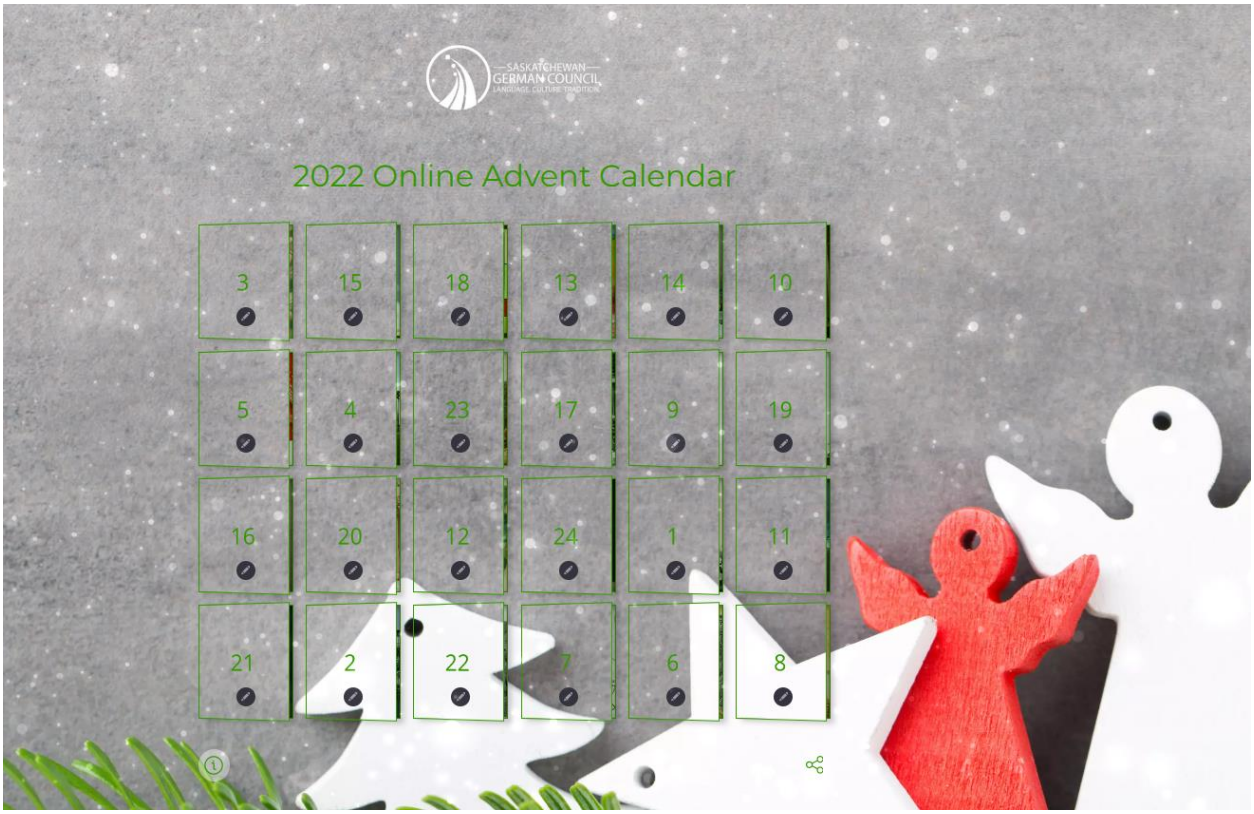


2022 Online Advent Calendar featuring Artists!

The Saskatchewan German Council was pleased to introduce the 2022 Online Advent Calendar which combines the Advent calendar tradition with art!

From December 1 to 24 artists were featured - one every day until Christmas. In this little booklet you can still discover the artists from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, most of whom have a Canadian and many even a Saskatchewan connection.

