



William Henry Dethlef Koerner

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Title

Putting on a Good Show

Medium

Oil on canvas

Date

1927

Catalogue Number

92.12.1

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Credit Line

Gift of Ruth Koerner Oliver, 1992

Web Description

German-born artist W. H. D. Koerner grew up in Clinton, Iowa, working his way up as a newspaper illustrator and art editor. He eventually sought formal training at the Art Students League in New York. Later he became a student of Howard Pyle in Wilmington, where he was a classmate of Harvey Dunn, Frank Schoonover, and N. C. Wyeth. Koerner earned a reputation as an illustrator of Western scenes, such as *Putting on a Good Show*, which was a commission from the *Saturday Evening Post*. The image set the scene for the first installment of Mary Roberts Reinhart's novel *Lost Ecstasy*. The budding romance of a New York socialite and a Wyoming ranch hand is alluded to in the painting. The novel later was transformed into the 1931 film *I Take This Woman*, starring Carole Lombard and Gary Cooper.