

East German poster collection art exhibitions series C0207

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1955-1994



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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Unit Date

1955-1994

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German

Abstract

This series contains posters relating to art exhibits, individual artists, art galleries, and museums from the Deutsche Demokratische Republik. The series contains 1820 posters of various sizes. The posters range in size from 68 x 97 cm to 29 x 40 cm. The average poster size is 57 x 81 cm.

Creator

Hill, Thomas

source

de Maiziere, Michael

source

Butzmann, Manfred

source

Brade, Helmut, 1937-

source

Bock, Karl Heinrich, 1909-1978

source

Biesalski, Wolfgang

source

Grüttner, Rudolf, 1933-

source

Dehlsen, Axel

source

Wunderlich, Sonja

source

Wendt, Horst

source

Just, Erika

source

Janisch, Wolfgang

source

Hoppe, Haus-Georg

source

Haufe, Jürgen, 1949-

source

Günther, Norbert

source

Jutte, H. F.

source

Kerzig, Günter

source

Kitzel, Margrit

source

Kobe, Ronald

source

Lippmann, Gerd

source

Möhrdel, Heinz

source

Netzker, Dieter

source

Neubauer, Frank, 1952-

source

Pfüller, Volker

source

Prust, Margot

source

Riedel, Hubert

source

Sander, Herbert

source

Zentrum für Künstlerische Werkstätten und Bildende Kunst des Bezirkes Frankfurt

source

Zentrum für Kunstausstellungen der DDR

source

Verband Bildender Künstler der DDR

source

Akademie der Künste der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik

source

Ausstellungszentrum am Fernsehturm (Berlin, Germany)

source

Berliner Stadtbibliothek

source

Galerie im Turm

source

Galerie Junge Kunst

source

Galerie Kunstsammlung Cottbus (Germany)

source

Galerie Mitte

source

Galerie Treptow

source

Kulturbund der DDR

source

Kunsthalle Rostock

source

Staatliches Lindenau-Museum Altenburg

source

Germany (East). Ministerium für Kultur

source

Museum am Theaterplatz

source

Museum der Bildenden Künste (Leipzig, Germany)

source

Staatliche Galerie Moritzburg

source

Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Cottbus

source

Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

source

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Germany : East)

source

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Potsdam-Sanssouci

source

Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR

source

Staatliches Museum Schwerin

source

Studio Bildende Kunst Berlin

Extent

1820 posters

Physical Location

Map Case 1.2-2.2, 17.3, 20.4, 28.2-28.3

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There may be restrictions on reproduction. Contact the Special Collections Research Center for more information.

Acquisition Information

Purchased from Thomas Hill in 2009.

Processing Information

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Historical Information

Following the formation of the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR) under the governance of the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED), art was widely censored. This lasted throughout the existence of the DDR from 1949 to 1990.

In the art community, all public venues were subject to censorship. Posters and advertisements for any event, as well as all art itself, were to be submitted to government officials for review and approval. The content of the art was judged on its adherence to the communist ideologies of the SED. Criticism of the communist party and its current regimes were not tolerated by the officials and was often censored. Also, any art that portrayed a sympathetic view of capitalism was not allowed. Other topics that were subject to censorship were homosexuality, pornography, violence, and alcoholism.

In addition to reviewing content, the DDR censored forms that were not viewed as proper art. This ranged from free verse poetry to avant-garde and abstract art. Artists could be sent warnings for art not fitting into these standards, and subsequent penalties included public bannings, arrest, and deportation. During the declining years of the GDR, from the early 1980s to 1990, this censorship lessened as the control of the East German population began to loosen from the grips of the SED.

Scope and Content

This series contains posters relating to art exhibits, individual artists, art galleries, and museums from the Deutsche Demokratische Republik. The series contains 1820 posters of various sizes. The posters range in

size from 68 x 97 cm to 29 x 40 cm. The average poster size is 57 x 81 cm.

Artists depicted in portraits or photographs in this series include Thomas Münster, Johannes Becher, Bruno Bernitz, Joseph Beuys, Leonhard Frank, Wolfgang Frankenstein, Caspar Friedrich, Paul Holz, Otta Pankok, Karl Schinkel, and Heinrich Zille. Other notable figures depicted in portraits are Adolf Hitler, Albert Einstein, and Marilyn Monroe. Most of the posters in the series are for art exhibitions held in East Germany at galleries and museums. They may contain the artists, date, venue information and visual images of the art. Also in this series are art posters from the DDR collection of "Best Posters of the Year" for particular years.

In addition to art exhibits, the series features collections of posters by four individual artists encompassing a range of subjects: Bolker Phuller, Manfred Batzman, Wolfgang Janisch, and Hubert Riedel. Many of these posters are signed by the artist. In all other posters, the designing artist and the print year are documented unless neither are available.

The range of artistic styles depicted in the series is broad, with examples of social realism, abstract art, surrealism, folk art, and neo-expressionism.

Related Material

The East German poster collection contains other series, including the [political series](#), [performing arts series](#), [culture and science series](#), and [film series](#).

In 2021, GMU Professor Samuel Huneke led the completion of the [East German Poster Database](#), a project funded by a Fenwick Fellowship. The posters from each of the East German poster collection series can be searched in this database.

Keywords

Exhibition posters -- Germany (East)

Art, German -- Germany (East) -- 20th century -- Exhibitions

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Posters

Germany (East)

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Bock, Karl Heinrich, 1909-1978

Biesalski, Wolfgang

Grüttner, Rudolf, 1933-

Dehlsen, Axel

Wunderlich, Sonja

Wendt, Horst

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Haufe, Jürgen, 1949-

Günther, Norbert

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Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR
Staatliches Museum Schwerin
Studio Bildende Kunst Berlin

Arrangement

Arranged by subject and a numbering system.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 4: Art Exhibits Posters

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77922

Unit Date 1955-1994

Scope and Content

See the External Documents note for a poster inventory with brief descriptions.