

Biographies

Ernst Barlach was born in Wedel, near Hamburg in 1870 and studied sculpture at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Hamburg (1888-89) and at the Kunstakademie Dresden (1891-95) with sculptor Robert Diez. He briefly attended the Académie Julian in Paris, moved to Berlin in 1899, and taught at the Staatliche Fachschulen für Keramik in Höhr-Grenzhausen in 1904-05. In 1906 Barlach began a series of figurative sculptures based on his experience during a visit to Russia that same year. The following year he began to work under contract to German patron Paul Cassirer. In 1909 he was awarded the *Villa Romana* Prize and studied in Florence for ten months. Upon his return he moved to Gustrow in northern Germany and began to write plays, achieving a successful career as a dramatist as well as a sculptor. During World War I Barlach served briefly in the military before being discharged with a heart ailment. In 1925 he became an honorary member of the Munich Akademie der Bildenden Künste and was awarded the Prussian Order of Merit in 1933. During the Nazi regime, he was prevented from exhibiting and many of his works were removed from public view and confiscated. Several of his sculptures were included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Barlach died in Rostock in 1938.

Herman Max Beckmann was born in Leipzig in 1884 and studied painting at the Grossherzogliche Kunstschule in Weimar with Carl Frithjof Smith. He continued his studies through visits to Paris, Geneva, Florence and Jutland before moving to Berlin in 1904. He joined the Berlin Sezession in 1906 and resigned in 1911. During the war he served as a medical orderly in East Prussia and Flanders and received a medical discharge in 1915. In 1925 Beckmann was appointed to the Frankfurt Academy as a Professor of painting. His work was labelled degenerate by the Nazi regime and included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Beckmann relocated to Berlin and then Amsterdam in 1937 and in 1947 he emigrated to the United States. He taught painting at Washington University in St. Louis in 1948 and at the Brooklyn Museum Art School the following year. Beckmann died in New York in 1950.

Louis Corinth was born in Tapiau, East Prussia in 1858. He was educated in Königsberg where he attended the Academy before going on to study at the Munich Academy from 1880-84 under Ludwig Lofftz. In 1884 he moved to Antwerp and then Paris where he studied at the Académie Julian with Bougereau and Robert Fleury from 1885-87. In 1891 he moved to Munich where he was a founding member of the Sezession. As his career developed successfully, Corinth moved to Berlin in 1901 where he opened a School for Women Painters and later became president of the Berlin Sezession. In 1911 he suffered a debilitating stroke, after which his painting style became more expressive. Corinth died in 1925 in Zandvoort, Holland. His work was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937.

Otto Dix was born in Untermhaus, near Gera in central Germany in 1891. He trained as an apprentice with a Dekorationsmaler (decorator) in Gera and then went on to study for five years at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Dresden. During World War I Dix enlisted in the army and saw action in both east and western fronts and was wounded at the Somme. Following the war, Dix was a founding member of the Dresden Sezession Gruppe in 1919 and was also associated with the Dresden Dada group and the Novembergruppe in Berlin and participated in the 1st international Dada Conference. In 1922 he moved to Düsseldorf to study as a master pupil at the art academy, and from 1922-24 he studied etching and engraving. He became a professor at the Dresden Academy but was dismissed from this position in 1933. His artwork was declared degenerate and removed from museum collections and exhibitions and was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Dix was

labelled a traitor due to his critique of war and the military. Following World War II, Dix taught at the Düsseldorf Academy and died in 1969.

George Grosz was born George Gross in Berlin in 1893 and moved to Stolp with his family in 1902 following the death of his father. He studied at the Dresden Royal Academy of Art with Richard Müller from 1909-1911. Supported by a grant from the Prussian government, he studied at the Berlin Kunstgewerbeschule from 1912-14 under Emil Orlik. Grosz volunteered for service in WWI and received a medical discharge before experiencing active duty. He was recalled in 1917 but suffered a breakdown and was charged with desertion and then classified unfit to serve. He anglicized the spelling of his name to Grosz in 1916 and joined the Communist Party of Germany in 1918. Increasingly targeted by the Nazi regime, Grosz emigrated to the United States in 1932. His work was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Grosz returned to Germany in 1959 where he died in an accident.

Erich Heckel was born in Döbeln, Saxony in 1883. He studied architecture at the Technical College in Dresden where he met Kirchner and was a founding member of Die Brücke in 1905. From 1907-10 he spent the summers painting in Dangast, Oldenburg and at the Moritzburg Lakes near Dresden. Heckel moved to Berlin in 1911 with other members of the group, and was a founding member of the Berlin Sezession. While in Berlin, Heckel came into contact with the Blaue Reiter artists Franz Marc and August Macke. During WWI he served with the army medical corps and was stationed in Ostende, Belgium. Following the war, Heckel returned to Berlin. During the Nazi regime his work was declared degenerate and removed from museums and confiscated. His work was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Heckel died in Hemmenhofen, Constance Lake in 1970.

Otto Herbig was born in 1889 in Dorndorf and studied at the Munich Kunstakademie from 1909-1911. In 1910 he traveled to Italy, and studied with Lovis Corinth in Berlin upon his return. From 1912-13 he studied at the Kunstschule in Weimar and travelled to Paris in 1913. From 1914 to 1918 Herbig served with the army medical corps and in 1919 settled in Berlin. He made numerous trips to Italy throughout the 1920s and received a scholarship to study in Rome in 1929. During the Nazi regime he was prohibited from exhibiting. From 1945-1955 Herbig taught as a Professor at the Academy of Art and Building in Weimar. He died in 1971.

