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Art Israel: 26 Painters and Sculptors

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Art Israel—26 Painters and Sculptors

This exhibition was organized by The Museum of Modern Art under the joint auspices of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Inc. and the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art. Great variety results from the fact that some of the older artists were trained in various other countries before coming to Israel while a fresh approach is shown by the work of the younger generation of Sabras, native-born Israelis. Predominant trends today are figurative symbolism and militant abstractions. F.A.S.

At right: Gustave Caillebotte (1848-1894). Place de L'Europe on a Rainy Day, 1877. Oil, 83½ x 108¼ inches. Charles H. and Mary F.S. Worcester Collection.

Gustave Caillebotte was trained as an engineer and became a painter only later. He is largely remembered as the generous patron of his fellow Impressionists, from whom he bought the pictures that formed his magnificent collection. This collection, intended for the nation when he was only twenty-seven, and reluctantly accepted in part on the artist's death, now forms the core of the Louvre's Impressionist holdings. The Art Institute's new picture is Caillebotte's masterpiece. Here the shy and charming bachelor, who appears in several of Renoir's boating canvases, among them our "Rower's Lunch," set out to paint a masterpiece, and he succeeded brilliantly. The turn of mind which served him well as an engineer served him equally well in our new canvas. The picture is constructed with clarity, logic, and dazzling virtuosity. Pictures were traditionally not supposed to be cut down the center: Caillebotte disregarded the dictum, sliced his picture in half, so to speak, and recreated his own Paris in the rain for all time. In the carriage at the left he has even represented the wheels in motion, anticipating the Futurists by thirty years. But it is not the virtuosity or the daring which makes the painting so treasurable: it is Caillebotte's presentation of the reality of a place at a given moment in time. J.M.



As Renoir saw Caillebotte in "Rower's Lunch"