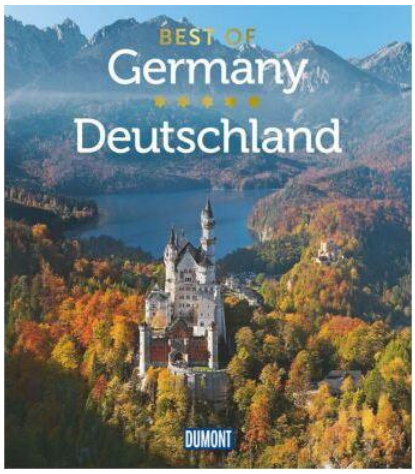
Featured artists include:

- Count Berthold Von Imhoff, born in Germany in 1868, who is well known for decorating many churches, such as St. Peter's Cathedral in Muenster, Saskatchewan.
- Caroline Weldon from Switzerland who painted "Sitting Bull" in 1890.
- German-born Waltraude Stehwien who continued the art of scissor cutting (Scherenschnitt) in Saskatchewan.
- Austria-born Canadian painter Ernest Lindner who settled in Saskatoon and whose work was widely exhibited in Canada.
- Gustav Hahn from Reutlingen, who became a pioneer of the Art Nouveau movement in Canada.
- And many more interesting artists.

Quizzes and Prizes

We had quizzes and book prizes for participants who liked a little challenge.

Best of Germany / Deutschland



Book Description: more than 160 beautiful photos show the treasures of Germany: cities with history such as Stralsund, Dresden, or Nuremberg; cultural monuments like Cologne Cathedral, the Würzburg Residence, and Berlin's Museum Island; unique and stunning landscapes of Germany's coasts, popular islands, impressive castles along the Rhine and more.

Sponsors

A big thank you to the German Consulate General in Vancouver for the contribution of book prizes in support of the 2022 Online Advent Calendar!

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Door 1: Seasonal Wonders – Peter Rindisbacher

Peter Rindisbacher was born in 1806 in Eggiwil, Switzerland. From an early age he showed great skill as an artist and received one year of training in formal landscape painting under Jakob Samuel Weible. His family emigrated to Western Canada near Winnipeg when he was 15 years old. During the trip, he made many sketches of ships. He documented scary encounters with icebergs, and fascinating meetings with the Inuit. The arrival in Manitoba would not be, what was promised to the Swiss immigrants. There were no provisions made for the arriving settlers, and the first winter was harsh. From 1823 on Rindisbacher supported his family as an HBS store clerk and by selling his paintings. He produced a selection of paintings in pen-and-ink. These would be traced and then finished with watercolor. His motifs were mostly illustrations of First Nations, for example Anishinaabe, Cree, and Sioux and their life. He accurately painted the life in the northwest, and many customers would keep copies of his pictures as souvenirs and send them home to friends and family. After the Red River flood in 1826 the family relocated first to Wisconsin, and later settled in St. Louis, Missouri. At the age of 23 Rindisbacher established an artist's studio and worked on illustrations for magazines and book covers.

Learn German: the iceberg = der Eisberg, -e / the store clerk = der Verkäufer / the illustration = die Illustration, -en

© Public Domain - Individual of the Sautaux First Nation standing in a winter landscape, Peter Rindisbacher, 1822, Source Collections Canada

