

Ewald Mataré - HISTORY

Ewald Wilhelm Hubert Mataré (25 February 1887 in Burtscheid, Aachen – 28 March 1965 in Büderich) was a German painter and sculptor, who dealt with, among other things, the figures of men and animals in a stylized form.

Career:

Mataré began his instruction as an artist at the Prussian Academy of Arts in Berlin in 1907. He was a student of Prof. Julius Ehrentraut (b. 1841), Lovis Corinth (1858–1925), and History painter Arthur Kampf. In 1918, he joined the November Group. Mataré first dedicated himself to sculpture after finishing his painting studies. A great part of his sculpted work are of animal figures.

In 1932 he received a professorship at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. After the Machtergreifung of 1933 however, all cultural and artistic life in Germany was brought into ideological alignment by the Nazis; Mataré was denounced as "degenerate" and expelled from his position. One of his sculptures "Die Katze" (The cat) was placed into the exhibition of shame and derision "Entartete Kunst" (Degenerate Art) staged by the Nazis in Munich, 1937.[1] Church commissions became his sole source of income.

After the war, Mataré was asked to become the director of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, but he quickly resigned[when?] because he felt there were still too many professors at the Akademie who had been actively teaching there during the Third Reich[citation needed]. Furthermore, no one was interested in his ambitious reform plans, which would have allowed fourteen-year-olds to study at the Akademie. However he was active at the Academy - albeit in an off-site studio - for long enough to teach artists like Günter Haese, Erwin Heerich, Georg Meistermann, and, most famously, Joseph Beuys.[2] During the post-war era, Mataré took many commissions from the public sector; he also worked on many churches, e.g. he built four doors for the south portal of the Cologne Cathedral. He participated in documenta 1 (1955) and 2 (1959).

Work

Mataré's work varies from the pleasing simplicity of his animal forms in which he explores shape and line, to the profound spirituality of his religious works. Even those not religiously inclined cannot fail to be deeply moved by many of these works. In them, he expresses what is best in the human spirit. A 2006 exhibition of his work in Salzburg, Austria, demonstrated the heights which his work could achieve. It is remarkable that an artist of such power is not better known internationally.

Awards:

1914 Silver Medal at the Prussian Academy of Arts in Berlin.

1952 Thorn Prikker Prize from the city of Krefeld

1955 Gold medal at the Triennale in Mailand

1957 Stefan Locher Medal from the City of Cologne

1958 Großes Verdienstkreuz of the Federal Republic of Germany

Works:

Mataré's most famous works include:

Doors of the south portal of Cologne Cathedral

Doors of the Church of Peace in Hiroshima

Altar design in St. Andreas Church in Düsseldorf

The entire interior of St. Rochus Church in Düsseldorf (partially destroyed, lost)

The phoenix in the North Rhine-Westphalia Parliament (Landtag) building

The pigeon fountain in front of Cologne Cathedral

Entrance gate and windows of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf

Portal of St. Lambertus Basilica in Düsseldorf

Façade as well as Portal and Balcony at the Essen Minster Schatzhaus.

Façade of Haus Atlantis in Bremen

Soldier Memorial in Cleves

His last large project (1965): Entrance doors and décor of the chapal at the Catholic Social Institute (KSI) of the Archdiocese of Cologne in Bad Honnef.

References[edit]

^ Stephanie Baron (ed), Peter Guenther at al. (1992) „Entartete Kunst“ Das Schicksal der Avantgarde im Nazi-Deutschland. Exhibition catalogue, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and German Historic Museum. Hirmer Verlag, Munich, ISBN 3-7774-5880-5.

^ Adriani, Götz, Winfried Konnertz, and Karin Thomas: Joseph Beuys: Life and Works. Trans. Patricia Lech. Woodbury, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series, 1979.

The information in this article is largely based on a translation of its German version.

Selected Public Collections:

MOMA, NY, USA

The British Museum, London, UK

Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, Germany

Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, MA, USA

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA

LACMA, LA, CA, USA

Fine Arts Museum of San Fransisco, CA, USA

Albright-Knox, Buffalo, NY, USA

Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Ringling Museum, Sarasota, West Palm, USA

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, USA

Among others...

Artists' Associations:

- November-Gruppe, Berlin
- German Association of Craftsmen, Munich