

THE CITY IN THE THIRTIES

After the collapse of the stock market in 1929, artists turned from the romantic imagery that dominated the landscape paintings of the previous generation (seen across the gallery) as well as the gleaming skyscrapers celebrated in the Precisionist landscapes of the 1920s (elsewhere in this exhibition). The artists of the 1930s brought new perspective to their paintings of the city that was grounded in social concerns because they now looked on the by-products of early industry — ramshackle piers and dreary, if utilitarian, buildings that rimmed the city's outer edges. The concerns of earlier urban realists came full circle, and artists created anew more personal and direct images that offered timely reinterpretations of the metropolis.