

**Joseph Stella** was born in 1877 in Mura Lucano, Italy. During his youth he studied the techniques of classical Italian painting-ideas. Think of Italy and the architecture – what would you see? Lots of gothic buildings, Rome, churches and of course you may think of Venice and the gondola. At age 19 he immigrated to New York and moved in with his brother who was a dentist was serving the immigrant populations of the Lower East Side. Futurists are those who attempt to predict and analyze the future not by guessing – but using facts to back up their predictions. This style influenced Stella's paintings of New York City and its skyscrapers, bridges, and roadways after his return to America in 1912. With their towering, majestic forms, these images glorify the mechanistic aspects of modern life. From 1916-18, Stella lived in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, a neighborhood known for its factories, mills, and foundries not far from the Brooklyn Bridge. Between 1922 and his death in 1946, Stella moved between Paris, New York, and Italy. Although his paintings established him as a significant figure in modern American art, Stella's subsequent work did not generate enough interest to be marketable. Stella could not make a living by painting and his later years were marked by periods of poverty.

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