

Childe Hassam

Childe Hassam was an American artist who painted many different subjects, mostly outdoor scenes of the city and the countryside. He is best known for the paintings of flags that he made in New York City.



Childe Hassam (American, 1859–1935), *Rainy Day, Fifth Avenue*, 1916. Oil on canvas. Gift of Albert E. McVitty, Class of 1898

Look Closely

Take a few minutes to look closely at *Rainy Day, Fifth Avenue* by Childe Hassam.

How many flags do you see?

Are there people in this painting? What are they doing? Can you see their faces? Can you see the clothes they are wearing?

What is the weather like? How can you tell? Is a breeze blowing?

Circle the words below that you think describe Hassam's brushstrokes.

tight

quick

overlapping

careful

loose

free

same size

different sizes

smooth

Where do you think Hassam was standing when he made this painting? On the street, inside a building overlooking Fifth Avenue, or on a balcony overlooking the street? What makes you think that?

Use Your Imagination

Pretend you are walking down Fifth Avenue in New York City with the people in this painting.

What sounds do you hear?

What do you feel?

What do you smell?

Make Connections

Have you ever been to a parade or played outside in the rain? Did your clothes and shoes get wet? Was it hot or cold? Who were you with? What did you do when you came inside?

Interesting Fact

One of Childe Hassam's flag paintings, which looks very much like this one, hangs in the Oval Office at the White House. It's called *The Avenue in the Rain*.