

LIBRARY UPDATE

Munsey Park: On a Street Where You Live...

Local history: Frank Munsey, a prominent and conservative newspaper and magazine publisher, accumulated a fortune estimated at over forty million dollars at his death in December 1925. Munsey had no heirs, no family and his entire estate was left to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The Museum then sought the most effective means of converting the land into funds which could be used to enhance their superb art collections. A syndicate of developers in coordination with the Museum's directors converted prime acres into a residential community named Munsey Park to commemorate its source; the streets would be named for illustrious American artists to signify the Museum's role. (Manhasset The First 300 Years, Manhasset Chamber of Commerce)

Join us at the library on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m., as we open our six-part Art Series, On the Street Where You Live, celebrating the Museum's role in the development of Munsey Park with a visual art lecture on Thomas Eakins (1844-1916). An American realist painter, photographer, sculptor and fine arts educator,

Eakins is widely acknowledged to be one of the most important artists in American history. For the length of his professional career, Eakins worked exactingly from life, choosing as his subject the people of his hometown, Philadelphia. He painted several hundred portraits usually of friends, family members, or prominent people in the arts, sciences, medicine, and clergy. Taken en masse, the portraits offer an overview of the intellectual life of Philadelphia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; individually, they are incisive depictions of thinking persons. Walt Whitman, Dr. Gross, Dr. Agnew are included amongst these portraits. Eakins produced a number of large paintings which brought the

portrait out of the drawing room and into the offices, streets, parks, rivers, arenas, and surgical amphitheatres of his city. Since his death, he has been celebrated by American art historians as "the strongest, most profound realist in nineteenth- and early- twentieth-century American art".

The library's lecturer is Thomas Germano, Professor of Art and an accomplished artist. No reservations—never a fee for Library programs.

Over the next months, other named Munsey Park streets will include: Bellows, Inness, Kensett, Ryder, Blakelock, Sargent, Whistler, Copley, Sully and Blackburn.

Join the celebration of Munsey Park: On a Street Where You Live.

