

Modern Art: Social Realities

George Bellows

He was an American painter, known for his bold depictions of urban life in New York City. **The Cliff Dwellers** has been interpreted as a critical **social statement** about the lower class poor in New York City. His urban landscape depicts some of the worst of New York City's ghettos in the midst of a heat wave, the suffering masses almost literally melting into the streets from the open windows and fire escapes of their tenement slums.



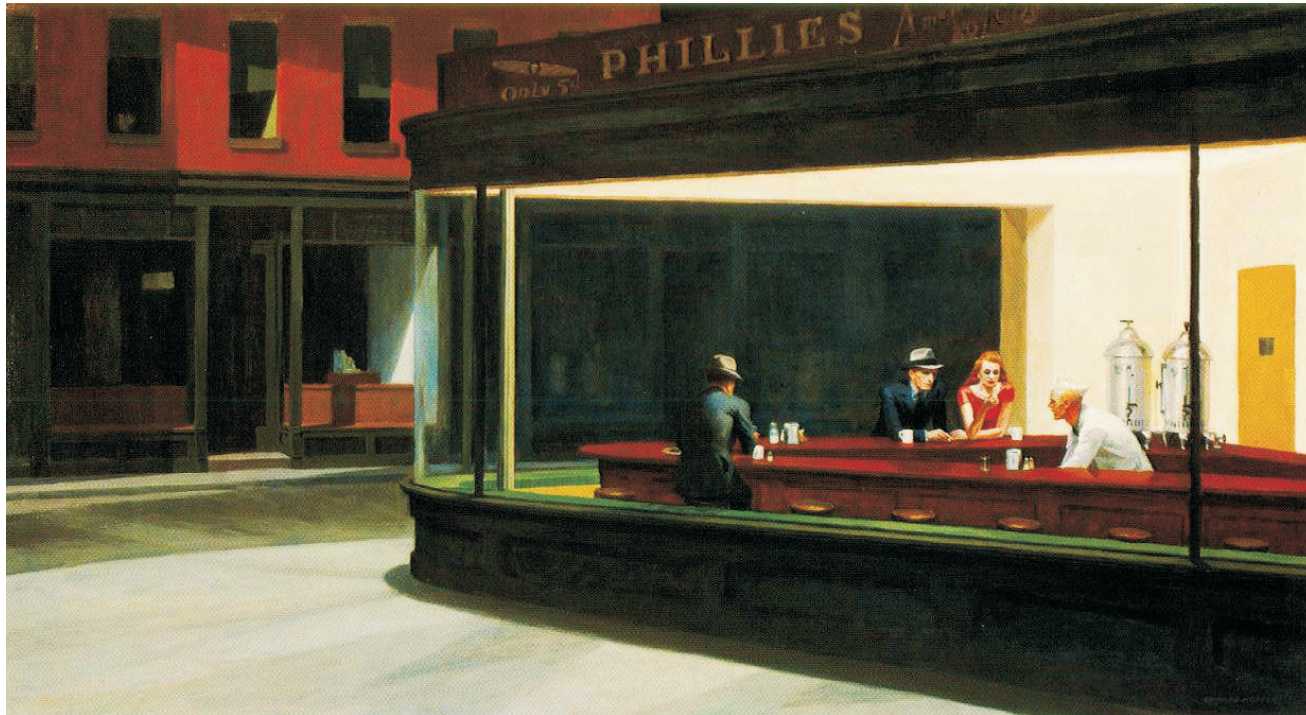
George Bellows, *The Cliff Dwellers*, 1913.

Jacob Lawrence. *Subway Acrobats*, 1959.

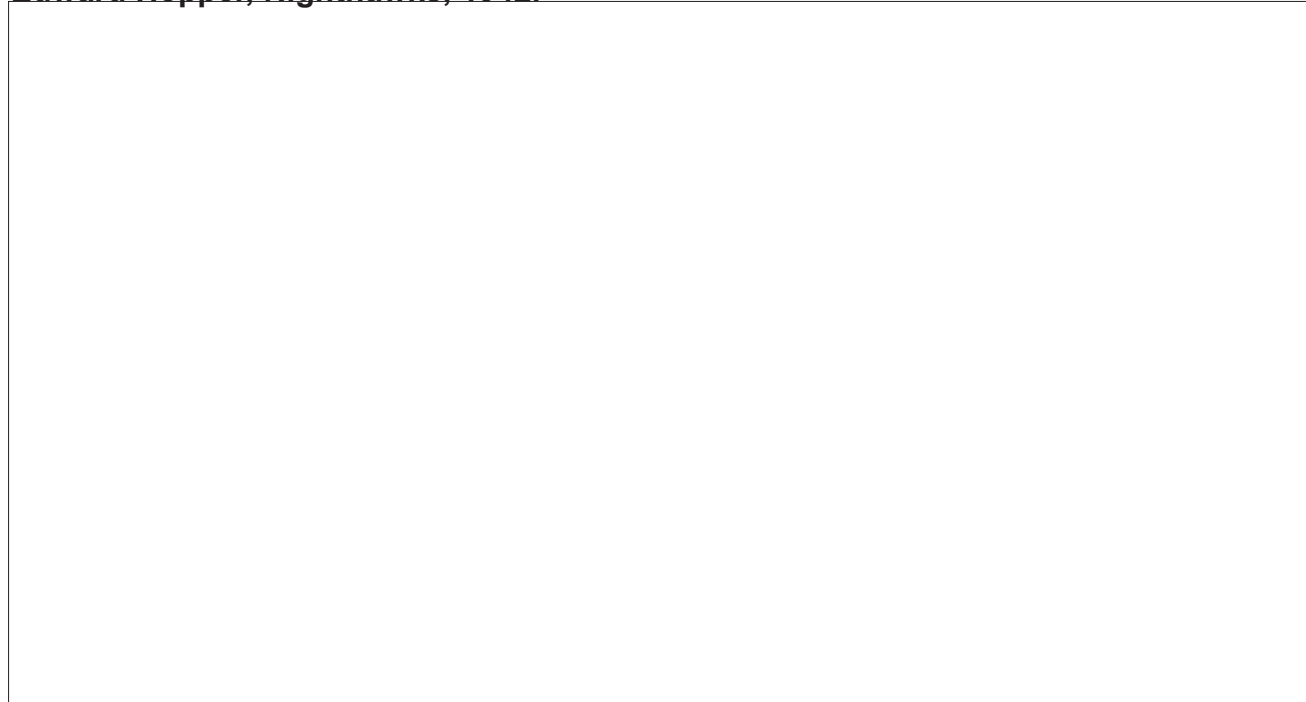


Jacob Lawrence

He learned his art in Harlem during the 1920s in a government sponsored workshop. After his first exhibition at age 21, he began several series of paintings about the heritage of his people and the black struggle for equality. His angular, hard-edge style - he called it "dynamic cubism" is appropriate for his subjects which show struggle, hardship and clashing ideologies.



Edward Hopper, *Nighthawks*, 1942.



Edward Hopper, *Nighthawks*, 1942.

Name: _____

Make a Sketch of Hopper's *Nighthawks* Use Line, Proportion and Detail throughout your drawing.



Edward Hopper

He was an American painter whose stark, precisely realistic paintings often convey a mood of solitude and isolation within common-place urban settings. His ***Nighthawks***, depicts lonely customers frequenting a downtown all-night diner. The diner's harsh electric lights set it off from the gentle night outside.

K/U Use of Line, Proportion & Detail: