



*Study for the Munich Olympic Games Poster*, 1972; Jacob Lawrence; Gouache; 35 ½" x 27"; Seattle Art Museum; Purchased with funds from PONCHO; 79.31

## ***Study for the Munich Olympic Games Poster***

by Jacob Lawrence

"This particular work has quite a bit of meaning for me. I had the opportunity of attending the Olympic games—seeing the excitement that was built up because of the competition—seeing all the athletes. And out of that came this particular work . . . the meaning of which is the speed, excitement, and the crowds of people that were gathering, watching the runners.

"I tried to achieve this excitement by the use of simple, bold colors—primary colors, the reds, yellows, blues, plus some secondary colors of green; the curve of a line in contrast to the forward movement—straight movement—of the runners' legs. I tried to keep it very simple, so it could be seen, so it could be understood *immediately*. I tried to concentrate *not* on the crowds, *not* on the spectators, but I tried to concentrate on the athletes themselves, by just focusing on the five figures moving out toward us."

**Jacob Lawrence**