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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

WALT KUHN

In this season of George Bellows redux (a big retrospective just closed at the Met), how about the unjustly neglected American modern Kuhn, who died in 1949? Admit it: you've never seen one of Kuhn's portraits of circus folk and showgirls that didn't make you look twice. A large show tracks his early absorption of Cubist and Expressionist ideas to the shock of his maturity: all of that energetic sophistication condensed into a style as simple and potent as a clenched fist. (Imagine Watteau channelled by Max Beckmann.) The subjects are—and know—theirselfes with a stilled intensity that is exciting to confront and humbling to contemplate. Through March 16.

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DC MOORE

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