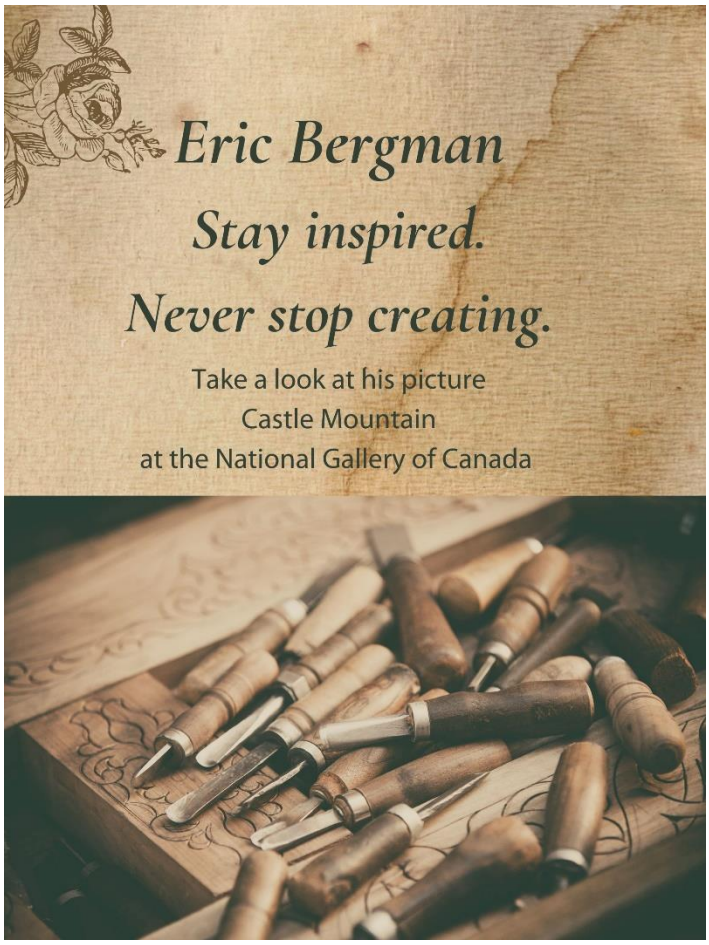
© PD-US-no notice

Door 2: Celebrating Diversity – Beat Streuli

Beat Streuli is a Swiss artist born in 1957. He went to the Schools of Design in Basel and Zurich, and later to Berlin, where he attended the Hochschule der Künste. He stayed and lived in Berlin until 1987. Two studio grants, one at Cité des Arts and Foundation Cartier in Paris, and the other by Istituto Svizzero in Rome, made it possible for him to life and work in these cities for some time. Going back to Germany, to Duesseldorf, he developed his very unique style of contextualized street photography. His videos, window installations and photographs are recognized internationally. In his work he presents the anonymity of city life, the common street dwellers, people going about their daily business. Streuli doesn't stage his pictures. People are mostly unaware he is taking pictures of them. From 2000 on he grew more and more interested in capturing the cultural diversity in European city life. For him this is not something special, but rather the normal fact of life. In his point of view, we live in a multicultural reality. In his work, Beat Streuli highlights the fact, that the common person in the street is as exceptional and distinct as anyone else. From 2012 to 2018, Streuli taught at the University of Fine Arts in Zurich. In 2022 he received the Swiss Grand Award for Design from the Swiss General Office of Culture. To learn more about Beat follow the link.

Learn German: the artist – der Künstler / to live – leben, wohnen / the city – die Stadt, -¨e

© Beat Streuli's installation 'Chicago Portraits July 99' at Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1999, License



Door 3: Enchanted Nature – Eric Bergman

Henry Eric Bergman was born in Dresden, Germany in 1893. After three years of studying in Dresden at the Art and Trade School, he received a Diploma of Merit. In 1913, he moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and worked as a commercial wood engraver for the Eaton's Catalogue. After meeting Fred Brigden and Walter J. Philips he took to the fine arts. In 1926, he created his first artistic wood engraving. His black and white wood engravings are well known, but he worked at the beginning with pencil, watercolor, and oil paint as well. Some of his art is published in special editions of the art magazine "The Studio". At the start his art was close to Art Nouveau, but later he created more of his own style. Delicate plant studies were some of his favorite themes. Castle Mountain was created in 1931. The picture was made by a wood engraving printed on ivory laid Japanese paper. Using his own words, he described his decision to use wood engraving as his technique to create art: "I find wood engraving helping me to form my own style. It is a medium which calls for discipline and lends itself particularly to the serious study of tone values, composition, and drawing." To take a look at his beautiful picture "Castle Mountain" follow the link.

Learn German: the year – das Jahr, -e / to study – studieren / to move – umziehen, bewegen

Door 4: Building Cheerful Communities – Herbert Bayer

Herbert Bayer was born in 1900 in Austria and started his apprenticeship under Georg Schmidthammer in Linz. He left Austria to study at the Darmstadt Artists' Colony. There, he found his connection to the Bauhaus movement of Walter Gropius. Gropius appointed Herbert Bayer director of printing and advertising after only four years of studies. Bayer developed sans serif typefaces for most of the Bauhaus publications. Bayer was a designer, painter, photographer, sculptor, art director, and architect. Between 1928 and 1936 he worked as art director for the Vogue Magazine in Berlin and designed a brochure for the 'Deutschland Ausstellung' during the 1936 Olympic games. After the Nazi regime included his art in the "Degenerate Art", he fled Germany and settled in Italy. Bayer moved to the United States, after being invited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., and became a US citizen in 1944. In 1946, he moved to Aspen, Colorado, where he worked as an architect and co-designed the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies and restored the Wheeler Opera House. He was very influential in spreading European principles of advertising in the United States. He received a gold medal form the American Institute of Graphic Arts in 1970.

