

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 4

FOR RELEASE:

Monday, January 14, 1963

PRESS PREVIEW:

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11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Intimate World of Lyonel Feininger, an exhibition of 60 watercolors, drawings, prints and 108 toys opening at the Museum of Modern Art, Tuesday, January 15, will show a virtually unknown aspect of the famous American artist. Known as an artist of formal achievements, Feininger is revealed in this show as a man of humor, warmth and sometimes pathos. His watercolors, drawings, prints, comic strips, toys and even letters, are peopled with creatures, real extraordinary and always human. Most of the works have been lent by the artist's widow and family and have never been shown before. The exhibition, selected by William S. Lieberman, Curator of Drawings and Prints, continues through March 12.

Although his career was spent mostly in Germany, much of Feininger's art was inspired by memories of his childhood in New York City, where he was born in 1871 and died in 1956. The Second Avenue Elevated, the New York Central locomotives, the schooners, motor-sailers and steamboats in the harbor lingered long in his mind and nourished the iconography of his art.

He himself wrote: "I don't paint a picture in the traditional sense. From deep within arises an almost painful urge for the realization of inner experiences, an overwhelming longing, an unearthly nostalgia overcomes me at times to bring them to light out of the past."

Such feelings for America are revealed in his thematic devotion to boats, as seen here in some dozen compositions ranging from antique galleons to motor yachts. A similar nostalgia perhaps inspired the two comic strip serials, The Kin-der-Kids and Wee Willie Winkie's World, which he sent each week from Germany in 1906 to the Chicago Sunday Tribune. Six rare sheets of comic strips are on view. The first, a full-page self-caricature of "Uncle Feininger," introduces the characters as marionettes. In another, the Kin-der-Kids sail from New York harbor in the family bathtub, as the Statue of Liberty weeps and waves a sorrowful goodbye. In another, Wee Willie Winkie reveals to "Uncle Feininger" a belief that the sun and trees, locomotives and ships, puddles and clouds are living things with faces and feelings, much as the artist himself felt when he was a child.

Perhaps the most unique appeal of this show is the 108 wood painted toys of ghosts, grotesques, gabled Gothic houses, cathedrals, boats and trains, which he carved throughout his career for the private enjoyment of his family and friends.

Developing the same angular distortions, the disjointed rhythms, and the bold contrasts of light and dark as the toys are the woodcuts, which form the best known

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part of his graphic work. Only those with figures are shown in this exhibition. They are exciting manifestations of the complex interplays of light, space and form, for which he is famous. Of the more than ten woodcuts shown here, two entitled Man with a Horn, 1918, one on yellow paper and one on beige, are perhaps unique impressions.

Feininger was also an accomplished etcher and in his early work often repeated themes used in his paintings. With two versions of The Disparagers of 1911, one etching and one watercolor, Feininger achieves the height of his early narrative style with its playful, fantastic perspective, angular silhouettes of condensed movement and sharp satire. He did few lithographs. The Old Locomotive, 1906, is a masterful piece of whimsical detail. A half-century later he created Off the Coast (1951), a highly formal, carefully controlled construction of lines and planes.

Feininger's most personal work is his drawings and watercolors. Satirical sketches such as The Philosophers, 1911, personifications of "hot weather," "dejection," little figures walking in the rain, sitting on a jetty, looking at a rainbow, on an excursion, form the major portion of the exhibition. Of particular interest is the sketch for a proposed mural in the lobby of the Magdalene and Charles Klingenstein Maternity Pavilion at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York. The vibrant pink and blue watercolor and metallic paint and dancing creatures make this work one of the gayest and most amusing in the show.

The exhibition will be installed in the Auditorium Gallery.

Thursday, January 31, 8:30 p.m. in the Museum Auditorium
 LYONEL FEININGER, CARICATURE AND FANTASY
 Lecture with slides by Dr. Ernst Scheyer
 Members \$1.50; Non-Members \$2.00; Students 75 ¢ (includes Museum admission)
 Tickets at Museum or by mail

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lyonel Feininger, born 1871 spent most of his childhood in New York City with visits to Connecticut and South Carolina. The son of musicians, he began violin lessons at 9. At 16 he moved to Hamburg, Germany to continue his music lessons, but shortly decided upon a career of painting. However, he said that "music has always been the first influence in my life. Bach before all others..without music I cannot see myself as a painter."

From 1887 to 1908 he studied in Hamburg, Berlin and Paris and was active as an illustrator and satirical cartoonist for publications such as Ulk and Lustige Blätter.

From 1917 until the advent of Hitler in 1933 he was considered one of Germany's leading modern artists. His work was purchased by many museums and was honored by innumerable one-man exhibitions, including a comprehensive retrospective in 1931 at the National Gallery in Berlin. During most of this time he taught at the Bauhaus, both in Weimar (1919-25) and Dessau (1925-33). After 1933 his work was included in the Nazi exhibitions of "degenerate art."

