

PUBLICATION PROJECT

LUDWIG MEIDNER CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ OF HIS PAINTINGS

VOLUME 1, PAINTINGS UNTIL 1927

The Jewish Museum Frankfurt, the Ludwig Meidner Society and the Citoyen Foundation are preparing the catalogue raisonné of Meidner's paintings. The volume will be published in 2016 on occasion of the 50th anniversary of the artist's death.

The catalogue raisonné of Ludwig Meidner's paintings

The *Apocalyptic Landscapes* of Ludwig Meidner (1884-1966) are regarded as premonitions of World War I and as key works of urban Expressionism. But Meidner's portraits – and especially his numerous self-portraits – are also outstanding and powerful manifestations of the spirit of the expressionist era. The psychological intensity and vivid dynamics of Meidner's portraits is only reached by his contemporaries Kokoschka or Corinth.

The first period of Ludwig Meidner's work as a painter begins 1906 in Paris, where he studies at the academies Julien and Cormon as a close friend of Amedeo Modigliani, and ends in the mid-1920ies. Meidner's "Way into Silence" – the title of an anthology of autobiographical prose – is completed by 1927, the year of his marriage. During this "Way" he turns to religion and draws rather than paints. For almost 25 years he lays aside brush and palette also because the Nazis prohibit Meidner, a prominent Jewish artist, to paint and later during his exile in England, he simply can't afford oil paint and canvases.

Nowadays Meidner's expressionist paintings are scattered all over the world. They can be found in museums and collections in various cities in Germany, the USA,

Great Britain, Spain and Israel. The last major exhibition of his paintings was shown 1991, more than 20 years ago, in Darmstadt and presented around 30 paintings.

The catalogue raisonné will not only offer a complete overview over Meidner's paintings but also present the current state of research on these works. After the 1991 exhibition several unknown works have surfaced, but along with them also a number of forgeries and works with questionable attribution have been offered to art traders and auction houses. Now systematic studies of sources have resulted in a documentation of a considerable number of hitherto unknown early works by Meidner, although the present whereabouts of most of them are still unknown.

The owners or former owners of paintings by Ludwig Meidner are kindly asked to contact the Jewish Museum Frankfurt in order to support our research. Of course, also any other information that may help us with the project is highly appreciated.

contact: Erik Riedel, Tel.: +49 (0) 69 212 40746, riedel@juedischesmuseum.de

Jüdisches Museum Frankfurt, Untermainkai 14-15, D-60311 Frankfurt, Germany

Participants of the publication project

The Jewish Museum Frankfurt

Jewish art, especially art in exile, has been one of the core themes of the Jewish Museum's exhibitions and collections ever since its opening in 1988. The museum's Ludwig Meidner Archive, established after the purchase of the extensive artistic bequest of Ludwig Meidner in 1994, is dedicated to the long time research of aspects of art in exile. In the meantime the Meidner Archive is taking care of the artistic estates of Else Meidner, Kurt Levy and Arie Goral, which were presented in several exhibitions at the Jewish Museum.

The Ludwig Meidner Society

The Ludwig Meidner Society was founded in 1990 in Hofheim, a town near Frankfurt, where the artist lived from 1955 to 1963 after his return from exile in England, and where he, as he said himself, spent a particularly content and productive time.

The aim of the Ludwig Meidner Society is to encourage the appreciation of life and work of this outstanding artist and to contribute to the research and presentation of his complex work as a painter, writer and graphic artist. The Ludwig Meidner Society has instigated the publication of the catalogue raisonné of Meidner's paintings and is managing the administrative aspects of the project.

The author

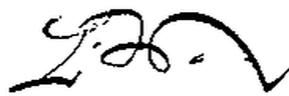
Art historian Erik Riedel is curator of the Ludwig Meidner Archive where among other things he is taking care of Meidner's artistic estate. He has curated numerous exhibitions at the Jewish Museum on 19th and 20th century artists, among them Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, Ludwig and Else Meidner or Felix Nussbaum, but also realized exhibition projects with contemporary artists. In 2013 he published together with Prof. Gerd Presler the extensive catalogue raisonné of Ludwig Meidner's sketchbooks (Prestel Publishing, 496 pp., 1.900 illus.), the first systematic documentation of one consistent group of Meidner's work.

The Citoyen Foundation

The Citoyen Foundation is substantially supporting the publication project. It is especially conscious of the tradition of civic commitment that shaped the history of the city of Frankfurt with a multitude of civil foundations. The name Citoyen Foundation refers to its mission to encourage dedicated citizens and to support them in implementing their conceptions. The Foundation promotes ideas that can serve as inspiring examples, with innovative approaches and a high degree of voluntary involvement. Beside educational projects, the main fields of sponsorship of the Citoyen Foundation are science and research as well as arts and culture.



LUDWIG MEIDNER GESELLSCHAFT



S T I F T U N G
CIToyEN

aktiv für Bürgersinn

www.juedischesmuseum.de

www.meidnergesellschaft.de

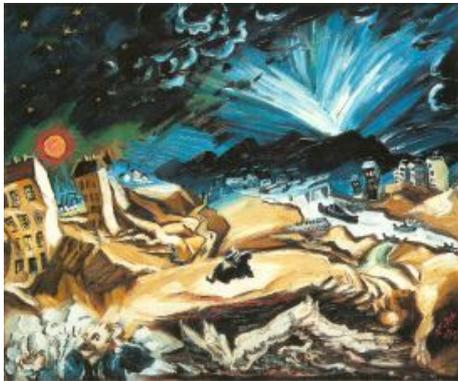
www.stiftung-citoyen.de



Ludwig Meidner, Portrait Olga Baumann, 1906
oil on cardboard, 62,8 x 46,4 cm
Jüdisches Museum Frankfurt
photo: Ursula Seitz-Gray



Ludwig Meidner, An Alfred Mombert (Dedicated to
Alfred Mombert), 1912
oil painting
present whereabouts unknown



Ludwig Meidner, Apokalyptic Landscape, 1913
oil on canvas, 67,3 x 80 cm
private collection
photo: Jüdisches Museum Frankfurt



Ludwig Meidner, Apokalyptic City, 1913
oil on canvas, 81,3 x 115,5 cm, LWL-Museum für
Kunst und Kultur (Westfälisches Landesmuseum),
Münster, photo: Sabine Ahlbrand-Dornseif



Ludwig Meidner, Self-Portrait, 1912
oil on canvas, 79,5 x 60 cm
Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt
photo: Wolfgang Fuhrmanek



Ludwig Meidner, Self-Portrait, 1922
oil on cardboard, 99 x 72 cm
Jüdisches Museum Frankfurt
photo: Ursula Seitz-Gray

© Ludwig Meidner-Archiv, Jüdisches Museum der Stadt Frankfurt am Main

Download at www.juedischesmuseum.de/presse.html

The images can only be used for press reports on the publication project (a complimentary copy of the article is much appreciated). The images may not be relayed to third parties especially not to picture agencies or the like.