

# The 'Circus' comes to RISD



RISD MUSEUM

**Charles Demuth, "Bicyclists," ca. 1916-1917.**

Everybody loves a circus — including, it seems, some of the top guns of modern art. That, more or less, is the premise of "Circus," the RISD Museum's entertaining romp through 150 years of circus-related art, from Impressionists and post-Impressionists of the 19th century through 20th-century masters such as Matisse, Picasso, Chagall and Calder. In addition to works from the museum's own collection, the show features a cache of vintage circus posters on loan from the Ringling Circus Museum in Sarasota, Fla. The result may be the most fun you can have without actually running away and joining a circus troupe.

But wait, there's more! For its monthly Design the Night celebration, the museum is planning a variety of circus-themed activities, including a screening of "Le Grand Cirque Calder," a 1927 film

about Calder's famous handmade circus figures, and a tour of the exhibit led by artist-performer Kristen Minsky. There will also be a circus tent with food and live performances on the plaza outside the museum's Chace Center entrance on North Main Street. The RISD Museum's Design the Night event takes place tonight — Thursday — from 5 to 9. Admission is free. For more, call (401) 454-6500 or visit [risdmuseum.org](http://risdmuseum.org).

**BILL VAN SICLEN**