Feininger never gave up his American citizenship and even before his return to the United States in 1936 his work was exhibited in group showings here. After his return he executed mural commissions for the Marine Transportation Building and the Masterpieces of Modern Art Building at the New York World's Fair in 1938. In 1944 he was honored with a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

 Photographs and additional information available from Josephine Bradley, Publicity Department, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N.Y. CI 5-8900.

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THE INTIMATE WORLD OF LYONEL FEININGER

January 15-March 12, 1963

Note: Titles, unless enclosed by parentheses, are those given by the artist. Dates, unless enclosed by parentheses, are those inscribed by the artist. In the checklist, the sequence is, with one exception, chronological; height precedes width; sheet sizes are given for drawings, comic strips and letters; composition size for lithographs and woodcuts; plate size for etchings; paper, unless specified to the contrary, is white. The small, painted wooden toys, not listed below, have been lent to the exhibition by Mrs. Andreas Feininger and Mrs. Marian Willard Johnson.

CHECKLIST

Ye Learned Apothecary. 1901 dated. Pencil, white gouache, pen and ink; 8 5/8 x 5 1/2" (220 x 140 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.512. (S-17.709).

First sketches for the comic serial The Kin-der-Kids. (February, 1906). Watercolor, crayon, pen and ink; 12 1/4 x 9 1/2" (311 x 241 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.511. (S-17.708).

Note: Subsequently and incorrectly dated by the artist, "February, 1907."

Uncle Feininger Introduces the Kin-der-Kids. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, April 29, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 3/8 x 17 13/16" (594 x 453 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 260.44.1. (Rainford W-1).

The Kin-der-Kids Abroad. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, May 6, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 3/8 x 17 13/16" (594 x 453 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 260.44.2. (S-17.707).

The Kin-der-Kids' Relief Expedition. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, July 1, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 3/8 x 17 13/16" (594 x 453 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 260.44.9. (S-18.139).

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Wee Willie Winkie's World. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, September 2, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 1/2 x 17 13/16" (597 x 452 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 261.44.2. (S-18.138).

Wee Willie Winkie's World. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, September 30, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 1/2 x 17 13/16" (597 x 452 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 261.44.6. (S-18.137).

Wee Willie Winkie's World. (Comic strip published in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, November 4, 1906). Newsprint halftone cuts printed in colors; 23 1/2 x 17 13/16" (597 x 452 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist. 261.44.7. (S-18.140).

The Old Locomotive. 1906 dated. Lithograph printed in black; 6 1/4 x 12 5/8" (158 x 321 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Mrs. Lyonel Feininger. 217.55 (S-13.008). Note: The locomotive bears the name "Windspiel."

The Miller and His Child. 1907 dated. Charcoal, chalk, pen, brush and ink; 11 1/4 x 9 1/8" (285 x 231 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.8. (S-18.141). Note: Published in Le Témoin, Paris, 1907.

(Figures). October 11, 1936 dated; after sketches done in Paris, 1907-08. Watercolor, pen and ink; 11 1/2 x 9" (293 x 229 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.3. (S-18.149).

The Green Bridge. 1910 dated. Etching printed in black on greenish-ivory paper; 10 1/2 x 7 11/16" (268 x 196 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 288.55. (S-17.715). Note: Signature in plate, "Lionel Einfinger."

Old Fashioned Train. February 5, 1911 dated. Watercolor, crayon, pen and ink on buff paper; 9 1/2 x 12 1/2" (241 x 317 mm.). Collection Mr. T. Lux Feininger, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 63.57.

The Philosophers. July 1, 1911 dated. Pen and ink; 10 1/8 x 13 1/2" (257 x 344 mm.). Collection Mrs. Gertrud A. Mellon, Greenwich, Connecticut. 62.1388. (S-17.717).

The Disparagers. July 16, 1911 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 9 1/2 x 12 3/8" (241 x 314 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. 477.53. (S-12.267).

The Disparagers. September 22, 1911 dated. Etching printed in black; 8 5/8 x 10 1/4" (218 x 262 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Mrs. Lyonel Feininger. 218.55. (S-13.044).

Marine. 1911 dated. Etching printed in black; 7 x 9 1/4" (177 x 234 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 389.55. (S-17.711). Note: Signature in plate, "Leinoel Einfinger."

In the City at the End of the World. July 12, 1912 dated. Pen and ink; 12 3/8 x 9 1/2" (312 x 240 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.46.

The Gate. September 4, 1912 dated. Etching and drypoint printed in black; 10 5/8 x 7 3/4" (271 x 199 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus. 39.59.

The Mill. 1912 dated. Etching printed in black on yellow paper; 5 1/2 x 8 1/2" (138 x 214 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.505. (S-17.712). Note: Signature in plate, "Leinoel Einfinger."

