

To: Russell
From: Cassie
Re: Caxambas Foundation Works on Paper Exhibition Proposal

Date: September 15, 2005

As you know, there are many exceptional pieces from the Caxambas Foundation that are currently in storage, including 47 works on paper. Since I have spent so much time this summer working with these pieces, I've put together an idea for a works on paper show for your consideration. *New York City Life, 1900-1945: Works on Paper by John Sloan and His Contemporaries* would draw on one of the strengths of the Caxambas Foundation's print and drawing collection: images of New York City. Using John Sloan's *New York City Life* series of 13 etchings as a jumping off point, the exhibition would explore how the Ashcan School artists and their contemporaries depicted New York City as a modern, American subject in their art.

The exhibition would include works from both the Caxambas Foundation and the museum's permanent collection (please see attached checklist). Combining the two collections would be necessary in order to fill the space and would also reinforce the idea that the two collections compliment each other well. Possible thematic groupings within the exhibition could include: Popular Entertainments; Night in the City; Skyline; City Streets; Recreation/ Parks and Playgrounds; Celebrities; Cultural Elites; Landmarks.

Interestingly, even though these artists are primarily known for their depictions of urban life, few of the paintings in the Caxambas collection deal with urban subjects. Thus, highlighting the New York work of these artists in the Mayer Gallery would also compliment the exhibition of paintings on the mezzanine by showing another, important aspect of their work. It appears that there are still some open time slots next summer in the Mayer Gallery for a works on paper show in conjunction with the Caxambas loan.