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George Bellows, *Pennsylvania Station Excavation*

Dominic Carter: This painting by George Bellows shows the city being torn down and built up again. Here workers are digging the massive hole for the foundations of Pennsylvania Station, one of the grandest and most beautiful buildings of its day. Penn Station itself was torn down and replaced in the 1960s by Madison Square Garden.

Industrialization dramatically changed the cityscape of New York at the turn of the twentieth century. Rapid change became the norm of urban life and modern art. As in many nineteenth-century landscapes, the people in this painting are dwarfed by the enormity of their environment—only here it's not a natural environment, but the man-made city.

