

Edward Hopper

Nyack, NY 1882–New York, NY 1967

Room in New York

Oil on canvas, 1932

University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Anna R. and Frank M. Hall Charitable Trust, H-166.1936

Edward Hopper depicted the everyday lives of city dwellers in much of his work, often capturing the anonymity and isolation of modern urban living. In many important canvases painted between 1926 and 1932, Hopper frequently made use of single figures or couples fixed in compositions that remain unexplained, invoking a hermetically sealed world of emotion. Some of Hopper's most compelling pictures are of subjects seen through a window, seemingly unaware of being watched. In 1935, the artist remarked that the idea for *Room in New York* "had been in my mind a long time before I painted it. It was suggested by glimpses of lighted interiors seen as I walked along the city streets at night ... it is no particular street or house, but is rather a synthesis of many impressions."

Did you know?

A master of horror and supernatural fiction, author Stephen King wrote a short story, "The Music Room," prompted by the scene in *Room in New York*. The piece was published in 2016 in a volume of Hopper-inspired prose titled *In Sunlight or in Shadow*.