

Lentos Kunstmuseum

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis **Bauhaus Student, Avant-Garde** **Painter, Art Teacher** **28 Jan. 2022 – 29 May 2022**

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (b. 1898) studied in Vienna with Franz Cižek before moving on to the renowned Bauhaus in Weimar in 1919. Johannes Itten, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky were among her most influential teachers. In 1923 she and another former Bauhaus student, Franz Singer, set up a studio for interior design in Berlin and, later, Vienna.

The twenty-five years of life that were now left to Friedl Dicker-Brandeis were increasingly taken up by her activities as a painter. In this relatively short time, she painted politically themed pictures, portraits and landscapes in the style of Neue Sachlichkeit (New Objectivity). The dramatic circumstances created by racist persecution were to determine the framework for her continued creative activities from the mid-1930s. In 1942 she was deported along with her husband Pavel Brandeis to Theresienstadt/Terezin. Children's drawings from the ghetto document her task giving art lessons to children.

Putting on display drawings, paintings, photo collages, film clips, weaving patterns and blueprints for furniture and buildings, the exhibition provides an overview of the artist's multifaceted work. Encouraging comparison, the exhibition casts light for the first time on Friedl Dicker-Brandeis' special place in Avant-Garde Art. In deeply moving film documents some of her contemporaries recall the tragic life of the artist. She was murdered in October 1944 in the concentration camp at Auschwitz alongside many of the children she had taught there.

CV

Friederike Dicker, affectionately known as Friedl, is **born on 30 July 1898** in Vienna. When she is four years old, her mother Karolina Fanta dies. Her father Simon Dicker, who runs a stationery shop, marries Charlotte Schön in 1904. From 1909 to 1912 Friedl Dicker attends the municipal school for girls (Bürgerschule für Mädchen) in Vienna.

1914

Friedl Dicker attends classes in photography and photo reproduction at the School of Experimental Graphic Design (Graphische Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt).

1915

Friedl Dicker is admitted to the School of Applied Arts and she enrolls in the textile department. Here she attends the drawing class of Professor Franz Čížek. His reform of art education was later adopted by the state schools of the City of Vienna. In order to pay for her school fees, Friedl Dicker performs street puppet theatre, creating the stories and designing all the props herself.

1916

Friedl Dicker enters the school of Johannes Itten. Light/dark, color, fabric and texture, rhythm, forms of expression, subjective forms – these were the fundamental elements of his teaching.

1918/19

Friedl Dicker and her friend Anny Wottitz attend a composition course under Arnold Schönberg. In Itten's school Friedl Dicker meets Franz Singer with whom she has a personal relation.

1919

Itten moves with all his pupils from Vienna to the Bauhaus in Weimar. There he implements his "scientific-mystical" system, which he had already experimented with in Vienna, and which is based on the assumption that the universal theory of contrasts provides the foundation for creating form.

1921

Friedl Dicker is active in workshops under the guidance of Georg Muche, Lyonel Feininger, Oscar Schlemmer and Paul Klee. In the spring of 1921, Franz Singer and the singer and voice teacher Emmy Heim get married.

Mid-1923

Itten leaves the Bauhaus and his pupils follow him. Franz Singer opens the "Werkstätten Bildender Kunst" (Workshops for Visual Arts) in Berlin in collaboration with Friedl Dicker. They design and produce children's toys, games and jewelry, and receive many commissions for textiles, book designs and bookbinding work. Friedl Dicker und Franz Singer are also involved in Berthold Viertel's theatre "Die Truppe" (The Troupe) and commute between Berlin, Vienna, Dresden, Cologne and Leipzig.

1925

Friedl Dicker returns to her home town Vienna and opens a bookbinding and textile studio with her friend Martha Döberl (married Hauska). Franz Singer joins her shortly afterwards, and in the same year the Singer-Dicker studio is established, receiving commissions from Vienna, Prague, Brno, Budapest and Berlin. Feininger, Oscar Schlemmer and Paul Klee. In the spring of 1921, Franz Singer and the singer and voice teacher Emmy Heim get married.

1928

Friedl Dicker becomes a member of the artistic staff of the textile company Pausa in Mössingen (district of Tübingen). Until 1930, she spends several months a year designing patterns for woven and printed fabrics, organizing exhibitions and traveling on business to neighbouring France.

1930

The studio Singer-Dicker is commissioned to design a kindergarten for the Goethehof district association in Vienna. The facility, which operates according to the principles of Montessori education, becomes famous as a flagship kindergarten of "Red Vienna".

1931

Friedl Dicker starts teaching art and rents her own studio for this in Heiligenstädter Straße in Vienna's 19th district. After the sudden death of Singer's son Michael "Bibi", the personal relationship between Friedl Dicker and Franz Singer begins to wane. Dicker joins the Communist Party. Utensils for forging passports were found in her apartment. On 14 November she is arrested. In prison she has to endure humiliating interrogations.

