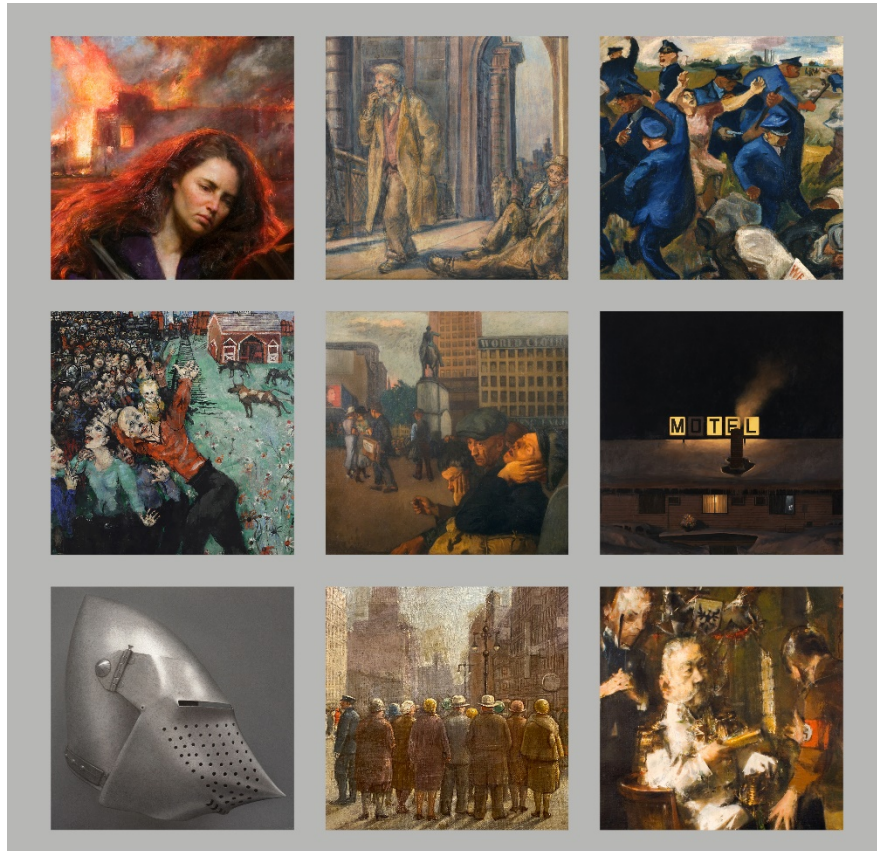




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Robert Fishko, *Director*

For Immediate Release



Then and Now: American Social Realism
May 13 – July 2, 2021

New York, NY - Forum Gallery presents a group exhibition of American social realism featuring paintings, drawings, and sculpture dating from the first half of the Twentieth Century to today. Artists working in the years between the world wars and well known for their contributions are shown side by side with contemporary American Artists whose work continues the humanist legacy of social realism.

American social realism took shape in the 1920s in the centers of commerce also home to artistic communities, like New York and Chicago. The cultural shift in the United States seen in the art of the social realists bridges the high modernist ideals of Europe and the struggle and very human drama evoked by the Great Depression and the political upheavals of the 1920s and 30s.

Works in the current exhibition reflect and record the Nation's fragile optimism of this time period. Highly emotional figuration, strong political content, and frank depiction of the common activities of daily life characterize the art of the social realists, demonstrated in this exhibition by masterworks in oil by **Raphael Soyer**, *In The City Park*, c. 1934, and **Jack Levine**, *1932 (In Memory of George Grosz)*, painted in 1959. The earliest paintings on view, dating from the 1920s, by **Isabel Bishop** and **James H. Daugherty** are joined by evocative works in oil by **Philip Evergood**, **Wood Gaylor**, **William Gropper**, **Robert Gwathmey**, **Joseph Hirsch**, **Reginald Marsh**, and **Ben Shahn**. Also on view is an exceptional New York scene in pastel by **Everett Shinn**, pencil drawings that shine a light on the working class by **Aaron Bohrod** and **Charles White**, rare lithographs of industrial and urban subjects by **Louis Lozowick**, and sculptures imbued with humanism by **Chaim Gross**, **John Storrs**, **Harry Wickey** and **Mahonri Young**.

At a time when we again face political, social, and economic turbulence, ***Then and Now: American Social Realism*** presents paintings by five contemporary American artists whose emotive work shares with the early American social realists the impulse for humanist depiction. In the art of **Steven Assael**, **Rance Jones** and **Alan Magee**, that fragile optimism of the early Twentieth Century is observed again in contemporary works that raise the unglorified every day to symbols of hope and residual strength in troubled times. **Linden Frederick's** singular hidden narratives pay tribute to working America with respect and empathy; while the inimitable political caricatures and heartfelt renderings in watercolor of immigrant garment workers created by the late **David Levine** combine the social and the political concerns of American social realist Artists, past and present.

Concurrently, Forum Gallery presents at **The American Art Fair**, live online beginning May 8, 2021. Celebrating Spring 2021 **American Art Week, May 15 – 22, 2021**, participating galleries will host open houses on Saturday, May 15, 2021. We invite you to visit **Forum Gallery** on May 15th, 10am – 5:30pm, or anytime during our regular opening hours, to view the exhibition and the works featured in **The American Art Fair**. No appointment is necessary.

Preview ***Then and Now: American Social Realism*** on our website [here](#).

Visit Forum Gallery at **The American Art Fair** starting May 8, 2021 [here](#).

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Forum Gallery is located at 475 Park Avenue at 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Forum Gallery is open to the public from Monday through Saturday, from 10am to 5:30pm. Please visit <https://www.forumgallery.com/exhibitions/then-and-now-american-social-realism> to view the entire exhibition online. The exhibition begins on May 13, 2021 and will be on view through July 2, 2021.

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