Original woodblock for Divertissement: Fishing Smacks. (1918). 4 7/8 x 6 3/8 x 3/8" (124 x 162 x 10 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.526.

Divertissement: Fishing Smacks. 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black on greenish-yellow paper; 4 13/16 x 6 1/2" (123 x 165 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 399.55. (S-15.454).

(Figures). 1918 dated. Two woodcuts printed in black on rose paper; 8 3/8 x 4 7/8" (211 x 122 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 397.55.

(Man with a Horn). 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black on beige paper; 8 9/16 x 6 15/16" (217 x 176 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.503. (S-17.730).

(Man with a Horn). 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black on yellow paper; 8 3/8 x 7" (213 x 180 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.504. (S-17.731).

Marine. 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black on brown paper; 6 5/8 x 8 7/8" (169 x 226 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Paul J. Sachs. 5.29 (S-2366). Note: The first print by an American artist to be acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, 1929. The Museum's future galleries of drawings and prints will be named in honor of Professor Sachs.

Night. 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black on purple paper; 4 5/8 x 6 7/8" (117 x 175 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 401.55.

People on the Jetty. 1918 dated. Watercolor, wash, pen and ink; 6 3/8 x 10 3/8" (162 x 263 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.529. (S-18.152).

The Rainbow. 1918 dated. Watercolor, wash, pen and ink; 6 1/2 x 9 5/8" (164 x 245 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 62.528. (S-18.151).

Sunset in the Mountains. 1918 dated. Woodcut printed in black; 15 15/16 x 19 5/8" (405 x 499 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the artist and his wife. 415.55. (S-15.453).

(Victory). 1918 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink on buff paper; 14 3/8 x 12 3/8" (365 x 314 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.17. (S-18.144).

Victory. 1918 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 13 5/8 x 12 1/8" (345 x 305 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.11. (S-18.143). Note: Inscribed, "Sieges Rausch."

Promenade. (1918). Woodcut printed in black; 14 9/16 x 11 5/8"

(371 x 295 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Purchase.

482.49. (S-17.727). Note: One of 14 prints published by the Bauhaus, Weimar, as a first portfolio containing prints by various artists, 1921.

Buildings. July 2, 1919 dated. Woodcut printed in black; 18 1/2 x 14 3/8"

(470 x 365 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of Mrs.

Lyonel Feininger. 219.55. (S-13.049).

Railroad Bridge. 1919 dated. Woodcut printed in black; 12 15/16 x 16 3/4"

(329 x 425 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Purchase. 151.45.

(Studly N-32). Note: Inscribed in pencil, "Ye Railroade Bryddge."

Street Lamp. (1919). Woodcut printed in black; 6 11/16 x 9 15/16"

(170 x 252 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the

artist and his wife. 413.55. (S-15.448).

The Gate. 1920 dated. Woodcut printed in black; 16 1/16 x 17 11/16"

(407 x 449 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. James Thrall

Soby Fund. 257.44. (S-2373).

Motor-Sailer. August 20, 1930 dated. Pen and ink; 11 1/4 x 15"

irregular (284 x 379 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York.

63.9. (S-18.154). Note: Inscribed, "Girlie zum 23. XI. 30."

The Schooner America. May 14, 1933 dated. Watercolor, wash, pen and

ink; 11 1/4 x 14 7/8" irregular (284 x 379 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia

Feininger, New York. 63.12. (S-18.157).

Laid Up. August 26, 1938 dated. Pen and ink; 7 7/8 x 11" (200 x 278 mm.).

Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.7. (S-18.156).

Excursion. 1940 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 12 3/8 x 18 7/8"

(314 x 479 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.1.

(S-18.158). Note: The steamship bears the name "Florilla."

(Galleon). 1940 dated. Pen and ink; 11 x 15 1/4" (279 x 387 mm.).

Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.5. (S-18.155).

(Untitled). 1940 dated. Pen and ink; 11 x 15 3/8" (280 x 392 mm.).

Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.48.

(Untitled). September 9, 1941 dated. Pen and ink; 11 x 14 5/8"

(281 x 372 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.47.

(Schooner). October 11, 1942 dated. Pen and ink; 11 x 15 1/16"

(279 x 382 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.14.

(S-18.159).

Country Road. 1942 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink.

16 3/4 x 22 7/8" (426 x 581 mm.) sheet. Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,
New York. 62.532.

Dejection. 1945 dated. Watercolor, wash, charcoal, pen and ink;

9 7/16 x 12 3/8" (240 x 315 mm.). Collection Mrs. Andreas Feininger,

New York. 62.519. (Burckhardt MMA 38).

People and the Sprite. 1945 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink;

9 1/4 x 12 5/8" (236 x 319 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New

York. 63.16. Note: Inscribed, "21. V. 52."

