



George Luks
(American, 1867–1933)
Old Beggar Woman, 1907
Oil on canvas
24 ¹/₈ x 18 ¹/₈" (61.3 x 46 cm)
Gift of Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin
1964-116-2

George B. Luks

Boisterous George Luks took as his dominant theme the street urchins and old crones that he encountered on the streets of New York. Luks was a colorful figure, famous for his tall tales and heavy drinking, and his paintings have a raffish sense of humor and robust love of life that reflect his flamboyant personality. The dark tonalities and earthy subject matter found in these pictures reveal the artist's interest in the work of the Dutch seventeenth-century masters, especially his hero Frans Hals, whose jovial portraits he revered with an unbridled admiration. The artist's intense feelings for humanity are displayed in this warts-and-all portrait of an old beggar woman, hunched over her stick, that he has portrayed with a tenderness bordering on empathy. Luks captures the defiant character of the woman in a flurry of broad brushstrokes, which coalesce into an image of undefeated endurance that expresses his sympathy for the downtrodden in modern society.

Maurice B. Prendergast

Maurice Prendergast was the only member of The Eight that was truly a modernist in his style and technique. The artist developed a decorative brand of Post-Impressionism, inspired by the brilliant color effects obtained by Bonnard and Vuillard during their Nabi phase, in which form is organized into flat, patterned shapes. Prendergast is best known for his highly evocative scenes of New England beach resorts, which he began in watercolor during his summer vacations and completed in oil in his New York studio during the winter months. In this painting the pigment is applied in heavy dabs that are skillfully woven together to form a rich texture reminiscent of tapestry. The friezelike composition depicts a Sunday promenade of horse-drawn carriages, as faceless women and children in fashionable dresses, hats, and parasols, whose colors have the appearance of crushed jewels, enjoy their leisure time in a park-like setting by the sea.



Maurice B. Prendergast (American, 1859–1924)
Sunday Promenade, 1922
Oil on canvas, 24 x 32" (61 x 81.3 cm)
Gift of Meyer P. and Vivian O. Potamkin
1964-116-1