

# Guide to the East German poster collection art exhibitions series, 1955-1994

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1955-1994

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A Collection in Special Collections and Archives C0207  
George Mason University Libraries  
2011

## History

**Processed by:** Special Collections and Archives Staff

## Title Statement

Guide to the East German poster collection art exhibitions series, 1955-1994

**Subtitle:** East German poster C0207

**Author:** Finding aid prepared by Jordan Patty

**Sponsor:** Funded in part by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources

## Publication Statement

**Date:** March 12, 2012

**Publisher:** George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-03-12T11:33-0400

**Language Usage:** English

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

C0207

**Date**

1955-1994

**Language**

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

## **Physical Characteristics**

1,820 Posters

## **Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

# **Administrative Information**

## **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

## **Use Restrictions**

There may be restrictions on use.

## **Acquisition Information**

Purchased from Thomas Hill in 2009.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Matthew Salyers in 2011. EAD markup completed by Matthew Salyers in 2011.

Processing supported by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

## **Preferred Citation**

East German poster collection art exhibits series, Collection #0207, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University.

# **Related Material**

Special Collections and Archives holds many other posters on the history of East Germany.

# **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 was 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 SED began to lose control over the East German population.

# **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 Janish, 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.

## Index Terms

### Persons:

Biesalski, Wolfgang  
Bock, Karl Heinrich, 1909-1978  
Brade, Helmut, 1937-  
Butzmann, Manfred  
de Maiziere, Michael  
Dehlsen, Axel  
Förster, Jürgen, 1940-  
Grüttner, Rudolf, 1933-  
Günther, Norbert  
Haufe, Jürgen, 1949-  
Hoppe, Haus-Georg  
Janisch, Wolfgang  
Just, Erika  
Jütte, H. F.  
Kerzig, Günter  
Kitzel, Margrit  
Kobe, Ronald  
Lippmann, Gerd  
Mührdel, Heinz  
Netzker, Dieter  
Neubauer, Frank, 1952-  
Pfüller, Volker  
Prust, Margot  
Riedel, Hubert  
Sander, Herbert  
Wendt, Horst  
Wunderlich, Sonja

### Corporate Names:

Akademie der Künste der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.  
Ausstellungszentrum am Fernsehturm . (Berlin, Germany)  
Berliner Stadtbibliothek.  
Galerie im Turm.  
Galerie Junge Kunst.  
Galerie Kunstsammlung Cottbus . (Germany)  
Galerie Mitte.  
Galerie Treptow.  
Germany (East). Ministerium für Kultur.  
Kulturbund der DDR.  
Kunsthalle Rostock.  
Stadtische Kunstsammlungen Karl-Marx-Stadt.  
Museum der Bildenden Künste. (Leipzig, Germany)  
Staatliche Galerie Moritzburg.  
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Cottbus.  
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin . (Germany : East)  
Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Potsdam-Sanssouci.

Staatlicher Kunsthandel der DDR.  
Staatliches Lindenau-Museum Altenburg.  
Staatliches Museum Schwerin.  
Studio Bildende Kunst Berlin.  
Verband Bildender Künstler der DDR.  
Zentrum für Kunstausstellungen der DDR.  
Zentrum für Künstlerische Werkstätten und Bildende Kunst des Bezirkes Frankfurt.

## **Subjects:**

Art, German--Germany (East)--Exhibitions--Posters.  
Art--Germany (East)--Exhibitions--Posters.

## **Document Types:**

Exhibition posters--Germany (East)

## **Arrangement**

The arrangement is by subject and a numbering system.

## **Contents List**

### **Series 4: Art Exhibits Posters**

**Unit Date** 1955-1994

**Scope and Content**

[Poster Inventory with Brief Descriptions](#)

Sample images are also available. Please contact [speccoll@gmu.edu](mailto:speccoll@gmu.edu) for more information.