

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13 – October 21, 2019

SAUL STEINBERG Drawings, Watercolors & Objects

From September 13 through October 21, 2019 The Drawing Room is pleased to present **SAUL STEINBERG: Drawings, Watercolors & Objects**. Organized in collaboration with The Saul Steinberg Foundation, New York, the exhibition comprises carved wood objects, tabletop constructions, watercolors and drawings spanning the 50 years from 1945 through 1995.

In 1959 Steinberg bought a property in the Springs, East Hampton, where he would spend his most productive years in the studio using a broad range of materials to create a vast body of work that included clocks, boxes and whittled objects that he kept in his home and workspace. A selection of these is on view, along with drawings and watercolors that were also retained in the artist's personal collection. Many have been broadly exhibited at American museums, documented in catalogues and reproduced in *The New Yorker* and other publications.

Two vertical drawings are examples of compositions Steinberg made as covers for *The New Yorker* with extra space at the top to allow for magazine's masthead. One depicting a pile of baseball team logos in candy-colored crayons captures the artist's love of American teams and pastimes. The other, an ink drawing of a male figure in profile posed at the top of a staircase was published in Paul Tillich's *My Search for Absolutes*, 1967, an essay on existential philosophy.



Untitled, 1978-85, 23 x 14 1/2 in.



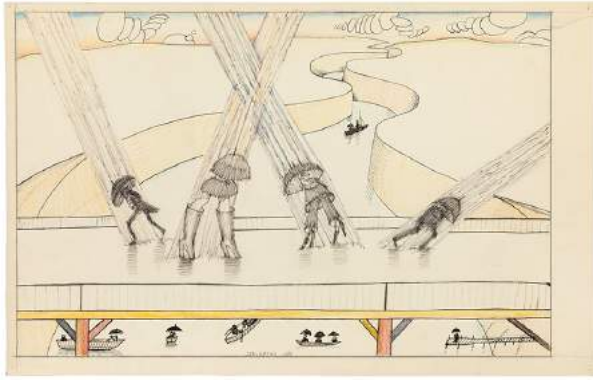
Untitled, 1965-67, 22 x 15 in.



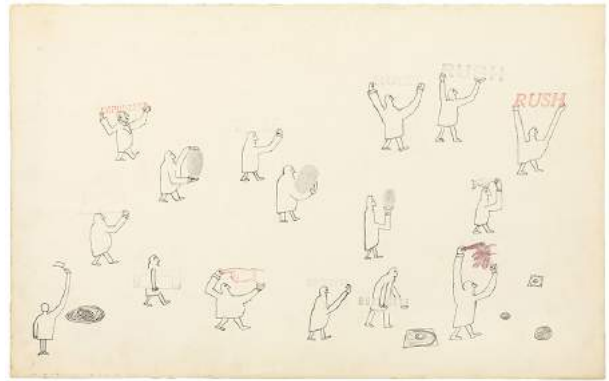
Lenox Hill at 73rd Street, 1983, 14 1/2 x 23 inches

For an article about Lexington Avenue featured in the July 4, 1983 issue of *The New Yorker*, Steinberg made a marvelous watercolor of a medieval hilltop citadel. In *Rain on Hiroshige Bridge*, a preparatory study for another drawing published in *The New Yorker*, figures huddled under umbrellas scurry across a bridge, each within his or her own diagonal torrent of rain.

(over)



Untitled, 1980, 14 ½ x 23 inches



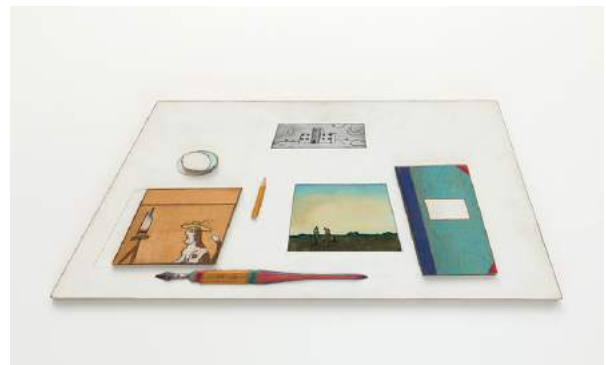
Parade, 1950-51, 14 x 23 inches

Steinberg commented, "I love parades because I can stare at people." Indeed, the earliest drawings on view, which date from 1945-1955, present different individuals marching or strutting single file in defining postures and dress. Art viewers, fashion models, inspectors and urban women were all subject to Steinberg's sharp pen. His love of rubber stamps plays a key role in the 1951 drawing titled *Parade*. Men hurrying across the page and avoiding manhole covers "carry" Steinberg's fingerprints and "hold" the stamped words RUSH! IMPORTANT! FRAGILE!

Steinberg often characterized hilarious personas, and his 1945 ink drawing *Three Women I*, celebrates three prancing buxom women with bouffant hairdos. In 1946 this drawing was included in the MoMA exhibition *Fourteen Americans*.



Three Women I, 1945, 14 ½ x 23 inches



Perspective Table, 1982, 21 x 31 ½ inches

Of particular interest in Steinberg's oeuvre are his tabletop assemblages in which he arranged groups of painted and raw wood faux objects. Imitating his own studio table as documented in photographs from the time, Steinberg fashioned whittled art tools, *trompe l'oeil* books, ledgers and other desktop miscellanea in perspective and then glued them onto panels. Among the individual objects on view are a quill pen, an early replica of a range finder camera, a sculptural recreation of Marty's Deli, small boxes and working clocks. In fabricating studio and household objects, as well as miniature copies of favorite buildings, Steinberg was deconstructing and reconstructing his particular worldview with originality and refracted humor.

Lauded with gallery and museum exhibitions throughout Europe and America, Saul Steinberg became one of the most popular artists of his time. His penetrating and insightful depictions of Americans sharpens our understanding of America and makes us nostalgic for the 20th century.

For further information and reproduction quality images
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Fall gallery hours: Friday through Monday, 11-5 & by appointment
www.drawingroom-gallery.com