

Edward Hopper, Nighthawks (1942). Oil on Canvas, 841x1524 mm.



Edward Hoppers Nighthawks was inspired by a diner in New York, this was painted shortly after the attacks on Pearl harbor in 1941. The people in New York felt alienated and vulnerable as paranoia swept through and suggested they might be the next target. The characters are inaccessible and preoccupied, a definite contrast is created by the bright interior space and dark exterior surroundings. The contrast emphasizes the rectangular window and the inaccessibility of the people, Hopper does not reference the entrance to the diner attributing to the theme.