

Walter Quirt (American 1902-1968), *Mural Study for John Reed Club*, tempera on panel, 1934.

During the 1930s Walter Quirt used his art as a propagandistic instrument, denouncing issues like exploitation of workers, unemployment and poverty. In his early career Quirt was an avowed member of the American Communist Party and the John Reed Club, a communist organization. Quirt left the Communist Party in the World War II years and adopted a more abstract surrealist style. This mural study represents Quirt's propagandistic phase and is archetypal of his work in that period.