

# Edward Hopper

1882-1967 | American



*Group of Houses*

*M.S. Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Painting Overview.....	4
Literature .....	6
Exhibited.....	8
Auction Comparables .....	12
Museum Comparables .....	15

Watercolor and pencil on paper | Circa 1923-24

Signed "Edward Hopper" (lower right)

Paper: 13 3/4" high x 19 5/8" wide | 35.5 x 50.8 cm

Frame: 21 1/2" high x 27 1/2" wide x 2 1/4" deep

54.61 x 69.85 x 5.72 cm



“

*If you could say it in  
words, there would  
be no reason to paint.*

- Edward Hopper

”





## OVERVIEW



An unrivaled master of atmosphere and light, Edward Hopper's enthralling depictions of the American landscape and consciousness have elevated American art to a level of global reverence and fascination. This exceptionally rare watercolor, *Group of Houses*, displays Hopper's virtuosic mastery of this medium and idyllic subject matter, which have both come to define his peerless oeuvre.

*Group of Houses* hails from the career-altering and legacy-defining year of 1923, when Hopper solidified his place as one of America's most important painters. This is the year that the artist also decided to dedicate himself fully to works on paper, inspired by his future wife Josephine Nivison and their summer sojourn to the picturesque coastal town of Gloucester, Massachusetts. Not only is *Group of Houses* one of Hopper's earliest watercolors, but its masterful composition and vibrant color palette distinguish it as one of the finest of Hopper's Gloucester landscapes.

This marvelous composition captures the brilliant light of a perfect seaside day, making the gentle salty breeze that rustles the trees almost palpable. The composition radiates with warm browns, lush greens and ocean blues, and Hopper's precise skill as a draftsman is on display in the sharpness of the roof peaks and chimneys meticulously arranged against a soft, tranquil sky. Immediately after Hopper debuted his works in this medium, prestigious institutions, including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and many esteemed collectors swiftly moved to acquire them.

This painting remained a beloved part of the artist and Josephine's collection throughout their lives. Upon her death, the work entered the Whitney Museum of American Art's permanent collection as part of a monumental 1970 bequest, and it remained in the Whitney's prestigious collection for more than fifty years and has been widely exhibited ever since. *Group of Houses* thus stands as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a masterful, important piece of this iconic artist's legacy. ●





### PROVENANCE

Josephine N. Hopper, acquired by descent from the artist 1967

Whitney Museum of American Art, acquired by bequest from above 1970

Private Collection

### LITERATURE

Gail Levin, *Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonné*, vol. II, New York, 1995, no. W-82, p. 51, illustrated

### EXHIBITED

Nyack, Presidential Life Insurance Company, *Edward Hopper/Nyack*, 1971

New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, *Edward Hopper: Selections from the Hopper Bequest*, 1971, no. 78, p. 64

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, *Watercolors by Edward Hopper*, 1972

Richmond, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, *Paintings of the American Scene: Hopper, Burchfield and Marsh*, 1974-75

New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, *Hopper: Paintings and Watercolors*, 1993



/Edward Hopper/  
A Catalogue Raisonné

Volume II  
Watercolors

Gail Levin

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
in association with  
W. W. Norton & Company, New York · London

Gail Levin, *Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonné*, vol. II, New York, 1995, no. W-82, p. 51, illustrated







---

W-82

**[Group of Houses]**

1925 or 1924  
Watercolor on paper  
14 x 20 in. (35.6 x 50.8 cm)  
Signed, lower right: Edward Hopper  
Whitney Museum of American Art,  
New York; Josephine N. Hopper Bequest  
70.1090

51 GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 1925 OR 1924

Gail Levin, *Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonné*, vol. II, New York, 1995, no. W-82, p. 51, illustrated



# Edward Hopper

SELECTIONS  
FROM THE  
HOPPER BEQUEST



ND  
237  
.H75  
G63

WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART  
NEW YORK

New York, Whitney Museum of American Art,  
*Edward Hopper: Selections from the Hopper Bequest*, 1971, no. 78, p. 64





# Edward Hopper

SELECTIONS FROM THE HOPPER BEQUEST TO  
THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

