

FORUM GALLERY

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Robert Fishko, *Director*

BEN SHAHN

(1898-1969)

Bountiful Harvest, 1944

tempera on board

38 x 28 inches

signed upper right "Ben Shahn"

Provenance

The Artist

Private Collection



Note

From Workers to Farmers...Thanks!, CIO-PAC poster (1944)



In 1944 Shahn joined the Political Action Committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO-PAC) to help produce posters and other graphic materials for Roosevelt during that year's successful presidential campaign. The poster *From Workers to Farmers...Thanks!* was placed in rural settings to directly address farmers highlighting urban industrial workers appreciation of the farmers' contribution to the war effort. The farming imagery used in *Bountiful Harvest* came from Shahn's two trips through the Midwest. His initial trip as part of the Resettlement Administration (1935) focused on the poorest farmers. A second trip, in 1938, for the Farm Security Administration emphasized the productive lives of rural people and the benefits of the first steps toward economic recovery. *Bountiful Harvest*, 1944 is a powerful comment on the importance of the farmer's role in our nation's bounty.

Ben Shahn; *From Workers to Farmers...Thanks!*, 1944, offset lithograph in colors, 40" x 30"
Publisher: Congress of Industrial Organizations