



# UNCOVERING AMERICA

with the National Gallery of Art

George Bellows  
New York  
1911, oil on canvas  
National Gallery of Art, Washington  
Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon

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## What does it mean to be American?

Today, eight in ten people live in cities and suburban areas in the United States. New York City, the country's most populous city, is home to over 8.5 million residents. Of those people, more than 3.2 million were born outside the US.

When George Bellows painted New York in 1911, the metropolis was denser than it is now. Bursting at the seams, it was filled with immigrants who packed the streets.

### DISCUSSION PROMPTS

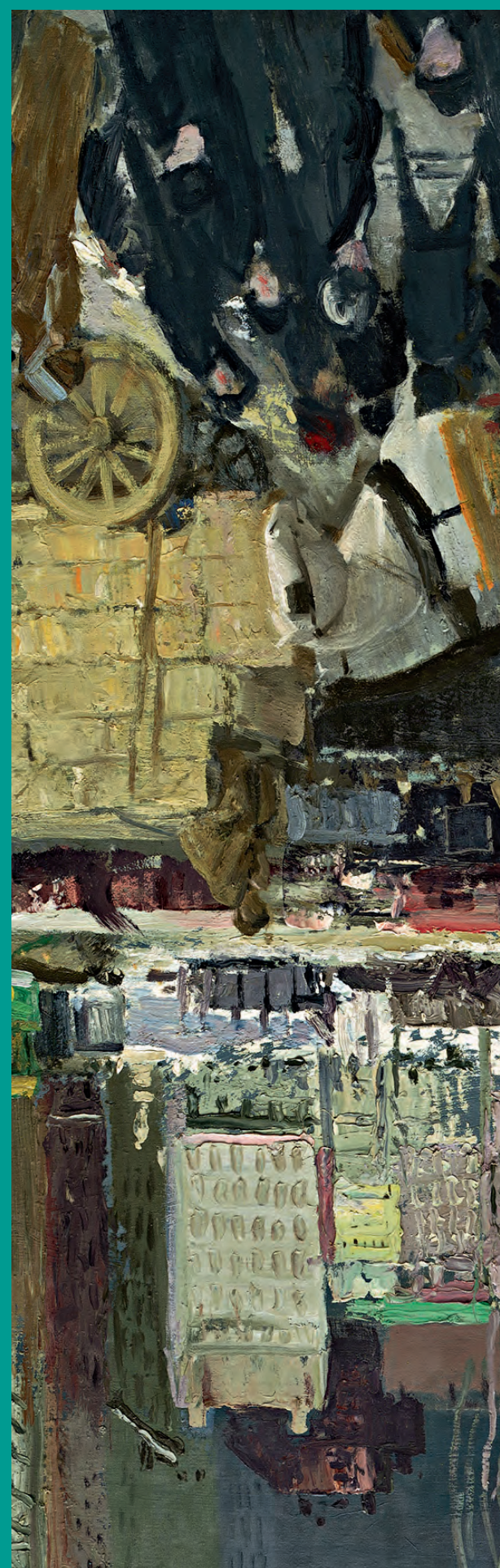
How does Bellows show the energy and bustle of the city? Where do you think people might be going to and from?

Imagine yourself standing in the middle of this scene. What might you hear? Smell? Feel?

How might the life experiences of the New Yorkers shown in this painting compare with yours?

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