By Lloyd Goodrich

EXHIBITION AND CATALOGUE BY  
THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART  
NEW YORK

New York, Whitney Museum of American Art,  
*Edward Hopper: Selections from the Hopper Bequest*, 1971, no. 78, p. 64



54. *L'Année Terrible: On the Rooftops*. 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Ill. p. 22.
55. *New York and its Houses*. 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 14<sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
56. *Boy and Moon*.+ 21<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 14<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
57. *Two Trawlers*.+ Probably 1924. 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. Ill. p. 46.
58. *Railroad Trestle in the Desert*.+ Probably 1925. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
59. *Building, Southwest*.+ Probably 1925. 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 39.
60. *Coast Guard Station*.+ Probably 1927. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20. Ill. p. 44.
61. *Light at Two Lights*.+ Probably 1927. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20. Ill. p. 44.
62. *Light at Two Lights*.+ Probably 1927. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 45.
65. *The Battery, Charleston, S.C.*+ Probably 1929. 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 39.
64. *Capt. Kelly's House*. 1951. 20 × 24<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. Ill. p. 59.
65. *High Road*. 1951. 20 × 28. Ill. p. 54, cover.
66. *Longnook Valley*. 1954. 20 × 28. Ill. p. 55.
67. *Roofs, Saltillo*.+ Probably 1946. 21 × 29. Ill. p. 58.
68. *Jo in Wyoming*. July 1946. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20. Ill. p. 60.
69. *Slopes of Grand Teton*. July 1946. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20. Ill. p. 60.
70. *Mass of Trees at Eastham*. July–August 1962. 21 × 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.
- \*71. *Back Street, Gloucester*.+ 15<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
72. *Bell Tower*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
75. *Blynman Bridge*. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
- \*74. *Destroyer and Rocky Shore*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
- \*75. *Farm Buildings and Cow*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
76. *Fort and Gun*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
77. *Gloucester Houses*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 51.
- \*78. *Group of Houses*.+ 14 × 20.
- \*79. *House by the Sea*. 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
80. *Locomotive and Freight Car*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 50.
- \*81. *Outhouses*.+ 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 18.
82. *Pink House and Stone Wall*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
85. *Reclining Nude*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
84. *Rocks*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
85. *Rocks and Cars*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 20.
- \*86. *Rocky Cove*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 20.
87. *Rocky Shore and Water*.+ 15<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 19<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 46.
88. *Rooftops*.+ 12<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 20.
89. *Vermont Landscape*.+ 20 × 28.
- \*90. *Victorian House*.+ 15<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
91. *Village Church*.+ 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 25. Ill. p. 51.
92. *White House and Telephone Poles*.+ 20 × 27<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
95. *White House with Dormer Window*.+ 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 18. Ill. p. 50.

## DRAWINGS

- \*94. *Dome*. 1906/7 or 1909. Conte, charcoal, wash and pencil. 21<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 19<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
95. *On the Quai: The Suicide*. 1906/7 or 1909. Conte and wash with touches of white. 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 14<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 19.
- \*96. *Cab, Horse and Crowd*. 1906/7 or 1909. Conte, charcoal and wash with touches of white. 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 14<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
- \*97. *The Railroad*. 1906/7 or 1909. Conte, charcoal and wash with touches of white. 17<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 14<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. Ill. p. 19.
- \*98. *Drawing for etching Evening Wind*.+ 1921. Conte and charcoal. 10 × 13<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 35.
- \*99. *Drawing for etching East Side Interior*.+ 1922. Conte and charcoal. 8<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Ill. p. 38.
- \*100. *Drawing for etching The Henry Ford*.+ 1925. Conte and charcoal. 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 18.
101. *Standing Nude*.+ October 26, 1925. Sanguine. 19 × 11<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
- \*102. *Two Standing Nudes*.+ Sanguine. 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
105. *Bending Nude*.+ Conte. 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 15.
104. *Standing Nude*.+ Conte. 18 × 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Ill. p. 42.
- \*105. *Standing Nude*.+ Conte and charcoal. 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 15. Ill. p. 42.
106. *Tree in Maine*. 1926, 1927 or 1929. Conte. 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> × 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
- \*107. *Light at Two Lights*. 1927. Conte and charcoal. 15 × 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 43.
- \*108. *Drawing for painting From Williamsburg Bridge*.+ 1928. Conte. 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.
- \*109. *Topsfield*. 1929. Conte and charcoal. 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> × 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Ill. p. 43.
- \*110. *Drawing for painting The Barber Shop*.+ 1951. Conte and charcoal. 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 17<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.
- \*111. *Vermont—Shallows of the White River*. 1958. Conte and charcoal. 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> × 16.
- \*112. *Drawing for painting Cape Cod Evening*.+ 1959. Conte, charcoal and pencil. 15 × 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. Ill. p. 56.
- \*115. *Drawing for painting Ground Swell*.+ 1959. Conte and charcoal. 15 × 22.





