



## Between Rounds, No. 1

### Date

1916

### Primary Maker

George Bellows

### Medium

Lithograph

### Description

George Bellows was a prominent member of the Ashcan School, so called for its practitioners' depictions of gritty urban life in the early twentieth century, which came as a shock to many viewers who considered such base and banal subjects unworthy of treatment by visual artists. Bellows is best known for his paintings and prints of boxing matches, which may look innocuous and all-American to viewers today but, at the time of their making, resonated powerfully around sensitive issues of masculinity, race, class, and decorum—given that public prizefighting was illegal at the time. He crafted the scenes in his imagination, but they were probably inspired by real fights and individuals. *Between Rounds* is based on an illustration the artist created to accompany a story by L. C. Moïse, "The Last Ounce," published in the April 1913

issue of the *American Magazine*. It depicts the story's protagonist—a fictional prizefighter named Jimmy Nolan—being revived by a trainer during a match. In the foreground is a mass of bodies—the audience—whose faces are mostly invisible, turned toward the ring. This print is referred to as "No. 1" because, in 1923, Bellows reworked the composition into a smaller print, now known as *Between Rounds, No. 2*. Lithography traditionally involves drawing with a waxy crayon or other oily substance on a limestone slab; after a series of chemical processes, the stone can be inked and run through a press to transfer the image to paper. Lithography can produce larger editions than those typically allowed by older printmaking techniques, such as woodcut and etching. Bellows became one of the masters of the lithographic medium thanks, in large part, to his ability to capture the immediacy and energy of prizefights. This print—acquired in 1984, two years after the founding of the Emerson Gallery—was the first purchase made for the Hamilton College collection. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, *INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS*, 2017)

### Dimensions

Composition: 20 7/16 × 16 5/16 in. (51.9 × 41.4 cm) Sheet: 24 15/16 × 20 9/16 in. (63.3 × 52.2 cm)