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner was born in Aschaffenburg in 1880. He entered the Technical College in Dresden in 1901 as an architecture student and also studied the theory and practice of pure and applied arts in Munich. Returning to Dresden in 1904 he met Erich Heckel and completed his architecture diploma in 1905. That same year he founded Die Brücke with Heckel, Fritz Bleyl and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, joined by Max Pechstein and Emil Nolde in 1906. Along with other members of the group, Kirchner travelled in search of unspoiled nature, visiting the Baltic island of Fehmarn and the Moritzburg Lakes outside of Dresden from 1909-1911. In 1913 Kirchner broke with Die Brücke and enlisted as a volunteer in the German army in 1914. He suffered a breakdown during training and, following his recovery, moved to Frauenkirch, near Davos, Switzerland. His work was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. Despondent over attacks on his work by the Nazi regime, he committed suicide in 1938.

Karl Horst Hödicke was born in Nuremberg in 1938 and raised in Düsseldorf until his family was evacuated to Silesia during World War II. In 1957 Hödicke moved with his family to Berlin where he

trained as a builder before studying architecture at the Technical University in 1959. After a year he transferred to the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Berlin and studied with Fred Thieler. In 1961 he joined a group called “Vision” and in 1964 he co-founded “Grossgörschen 35”, an artists co-operative. Hödicke lived in New York in 1966-67 where he made a number of experimental films and later travelled to Rome on a scholarship. Returning to Berlin in 1968, Hödicke focused on the city as a subject. In 1974 he became a professor at the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Berlin. In addition to painting, Hödicke works in film, video and installations.

Max Klinger was born in Leipzig in 1857 and studied at the Art School in Karlsruhe and at the Berlin Academy under Karl Gussow. Beginning in 1883, Klinger spent periods in Paris, Brussels, Berlin and Rome before returning to Leipzig in 1893. He wrote a treatise on Drawing and Painting in 1891, in which he described the imaginative potential of printmaking over painting. An influential figure in the revival of printmaking in Germany, Klinger etched and printed his own plates. As a mature artist, Klinger focussed more exclusively on painting and sculpture and is known for monumental works such as the Judgement of Paris (1885-7 Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum) and a statue of Beethoven (1899-1902 Leipzig, Museum der Bildenden Kunst). His work combines elements of Art Nouveau, Jugendstil and Symbolist influences along with classical academicism. Klinger died in 1920.

Käthe Kollwitz was born Käthe Schmidt in Königsberg, East Prussia in 1867 and began drawing lessons at the age of fourteen. Unable to attend the Berlin Academy because it did not accept female students, she attended the Künstlerinnenschule Berlin under Karl Stauffer-Bern from 1884-1885 and then studied in Munich with Ludwig Herterich. Following her marriage in 1891, Kollwitz returned to Berlin and continued her education with private instructors. She studied with Rudolf Mauer and Emil Nolde and attended the Berlin Women’s Art Union, then taught at the Künstlerinnenschule Berlin from 1898 to 1903. When Kollwitz was admitted to the Prussian Academy in 1919, she was the first woman to be so honoured. Her tenure there as professor and head of the master class for graphic arts was abruptly terminated when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Although her work was removed from exhibitions, and suppressed and destroyed during the Nazi regime, Kollwitz continued to work until her death in 1945.

Bernard Kretzschmar was born in 1889 in Döbeln and attended the Dresden Kunstgewerbeschule from 1909-1911 and the Art Academy in Dresden in 1911. He served in the army medical corps 1917-18. Kretzschmar worked only briefly in Expressionism in 1919-20. In 1920 he destroyed his previous work and began new work based on his observation of life in Dresden and the suburb of Gostritz. His studio was destroyed during the bombing of Dresden in 1945. Kretzschmar taught at the Art Academy Dresden in post war East Germany and worked mainly in portraits and landscapes. He died in 1972.

Wilhelm Lehmbruck was born in Duisburg-Meiderich in 1881 and began his studies at the Art Academy Düsseldorf in 1901 under Carl Janssen. Lehmbruck lived in Paris from 1910-14 and exhibited his work in many important exhibitions including the 1913 Armory Show in New York, Chicago and Boston, the Werkbund exhibition, 1914 in Cologne and a one person exhibition in Paris. The artist returned to Germany at the outbreak of World War I and served as a medic. Lehmbruck moved to Zurich in 1916 and later returned to Berlin where he committed suicide in 1919. His work was included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937.

Herman Max Pechstein was born in Zwickau in 1881 and apprenticed with an interior decorator

before attending the Dresden Kunstgewerbsschule in 1900 and at the Art Academy in Dresden in 1902. He joined Die Brücke in 1906 and became a founding member of the Berlin Sezession in 1910. In 1914 he embarked on a voyage to Palau, Micronesia in the South Pacific but his visit was cut short by the Japanese invasion in 1914. He was interned in Japan and then made his way, via the United States, back to Germany and military service at the front. Following the war, Pechstein was a leading member of the Novembergruppe and the AFK and a supporter of the Social Democrats. In 1922 he became a member of the Prussian Academy of Arts and from 1923-33 professor at the Art Academy in Berlin. In 1933, under pressure from the Nazis, he was removed from the Academy. His work was declared degenerate and included in the Entartete Kunst exhibition in 1937. He was reappointed as a Professor in Berlin in 1945 and died there in 1955.