## VMFA Artmobile Exhibition History (1953-1994)

## Exhibition 36

***Paintings of the American Scene: Hopper, Burchfield and Marsh***

Collections: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts &amp; Whitney Museum of American Art

Dates: January 1974 – May 1975

This exhibition presented the works of three American artists who record with realism varied images of America between the two world wars. Turning away from the revolutionary art movements that were sweeping over Europe, all three men depicted in clear, realistic views the more industrial, uneasy world Americans were developing.




**Objects in the Exhibition:**

1. "House at Duck," Edward Hopper, 1935 VMFA
2. "Farm Building and Cows," Edward Hopper, 1935 VMFA
3. "Outhouses," Edward Hopper WMAA
4. "Victorian House," Edward Hopper WMAA
5. "Trawler," Edward Hopper WMAA
6. "Abodes and Shed," Edward Hopper, 1924 WMAA
7. "Group of Houses," Edward Hopper WMAA
8. "Old House and Elm Trees," Charles Burchfield, 1933-40 VMFA
9. "Winter Twilight," Charles Burchfield, 1930 WMAA
10. "The Market at Christmas Time," Charles Burchfield, 1941 WMAA
11. "Human Pool Tables," Reginald Marsh, 1938 WMAA
12. "Twenty cent Movie," Reginald Marsh, 1936 WMAA
13. "Coney Island Beach #1," Reginald Marsh, 1943 WMAA
14. "New Dodgem," Reginald Marsh, 1940 WMAA
15. "Negroes on Rockaway Beach," Reginald Marsh, 1934 WMAA
16. "Locomotive #2," Reginald Marsh, 1929 WMAA

Richmond, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts,  
*Paintings of the American Scene: Hopper, Burchfield and Marsh, 1974-75*






# AUCTION COMPARABLES

	1	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Kelly Jenness House</p> <p>Description signed 'Edward Hopper' (lower right)watercolor on paper20 x 28 in. (50.8 x 71.1 cm)</p> <p>Medium watercolor on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1932</p> <p>Size Height 20 in.; Width 28 in. / Height 50.8 cm.; Width 71.1 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Thursday, May 23, 2013 [Lot 00019] American Art</p> <p>Estimate 2,000,000 - 3,000,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 4,155,750 USD Premium</p>
	2	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Cottages at North Truro</p> <p>Description Edward Hopper (1882-1967)Cottages at North Trurosigned 'Edward Hopper' (lower ri</p> <p>Medium watercolor and pencil on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1938</p> <p>Size Height 20 in.; Width 28 in. / Height 50.8 cm.; Width 71.1 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 [Lot 0011B] An American Place   The Barney A. Ebsworth Collection Evening Sale</p> <p>Estimate 2,000,000 - 3,000,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 3,492,500 USD Premium</p>
	3	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Rich's House</p> <p>Description Edward Hopper (1882-1967) Rich's House signed and inscribed 'Edward Hopper/North Truro'</p> <p>Medium watercolor and charcoal on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1930</p> <p>Size Height 16 in.; Width 25 in. / Height 40.6 cm.; Width 63.5 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed, Inscribed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 [Lot 00402] The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller: Art of the Americas, Evening Sale</p> <p>Estimate 2,000,000 - 3,000,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 3,252,500 USD Premium</p>








