

# Contents

*List of Illustrations* / ix

*Acknowledgments* / xiii

Introduction / 3

## PART I Robert Koehler's Early Life and Career

1 Koehler's Art Training: Milwaukee, Manhattan, and Munich, 1865–79 / 11

2 Images of Women: Munich, 1879–92 / 19

3 Koehler's First Worker Images and *The Socialist*: Munich, 1879–85 / 39

## PART II The Origin and Initial Reception of *The Strike*

4 Art Historical Background and the Railway Strike of 1877 / 55

5 Influences Shaping *The Strike* / 73

6 Labor-History Context: An Era of Strife, 1877–86 / 81

7 A Strikebound Debut, a Conflicting Reception, a Paris Interlude: Early Exhibitions, 1886–89 / 95

PART III Decades of Neglect

- 8 Milwaukee and the Chicago World's Fair: 1889-94 / III  
9 Transatlantic Progeny and a Minneapolis Refuge: 1893-1917 / 123  
10 Ambiguous Purchase and Gradual Obscurity: 1900-1917 / 153

PART IV Rediscovery and Belated Acclaim

- 11 Rescue, Restoration, and Return to New York City: 1917-72 / 165  
12 Labor Union Patronage, Museum Exhibitions, and National Fame: 1972-82 / 177  
13 Germany Reclaims a National Treasure: 1983 to the Present / 191

Afterword / 203

*Notes* / 205

*Index* / 223