

# Birmingham 63 oil on canvas by jack levine

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The painting shows that Jack Levine may have learned to make use of several skills such as cubism in accord to both the atmosphere and the various images that have been noted in his painting. Although the location of the painting is not very clear, there is a representation of both men and women in the society posing in anticipation of a certain event. One wonders whether the painter may have intended to communicate anything through this painting or was it a way of indicating how art can be useful (Bender 13). What is striking about the painting is how each element that has been noted is so distinct yet it is almost the same color that was used to make a painting. This is noted from the background, which displays a housing structure, the individuals themselves and their clothing and lastly the dogs. The strokes of the painting display different edges and the color schemes are distinctly applied to show a clear linkage between the various structures of the body. For example, the arms and the faces of the individual clearly show they are black people. Also notably, the painting shows the mood. The dogs are barking and held by various individuals. This act of barking in itself portrays agitation, an excitement that is not clear. The faces of the individuals on the painting are also expressionless and looking to the same direction, which probably reaffirms why the dogs could be under some excitement.

The surrealism in Birmingham 63 not only does denote how different individuals are at a specific time of the day but also it brings out some element of surprise all which sums up to our initial thought of the intention of the painter in the first place. Clearly, the painting only shows one side of the coin, which are people going about their daily activities and events halts

them to look in the direction they are currently looking for. The kind of dressing by these individuals notes the possibility that they may go about their daily activities (Bender 15).

Bender notes that it may not be clear to what the original intention of the painting may have been; one can only imagine countless possibilities (19). However, one thing is clear that a painting such as the Birmingham 63 indicates a deeper meaning than what one may think. In this case, it could probably be illustrating events or simply note a specific point in time when all things are held constant. Additionally, the painting makes yet another stride in confirming the role of surrealism and expressionism through the concept of an oil painting. The painting appears in the form of sketches that are so visibly clear on the various objects that the painter intended to outline.