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Robert Fishko, *Director*

HUGO ROBUS

(1885-1964)

The Horn Shop, 1919-1920

oil on canvas

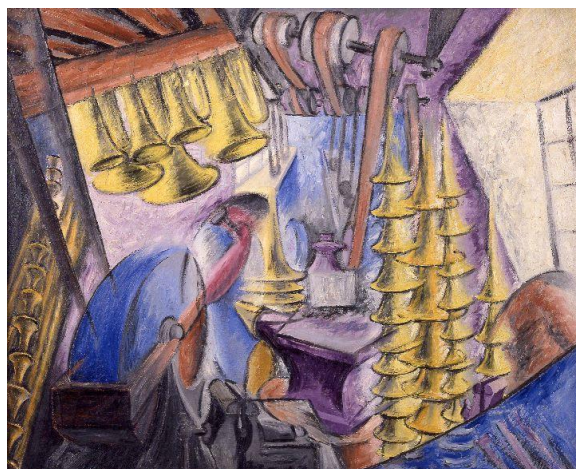
25 x 32 inches

Provenance

The Artist and His Estate

Forum Gallery, New York

[acquired directly from the above]



Exhibited

Hugo Robus: Sculpture and Paintings, Forum Gallery, New York, NY,
May 10 – June 22, 2007

Literature

Hugo Robus: Sculpture and Paintings, Forum Gallery, New York, NY,
May 10 – June 22, 2007, pg. 25, Illustrated.

Note

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1885, Hugo Robus (1885-1964) attended the Cleveland School of Art on a scholarship. There he met fellow students Max Kalish and William Zorach; and teacher Horace Potter, a master craftsman who recognized Robus' talent and recruited him to work in his jewelry studio. From the proceeds of his work, Robus saved enough money to attend two years of classes at the National Academy of Design in New York City before traveling to Paris to study at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière from 1912 to 1914. While in the City of Lights, he attended the 1912 Futurist exhibition at Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, transforming his perception. Soon thereafter Robus began making paintings influenced by the bright prismatic colors and fragmented space characteristic of Cubism, Futurism and Synchronism, incorporating their bold experimentation and striking modern imagery into fully-realized modernist works.

Upon returning to the United States, Robus settled in New York and began to draw his inspiration from the dance movements and musical experimentation of the Jazz Age. Fascinated by form and motion, he painted *The Horn Shop* in 1919-20. Robus built up the forms with a thick impasto of paint, belying the Artist's interest in utilizing the plastic

qualities of his artistic materials to more fully describe the musical instruments and tools of the trade. Soon thereafter, Robus would devote his time almost exclusively to the modeling of sleek, figurative sculptural works in plaster, silver, and bronze.

Two important examples of paintings by Hugo Robus are in the Collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, titled *Backyards*, c.1917 and *Train in Motion*, c.1920.



Hugo Robus, *Train in Motion*, ca. 1920, oil on canvas mounted on fiberglass, 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 32 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (66.8 x 81.5 cm) Smithsonian American Art Museum, 1978.153.2



Hugo Robus, *Backyards*, ca. 1917, oil on canvas mounted on fiberglass, 26 x 31 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. (66.0 x 80.9 cm) Smithsonian American Art Museum, 1978.153.1

Hugo Robus' work is represented in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Walker Art Institute, Minneapolis, MN; The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, among many others.