

**Volume 17**

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**The Armory Art Show - II**

**Lead: In 1913 a group of artistic innovators, rebels in another formulation, brought to the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory in New York a transformation of American art.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: They were known as the The Eight. Realistic painters, former newspaper artists from Philadelphia, yet they were strongly influenced by and drawn to the revolutionary transformation of European art particularly by the Impressionists. Their work demonstrated that while**

**most American artists drew their inspiration from the salon style of universities and art academies, this approach was not universal.**

**In 1908 they put together an exhibition in New York that caused a sensation. Five of them – Luks, Glackens, Henri, Sloan, Shinn – had earned the scornful sobriquet, The Ash Can School, referring to the urban and slum subject matter of their work rather than the receptacle into which less enthusiastic critics wished to toss their paintings. These were anti-academics, opposed to the academy style of painting.**

**The most important of the Eight proved to be Arthur B. Davies who**

had a sterling reputation as a Romantic painter, but also possessed a refined level of taste and insight into the direction art was moving. From his position as President of the American Painters and Artists Association, he and his co-impresarios, Walt Kuhn and Walter Pach (Pack as in Bach) began to envision a U.S. exhibition bringing the best of European art to American audiences. Davies and especially Kuhn spent the better part of 1912 assembling a huge catalogue of innovationist art, a third of it from Europe, rented the new Armory at Lexington and 25<sup>th</sup> and on February 17, 1913 brought artistic shock and awe to the colonies. Next time: An explosion in a shingle factory.

# **From Richmond, Virginia this is Dan Roberts.**

## **Resources**

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**Panero, James. "The Armory Show at 100," *New Criterion*  
31 (4, December 2012):10-13.**

**Stavitsky, Gail. *New Spirit: American Art in the Armory  
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**<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~museum/armory/entrance.htm>  
1**

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