1932

After the trial, Friedl Dicker has to serve several months' imprisonment, from which she is released in September 1932. Then she continues to design several propaganda posters for the communist party. In collaboration with Max Bronstein Dicker and Margit Téry-Buschmann work in Berlin on the screen adaptation of "Das Kapital" by Karl Marx.

1934

In June Friedl Dicker moves to Czechoslovakia and rents a flat in Prague. She processes her prison impressions in the series of paintings "The Interrogation" and takes therapy lessons with the psychoanalyst Annie Reich.

1936

In Prague Friedl Dicker gets to know her mother's relatives. She falls in love with her cousin Pavel Brandeis and marries him. Together with her pupil Edith Kramer she works with the children of emigrants. In Prague she also befriends the communist Hilde Kothny, who will particularly support her later in her plight.

1938

In the summer Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and her husband move to Hronov, a provincial town near the border with Poland. Pavel Brandeis accepts the position of chief accountant in the Spiegler & Sons factory, which manufactures clothes and dyes fabrics. Friedl Dicker-Brandeis designs a stand for the textile fair "Exhibition 38 Nachód" for the company. She is awarded with a gold medal for the excellent design.

In November 1938, violent clashes against Jews take place all over Germany. Following the Munich Agreement of September 1938, Czechoslovakia cedes the Sudetenland to the Third Reich, and on 1 October Hitler's troops invade. Friends try to persuade Friedl Dicker-Brandeis to flee the country. Franz Singer has already moved to London and invites her to stay there. Hans Moller, Anny Wottitz's husband, obtains a visa for her to travel to Palestine.

1939

Hilde Kothny moves to Frankfurt am Main. She becomes a link to both the anti-fascist underground and Friedl Dicker-Brandeis' circle of friends. Hilde Kothny supports the Dicker-Brandeis couple with books, food and medicine and she often visits them in Hronov.

1940

The gallerist Paul Wengraf presents an exhibition of paintings by Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the American artist Gerald Davis at the Royal Arcade Gallery in London.

1940-42

As a result of increasingly severe anti-Semitic legislation, Friedl and Pavel Brandeis have to move frequently, each time to an even more miserable flat.

October 1941

The deportation of Czech Jews to Łódź begins. Pavel and Friedl Dicker-Brandeis lose their jobs. The children's home L-410, where Friedl Dicker-Brandeis is employed as a teacher, is located on the main square of Theresienstadt. The building houses girls aged 10 to 16. About 24 to 30 children sleep in three-level bunks in the rooms. Dicker-Brandeis' task is to teach children to paint and draw and to nurture them physically and mentally despite the formal ban on education.

1942

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and her husband are deported to Theresienstadt (Terezín). The fortress, dating from the 18th century was converted by the National Socialists into a transit camp where Jews were interned, sometimes for several years, and sent from there to the extermination camps.

July 1943

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis gives the lecture "Kinderzeichnen" ("Children's Drawing") in Theresienstadt. She talks about the psychological characteristics of the imprisoned children and the important role of the group work.

Summer 1944: The transports to Auschwitz stop for a while due to the shooting of the propaganda film „Theresienstadt. Ein Dokumentarfilm aus dem jüdischen Siedlungsgebiet“ (Theresienstadt. A documentary film from the Jewish settlement area). This period is probably the last respite for Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. She paints landscapes, portraits and still lifes with flowers.

On 28 September Pavel Brandeis was taken to the concentration camp at Auschwitz. Many people try in vain to dissuade Friedl Dicker-Brandeis from joining the next transport. Friedl Dicker-Brandeis does not want to leave her husband alone. She decides to follow him to Auschwitz and arrives in Auschwitz-Birkenau on 8 October. Soon after, she is murdered in one of the gas chambers. Pavel Brandeis survives the war. The children's drawings are brought to Prague by the principal of the girls' home L-410, Willy Groag, and given to the Jewish community.

Programme

Opening

Thu 27 Jan, 7 pm

With welcome by Hemma Schmutz (Lentos Director), introduction by Brigitte Reutner-Doneus (Curator), opening by Doris Lang-Mayerhofer (City Councillor for Culture, Tourism and Creative Industries of the City of Linz).

Due to the current Covid 19 event conditions, unfortunately only a limited number of people can attend the opening. Participation is therefore only possible by registering at info@lentos.at or 0732 7070 3601 (first-come, first-served). We ask for your understanding and look forward to seeing you there.

