right:  
Self-Portrait, 1963  
Etching  
The Charles Rand Penney Collection of the Memorial Art Gallery, 75.304

below:  
Self-Portrait, 1967  
Lithograph  

right:  
Self Portrait (Know Thyself), 1982  
Lithograph  
Gift of Diane Ambler, UR Class of 1971, and Ethan Grossman, 2011.50

Funds for this brochure were generously provided by Diane Ambler and Ethan Grossman.
A prolific realist painter and printmaker, Raphael Soyer had a career that spanned most of the twentieth century with its various artistic ‘isms.’ New York was his first and only American home, to which he immigrated from Russia in 1912, and it became his muse: “I painted only what I saw in my neighborhood in New York City which I call my country...New York and I are a part of one another.” Soyer studied at Cooper Union’s night school, the National Academy of Design, and the Art Students League while he worked at a variety of day jobs to earn money for himself and his family. After 1929, when he had his first show, he was able to dedicate himself full-time to his art and his teaching. Soyer’s subjects were women (often dancers), street scenes, and, throughout his career, himself. Through the decades of the twentieth century in which leading critics promoted modernism and abstraction, Soyer remained faithful to the great figural tradition of Old Masters like Rembrandt as well as later painters like Degas, Corot, and Thomas Eakins, embracing their humanistic focus. His own subjects, gracefully and tenderly rendered in paint or printer’s ink, are infused with a penetrative ‘soul’ that he attributed to the influence of the three cultures in which he developed—Russian, Jewish, and American.

Presented here are seven prints by Raphael Soyer from the Memorial Art Gallery’s permanent collection, five of which are a recent gift from Diane Ambler, University of Rochester Class of 1971, and Ethan Grossman.

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above right:
Veterans Waiting Room, undated
Color lithograph

right:
Self-Portrait, 1933
Lithograph
Gallery Purchase Fund, 38.37

left, and on front in detail:
Self-Portrait, 1954
Hand-colored lithograph

All images by Raphael Soyer (1899-1987)
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