Walking in a Dream. 1945 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink;

11 3/8 x 15 5/8" (288 x 395 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,

New York. 63.15. (S-18.148).

A letter of two pages by Lyonel Feininger to his son Laurence. August 9, 1949.

Manuscript, watercolor, pen and ink; 11 x 8 1/2" (280 x 216 mm.).

Collection Rev. Dr. Laurence Feininger, Trento, Italy. 63.39 a-b.

(Figures Walking). 1949 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink;

9 1/2 x 12 3/8" (240 x 312 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New

York. 63.4. (S-18.142).

(Untitled). 1949 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink; 11 1/4 x 9 7/8"

(285 x 249 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.27.

(Untitled). 1949 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink; 9 3/8 x 12 1/2"

(238 x 318 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.36.

(Figures). July 17, 1950 dated. Watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink;

12 1/2 x 9 1/4" (317 x 234 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,

New York. 63.2. (S-18.147).

A letter by Julia Feininger to her son Laurence. December 15, 1950.

Typescript and woodcut; 11 x 8 1/2" (280 x 216 mm.). Collection

Rev. Dr. Laurence Feininger, Trento, Italy. 63.40.

(Untitled). 1950 dated. Wash, charcoal, pen and ink; 12 3/8 x 19"

(314 x 484 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.13.

(S-18.160).

(Untitled). 1950 dated. Watercolor, metallic paint, pen and ink;

9 1/2 x 12 3/8" (240 x 313 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,

New York. 63.30. Note: Signature in ink, "Papileo."

(Untitled). (1950). Watercolor, metallic paint, pen and ink;

8 x 10 1/8" (198 x 257 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New

York. 63.29. Note: Signature in ink, "Papileo."

A letter by Lyonel Feininger to his son Laurence. (1951). Typescript,

watercolor, pen and ink; 11 x 8 1/2" (280 x 216 mm.). Collection

Rev. Dr. Laurence Feininger, Trento, Italy. 63.43.

Off the Coast. (1951). Lithograph printed in black; 9 x 15 1/2"

(230 x 394 mm.). The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the

artist and his wife. 416.55. Note: Related to a print published

by the Cleveland Print Club.

(Untitled). September 25, 1952. Watercolor, pen and ink; 7 5/8 x 11 5/8"

(194 x 295 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.33.

(Rain). 1952 dated. Watercolor, wash, pen and ink; 10 1/4 x 15 5/8"

(259 x 395 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.10.

(S-18.145).

(Untitled). 1952 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 7 5/8 x 11 3/8"

irregular (193 x 291 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,

New York. 63.32.

A letter by Lyonel Feininger to his son Laurence. May 11, 1953.

Typescript, watercolor, pen and ink; 11 x 8 1/2" (280 x 216 mm.).

Collection Rev. Dr. Laurence Feininger, Trento, Italy. 63.41.

A letter by Julia Feininger to her son Laurence. August 2, 1953.
Typescript, watercolor, pen and ink; 11 x 8 1/2" (280 x 216 mm.).
Collection Rev. Dr. Laurence Feininger, Trento, Italy. 63.42.

(Sketch for a Proposed Mural for the Lobby of the Magdalene and Charles
Klingenstein Maternity Pavilion, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York). 1953
dated. Watercolor, metallic paint, pen and ink; 9 9/16 x 24 9/16"
(243 x 624 mm.). Collection Mrs. Andreas Feininger, New York. 62.520.
(Burckhardt MMA 36). Note: Project not realized.

Farewell to 82. July 16, 1954 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink;
6 1/8 x 9 1/2" (156 x 240 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York.
63.31. Note: Signature in ink, "Papileo." Feininger was born on
July 17, 1871.

Hot Weather! 1954 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 8 x 11 1/8" (198 x 282 mm.).
Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.6. (S-18.150).

(Untitled). 1954 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 6 1/4 x 7 7/8"
(158 x 200 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.38.

(Untitled). 1954 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 6 1/4 x 10 1/4"
(158 x 260 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.37.

(Untitled). 1954 dated. Wash, pen and ink; 6 5/8 x 9 1/2" (168 x 242 mm.).
Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.35.

(Untitled). 1954 dated. Watercolor, pen and ink; 6 1/4 x 6 1/8"
(160 x 156 mm.). Collection Mrs. Andreas Feininger, New York. 63.26.

(Untitled). (1954). Wash, pen and ink; 7 x 9 5/8" (179 x 242 mm.).
Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger, New York. 63.28.

(Untitled). December 22, 1955 dated. Watercolor, wash, pen and ink;
6 1/4 x 9 1/2" (159 x 242 mm.). Collection Mrs. Julia Feininger,
New York. 63.34. Note: Feininger died less than a month later on
January 13, 1956.