

Lunch Hour: The Working Class

Kathe Kollwitz

Accompanying the rise to prominence of the upper middle class was the growth of the urban working class, the two economically dependent on each other but in strikingly different conditions. This 1909 drawing by the German, entitled *Lunch Hour*, gives an impression of the condition and spirit of the German working class. The workers seem to be part of an almost undifferentiated mass, dully and similarly clothed, eating low-quality meals in uncomfortable circumstances, and above all displaying a physical and psychological fatigue and a pervasive sense of discouragement.

CONSIDER: How this drawing relates to the views of Marx and Engels.



FIGURE 14.3 (Käthe Kollwitz: *Lunch Hour*. Black charcoal and ink on paper. Nagel/Timm 469. Private Collection. Photo courtesy Galerie St. Etienne, New York)