

07.06. – 10.09.2012

FANTASTIC! RUDOLF KALVACH

Vienna and Trieste around 1900



RUDOLF KALVACH (1883-1932)
Plakat zur Kunstschau, 1908
Leopold Museum, Wien, Inv. 3000

RUDOLF KALVACH
Mermaid, c. 1910-1913
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FANTASTIC! RUDOLF KALVACH

VIENNA AND TRIESTE AROUND 1900

Leopold Museum, Vienna, 7th of June to 10th of September 2012

The Leopold Museum's summer exhibition will show the first comprehensive presentation of the expressive oeuvre of Rudolf Kalvach (1883-1932), an artist whose works are situated at the point of intersection between Jugendstil and Expressionism. The retrospective traces the career of this highly talented artist, whose biography is closely linked with the era of »Vienna 1900« and the early works of the Expressionists Oskar Kokoschka (1886-1980) and Egon Schiele (1890-1918).

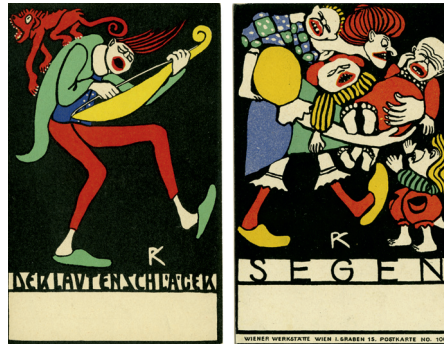
Acting as the exhibition's curator is the Trento architect and exhibition designer Roberto Festi, an established authority on Viennese art around 1900. Back in 2009, he curated a presentation at the Leopold Museum on the Secessionist Josef Maria Auchentaller. The exhibition is conducted in close collaboration with the artist's heirs, who have for the first time made the majority of Kalvach's estate accessible for academic research and presentation.

KALVACH: PUPIL OF CZESCHKA AND LÖFFLER

Born in Vienna in 1883, Rudolf Kalvach studied at the modern-day University of Applied Arts from 1900. Among others, his teachers included Carl Otto Czeschka (1878-1960) and Berthold Löffler (1874-1960). One of his fellow students was Oskar Kokoschka and some of Kokoschka's early renderings bear a certain resemblance to Kalvach's works.

RUDOLF KALVACH
Postcard of the Wiener Werkstätte,
c. 1907-1908
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VIENNA AND TRIESTE

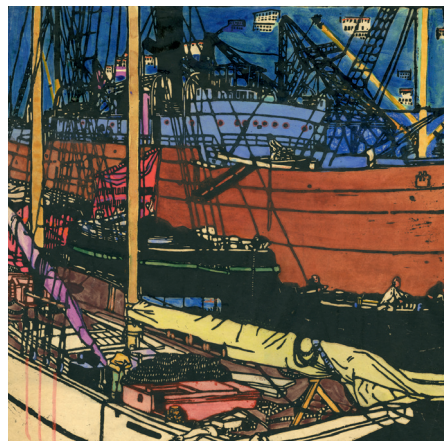
In 1901 Kalvach's family moved to Trieste, but Kalvach continued to study in Vienna. Towards the end of his studies he created his first postcard designs for the Wiener Werkstätte and started to depict exotic and mystical figures which can be seen as a distinct reference to Oskar Kokoschka's »Dreaming Boys«.

KUNSTSCHAU 1908 – »NEW ARTISTS« AND WERKBUND

Kalvach featured among the artists represented in the legendary 1908 Kunstschau in Vienna. He even designed a poster for the exhibition, which, like the poster designed by Kokoschka, was included in the presentation. In 1909 Rudolf Kalvach became a member of Egon Schiele's artists' group »Neukunstgruppe« and a few years later joined the association of Austrian artists »Werkbund«. Rudolf Kalvach lived and worked alternately in Vienna and Trieste.

UNSTABLE PSYCHE

Kalvach suffered from a mental illness that forced him to undergo prolonged treatment at various psychiatric hospitals from 1912 onwards. In 1932 Rudolf Kalvach died aged just 49 in a sanatorium in the Czech town of Kosmonosy.



WOODCUTS AROUND 1900

One of the exhibition's main emphases will be on Rudolf Kalvach's woodcuts depicting scenes from the port of Trieste. The presentation will also feature historical photographs of the picturesque harbor, which will further evoke the charming atmosphere of this motif. Situated on the Upper Adriatic Sea, the harbor of Trieste was an important economic hub of the Habsburg Empire around 1900. As woodcuts played an important role in early 20th century art, a main part of the exhibition will be dedicated to color woodcuts from around 1900.

Exhibition curators: Roberto Festi and Franz Smola