shafts *of* sunlight

BY JERRY N. WEISS

A new retrospective on Joaquín Sorolla confirms his genius as a master of plein air.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION of work by Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida in this country caused a sensation. In the winter of 1909, long lines of expectant viewers formed on the sidewalks of upper Manhattan outside the Hispanic Society of America, which kept its doors open until 10 every evening to accommodate the crowds.

Writing for the *New York Evening Post*, a reviewer noted, "Never had a painter, native or foreign, met with such stupendous success."

BELOW: ***Running Along the Beach*** (1908; oil on canvas, 35½x65½) is a joyful celebration of movement and light and children playing on the beach—a popular subject for Sorolla, captured in his bravura brushstrokes.

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