## AUCTION COMPARABLES

	4	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Prospect street, Gloucester</p> <p>Medium watercolor on paper laid on board</p> <p>Year of Work 1928</p> <p>Size Height 14 in.; Width 20 in. / Height 35.6 cm.; Width 50.8 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Thursday, November 29, 2007 [Lot 00116] Important American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture</p> <p>Estimate 800,000 - 1,200,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 2,057,000 USD Premium</p>
	6	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Gloucester Roofs</p> <p>Description Visionary: The Paul G. Allen Collection EDWARD HOPPER (1882-1967) Gloucester Roofs</p> <p>Medium watercolor and pencil on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1928</p> <p>Size Height 14 in.; Width 20 in. / Height 35.6 cm.; Width 50.8 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Thursday, November 10, 2022 [Lot 00138] Visionary: The Paul G. Allen Collection Part II</p> <p>Estimate 1,200,000 - 1,800,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 1,980,000 USD Premium</p>
	7	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Charleston</p> <p>Medium Watercolor</p> <p>Size Height 16 in.; Width 24.7 in. / Height 40.7 cm.; Width 62.8 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed, Inscribed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 23, 2001 [Lot 00053] Important American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture</p> <p>Estimate 500,000 - 700,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 1,876,000 USD Premium</p>



## AUCTION COMPARABLES

	8	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Barn at Essex</p> <p>Description Edward Hopper (1882-1967)Barn at Essexsigned 'Edward Hopper/Essex, Mass-' (lower r</p> <p>Medium watercolor and pencil on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1929</p> <p>Size Height 16 in.; Width 25 in. / Height 40.6 cm.; Width 63.5 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 [Lot 00018] American Art</p> <p>Estimate 800,000 - 1,200,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 1,762,500 USD Premium</p>
	10	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Prospect Street, Gloucester</p> <p>Description Edward Hopper (1882-1967)Prospect Street, Gloucestersigned and inscribed 'Edward</p> <p>Medium watercolor on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1928</p> <p>Size Height 14 in.; Width 20 in. / Height 35.6 cm.; Width 50.8 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed, Inscribed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Thursday, November 18, 2021 [Lot 00025] American Art</p> <p>Estimate 1,500,000 - 2,500,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 1,710,000 USD Premium</p>
	13	<p><b>Edward Hopper</b></p> <p>Title Railroad Embankment</p> <p>Description signed 'Edward Hopper' (lower right)gouache and watercolor on paper14 x 20 in. (35</p> <p>Medium gouache and watercolor on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1932</p> <p>Size Height 14 in.; Width 20 in. / Height 35.6 cm.; Width 50.8 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 [Lot 00033] American Art</p> <p>Estimate 1,200,000 - 1,800,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 1,445,000 USD Premium</p>



## Edward Hopper | *Gloucester Houses*

1923-24

**Medium:** Watercolor and pencil on paper

**Dimensions:** 13<sup>7/8</sup> x 19<sup>15/16</sup> inches | 35.2 x 50.6 cm



Whitney Museum of American Art  
New York, United States





# Edward Hopper | *White House with Dormer Window*

1923-24

**Medium:** Watercolor and pencil on paper

**Dimensions:** 11<sup>11/16</sup> x 17<sup>15/16</sup> inches | 29.7 x 45.6 cm



Whitney Museum of American Art  
New York, United States





## Edward Hopper | *Haskell's House*

1924

**Medium:** Watercolor over graphite on paperboard

**Dimensions:** 13<sup>1/2</sup> x 19<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 34.3 x 49.5 cm



**National**  
Gallery of Art

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D.C., United States



## Edward Hopper | *Highland Light*

1930

**Medium:** Watercolor and graphite on rough white wove paper

**Dimensions:** 16<sup>5/8</sup> x 25<sup>11/16</sup> inches | 42.3 x 65.3 cm



Harvard  
Art Museums

Harvard Art Museums  
Cambridge, MA, United States



*M.S.  Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

---

[msrau.com](http://msrau.com) | 504-826-8856