

THE DRAWING ROOM 55 Main Street East Hampton New York 11937 T 631 324 5016

PRESS RELEASE

SAUL STEINBERG
On the Table
drawings, prints & carved wood objects
May 31- July 7, 2024 **Extended through July 21**

The Drawing Room is pleased to present **Saul Steinberg: On the Table | drawings, prints & carved wood objects**, our fourth exhibition in collaboration with The Saul Steinberg Foundation. A legendary artist of the 20th century, Steinberg was widely known for his cartoons published in *The New Yorker* over five decades. His drawings and wood reliefs exploring his ironic perspective on classical traditions and society have been consistently exhibited in America and abroad. Steinberg infused his work with a fresh, existential delight.

The exhibition focusses on Steinberg's multidimensional exploration of still life in drawing, lithography and wood relief sculpture, dating from the time he moved to East Hampton in 1959. His delicate colored pencil drawings of tabletop arrangements depict casual setups of art supplies, vases of flowers, and beloved tin toys. A miniature Blue Willow vase appears often and is on loan to the exhibit from his family. There is a folk art charm in Steinberg's method of working in each medium.



The Matisse Post Card, 1970, color lithograph on Arches paper, 22 ½ x 30 inches

The six large lithographs of intricate still lifes reveal Steinberg's mastery of yet another medium. Actual postcards of a favorite Cubist Braque, a lush Matisse still life, and even an authentic Japanese wood cut are collaged onto the compositions, a witty example of *trompe l'oeil*.

During the process of building his new studio in 1970, Steinberg found inspiration in the discarded scrap wood, shingles and lumber, and asked his carpenters to cut various shapes for use in the Table Top Reliefs he would explore for two decades. One of those on view, titled *Cabinet*, was featured in his one-person show curated by Harold Rosenberg at the Whitney Museum in 1978. A simple pine board the size of a steerage crate is covered with faux stamps and official signatures. This one relief evokes his harrowing experience and determination emigrating as a Romanian Jew fleeing Italy as the war broke out. He finally obtained a visa and became a citizen in 1942. An embossed metal plate bears his name as the owner of the crate.



Cabinet, 1970, canvas with ink, metal drawer handle, porcelain knob, metal plaque, rubber stamps, pencil, and gouache on incised wood, 15 1/2 x 20 1/8 x 1 1/4 inches

Also on display are 34 wood objects Steinberg whittled and colored in the forms of books, chocolate bars, hinged secret boxes, and even toast and a record album. He would arrange these treasures in his larger wood montages. A superb example of his Table Top Reliefs, *Gulliver Table*, is a life size table still life from 1986 with carved books, paint brushes, a piece of luggage and a compote with desserts. All are carved and drawn on wood.



Record, 1966, enameled steel with label of ink, watercolor and crayon on paper, 15 inches diameter



Record, 1966, cut-and-pasted lithograph label with hand coloring on enameled steel, 15 inches diameter



Gulliver Table, 1986, carved wood with oil, colored pencil, crayon, incised and inked copper and tin sheets, metal handle and string, 36 1/2 x 27 3/4 x 26 inches

For further information and reproduction quality images
contact Candace Whitman at 631 324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com.

Gallery hours: Friday, Saturday & Monday 11 to 5, Sunday 12 to 4, and by appointment.

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