



Young Husband: First Marketing

Artist: Lilly Martin Spencer (1822–1902)

Date: 1854

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 29 1/2 x 24 3/4 in. (74.9 x 62.9 cm)

Classification: Paintings

Credit Line: Gift of Max N. Berry, 2015

Accession Number: 2015.401

📍 On view at The Met Fifth Avenue in **Gallery 758**

Spencer portrayed the unvarnished reality of male-female relationships in this painting, which chronicles the travails of early married life. Here, the unseen young wife is not in full command of her kitchen, having sent her young husband out to procure the groceries—a task for which he is evidently not qualified. Using her own husband as a model, Spencer depicted the man stumbling down the street and attempting to hold on to the items in his overflowing basket, attracting gazes from at least one onlooker and suffering a public humiliation. Spencer depicted in humorous terms a real social anxiety of the time: that of setting up a household and running it efficiently.

Signatures, Inscriptions, and Markings

Signature: Signed and dated at lower right: Lilly M. Spencer / Artist / 1854

Provenance

William Schaus, New York, until 1859; Renaissance Galleries, Philadelphia; Victor Spark, New York, by 1961; Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Abrahams, New York, by 1973; Masco Corporation, until 1995; Hon. And Mrs. Max Berry, 1995-present.

Timeline of Art History (2000-present)

Essays

American Scenes of Everyday Life, 1840–1910

Department

American Paintings and Sculpture (5,333)

Artist / Maker / Culture

Lilly Martin Spencer (2)

Object Type / Material

Canvas (4,783)

Oil paintings (3,005)

Paintings (13,143)

Date / Era

A.D. 1800–1900 (106,806)

Related Objects



Conversation Piece

Artist:	Lilly Martin Spencer (1822–1902)
Date:	ca. 1851–52
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Accession:	1998.413
On view in:	Gallery 758



The Falls of Niagara

Artist:	Edward Hicks (1780–1849)
Date:	ca. 1825
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Accession:	62.256.3
On view in:	Gallery 759



Euphemia White Van Rensselaer

Artist:	George P. A. Healy (1813–1894)
Date:	1842
Medium:	Oil on canvas
Accession:	23.102

On view in:

Gallery 756

**Approaching Thunder Storm**

Artist: Martin Johnson Heade (1819–1904)

Date: 1859

Medium: Oil on canvas

Accession: 1975.160

On view in: Gallery 761

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