Guided tours

Guided tour

Thu 6 pm

Sun 4 pm

Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, duration 1 hour

The Making-of

Thu 3.2. 6 pm

Thu 12.5. 6 pm

A look behind the scenes of the exhibition with curator Brigitte Reutner-Doneus

Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, duration 1 hour

Expert guided tour

Fri 28.1. 3 pm

Sun 15.5. 4 pm

The author and art therapist Elena Makarova guides through the exhibition.

Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, duration 1 hour

"Do not fear death, despise money".

Thu 17.3. 6 pm

Angelika Romauch examines Friedl Dicker-Brandeis' Marxist worldview during a guided tour of the exhibition.

Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, duration 1 hour.

Express Tour

Every 1st Sat in the month 4 pm

This tour offers an insight into the Lentos. It looks at the museum's history and collection of art and includes highlights of the present special exhibition. Language: English

Ticket: € 3 plus admission, duration: 45 minutes

Workshop

Weaving - crossing and weaving according to Friedl Dicker-Brandeis

Thu 21.4. 5-7 pm

In this workshop Beate Luger-Goyer and Rosel Postuvanschitz offer theory and the possibility of practical application for adults and children.

Admission free, registration required: 0732 7070, info@mag.linz.at or online at lentos.at.

Symposium

Practical Symposium: Learning from Friedl Dicker-Brandeis

12.-13.5.

Friedl Dicker Brandeis is still considered one of the inspirations for art therapy through her artistic work with children in traumatic situations. Which artistic methods can be used to deal with traumatizing past? The practice symposium is aimed primarily at art educators and therapists and invites them to try out and reflect on various methods.

Thu 12.5. 10-12 am

Workshop with Elena Makarova

Elena Makarova (ISR) has researched the methods of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and developed them further for art therapy, art education and mediation. In the workshop young people and teachers can try out these artistic methods and learn about the work of the artist.

Thu 12.5. 6-8 pm

Lecture by Elena Makarova

Reflection on the results of the workshop in the context of the history of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis.

Fri 13.5. 3-6 pm

Mind Crossing: Interactive Performance and Workshop

A multimedia performance of dance, music and theater on trauma, survival and history.

Program and schedule of the practical symposium can be found promptly on lentos.at. The events are free of charge thanks to the support of the Future Fund.

Registration: karin.schneider@lentos.at

Schools, Children, Family

Mind Crossing for schools

Bookable between 19-29 April and 9-14 May.

Musician, composer and music therapist Tal Gur and dancer and choreographer Jasmin Avissar (both ISR) translate Tal's story of grandparents who survived the Holocaust into a collage of dance, music, poetry and relate it to the exhibition. Young people are invited to participate interactively to give meaning to the story itself.

Cost: € 4/student

Info: karin.schneider@lentos.at

When you grow up...

For young people from 14 and adults:

Thu 5.5. 6 pm

For schools:

Wed 4.5. 12 am

Thu 5.5. 10 am

The basis of the puppet show by and with Alexander Baginski (Figurentheater Pantaleon) is the book For Tommy on his 3rd birthday, which Bedřich Fritta drew for his son in the concentration camp Theresienstadt. A book as the only testimony of parents for their child, who was able to escape hell traumatized.

Cost (performance, museum admission and discussion): € 12 (adults 18+) / € 10.50 (youth).

Tickets at kuddelmuddel.at, Duration: 1,5 hours

More information: karin.schneider@lentos.at

In cooperation with the children's cultural center Kuddelmuddel

Dates & Facts

Title of the exhibition	Friedl Dicker-Brandeis Bauhaus Student, Avant-Garde Painter, Art Teacher
Duration	28 Jan. 2022 – 29 May 2022
Curator	Brigitte Reutner
Exhibition venue	Great Hall
Exhibition architecture	Nikolay Ivanov & Georg Schrom
Exhibits	Around 240 exhibits including drawings, paintings, photo collages, film clips, weaving patterns, furniture and architectural designs
Publication	The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalog published by Hirmer Verlag. With numerous texts in German and English by Julia Harasimovicz, Katharina Hövelmann, Stefanie Kitzberger, Joanna Kordjak, Beate Luger-Goyer, Elena Makarova, Rosel Postuvanschitz, Cosima Rainer, Brigitte Reutner-Doneus, Angelika Romauch, Hemma Schmutz, Karin Schneider, Georg Schrom, Hanna Wróblewska 272 pages, € 38
With support of	 
Opening hours	Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm, Thurs 10 am–8 pm Mon closed For special opening hours, go to www.lentos.at
Admission	€ 10, concessions € 8 / € 5.0
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Web & Social Media	www.lentos.at facebook.com/lentoslinz twitter.com/lentoslinz instagram.com/lentoslinz

Picture Material

Press photos and views of the exhibition are available for downloads during the run of the exhibition [here](#). Licence free use while indicating the source reserved to the context of the topical coverage of the exhibition.