L. Henry. 64
Signed, reverse: Edw. L. Henry, April 1864
(P-102-88)

14) Dutch Farm, c. 1890
Oil on canvas
Charles Paul Gruppe, 1860–1940
Signed, lower right: C P Gruppe
Gift of Herbert O. and Susan C. Robinson
(P-031-87)

15) Two Dogs Cowering before Rats, 1866
Oil on panel
James Henry Beard, 1812–93
Signed, lower left: JHBeard. / 1866
(P-044-80)

16) The Stag, 1886
Oil on canvas
Rosa Bonheur, French, 1822–99
Signed, lower left: Rosa Bonheur / 1886
(P-048-80)

17) Top to bottom:

Dionysus and Pan, late 19th century
Oil on panel
Attributed to Elihu Vedder, 1836–1923
(P-002-73)

Psyche and Cupid, late 19th century
Oil on panel
Attributed to Elihu Vedder, 1836–1923
(P-001-73)

18) Still Life, Purple Grapes, c. 1880s
Oil on panel
Carducius Plantagenet Ream, 1837–1917
Signed, lower right: C.P. Ream.
(P-028-92)

19) Still Life, Fruit, and Dishes, late 19th century
Oil on panel
Gottfried Schultz, German, 1842–1919
Signed, upper left: G. Schultz
(P-042-92)
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