Learn German: the architect – der Architekt / the publication – die Veröffentlichung / between – zwischen

© Public Domain, A photograph of the Chromatic Gate sculpture by Herbert Bayer in Santa Barbara, California, taken by Carol M. Highsmith. Credit: The Jon B. Lovelace Collection of California Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America Project, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Door 5: Time for Stories and Traditions – Jess Richter

Jess Richter is a German Canadian artist living in Regina, Saskatchewan. Her work is influenced by folk rituals and traditions from various cultures. British, German, Eastern-European countries, and of course by her agrarian upbringing in Saskatchewan. In her work she explores the difficult German history and the culture around the German Canadian experience. Sculpture, printmaking, papercuts, come together around pagan and folk practices. Her art reflects both, known and lesser-known stories and traditions, sometimes in slightly macabre imagery. This imagery can create some uneasy feelings for the viewer, but also awakens curiosity to learn more about these stories and the background behind the art. Jess worked with the Art Gallery of Regina for 10 years. After being the gallery's program coordinator, she served as director for some time. Today, she focuses on her own art, creating installations, making films, and staging performances. One of her most impressive projects is "The Haus Project" (Einwanderin). It was started in 2018, and is located just outside of Nokomis, SK, in an abandoned old farmhouse. Jess has a personal connection to Nokomis since she grew up in the area and her grandparents lived just around the corner. The project explores the German Canadian identity and history after WWII in Canada. In the farmhouse visitors had been able to walk through a kitchen, through a representation of the Black Forest, and explore the complex German identity after the war. In 2019 Jess was an essential part of a scissor cut traveling exhibition together with Waltraude Stehwien organized by OSAC and supported by SGC. To take a look at her great art open the link.

Thanks to Jess for providing the SGC with the picture of the paper cut "Mari Lywld" .

Learn German: the house – das Haus, ¨-er / the culture – die Kultur. -en / to explore – erkunden, erforschen

Door 6: A Season for Peace and Reflection – Emanuel Hahn

The sculptor and coin designer Emanuel Hahn, brother of Gustav Hahn, was born in Reutlingen, Germany, on May 30th, 1881. In 1888, his family moved to Toronto. Later, he started studying modelling and commercial design at the Toronto Technical School and at the Ontario College of Arts. In 1901, he began working for the McIntosh Marble and Granite Company. There, he created bronze reliefs and monuments. After about two years, in 1902 he moved back to Germany, to Stuttgart, to study art and design at the Polytechnical School. Back in Canada, he helped Walter Seymour in his work of the South African War Memorial in Toronto, the Alexander Graham Bell Telephone Memorial in Brantford, and the Baldwin-Lafontaine Monument in Ottawa. He designed war memorials after the First World War and this created a national controversy, because of his German ancestry. When his proposal won first prize in Winnipeg, he had to withdraw his submission. In 1953, he designed the stamps for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He is probably best known because of his coin designs. The Fur-Trapper and the First Nations man on the Voyageur Dollar, the Bluenose on the 10-cent coin, the caribou head on the quarter, and the Canadian Parliament Buildings on the 1939 Royal Tour of Canada silver dollar are all designed by Emanuel Hahn.

Learn German: the sculptor – der Bildhauer / to work – arbeiten / to create – gestalten, kreieren

© Public domain, Canadian Voyageur dollar, first minted in 1935, Royal Canadian Mint, Author Emanuel Hahn

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Door 7: Time to Meet – Gerda Osteneck

Even though Gerda Osteneck, a photo collage artist, was born in Alberta, she has German roots. Her parents were Germans from the Baltic area and immigrated to Canada. Since her parents did not want to speak about their German heritage, Osteneck traveled to eastern Europe to explore her family's history. Osteneck worked as a technician in photography labs and learned from her experiences how to create collages and how to combine photos, postcards, and other visual elements. In her work, she showcases the inaccurate, messy unreliability of memory. She believes: "As there are an infinite number of possible perspectives from which to photograph a place or thing, there are as many ways of perceiving history, the story of an event." In 2017, she took part in the Pop-Up Exhibition in Regina. In the YouTube video she explains her art. Making contact with people and using natural materials in her work is important to her. She does not like to use normal photo paper and makes her own paper to print her photos on. This gives additional structure and feel to the photos. Her quilt made from photos printed on that handmade paper with spirals printed on some pieces, show eternity is an incredible piece of her art. To see Gerda in action, open the link.

Learn German: the root = die Wurzel. -n / inaccurate = ungenau / the memory = die Erinnerung, -en

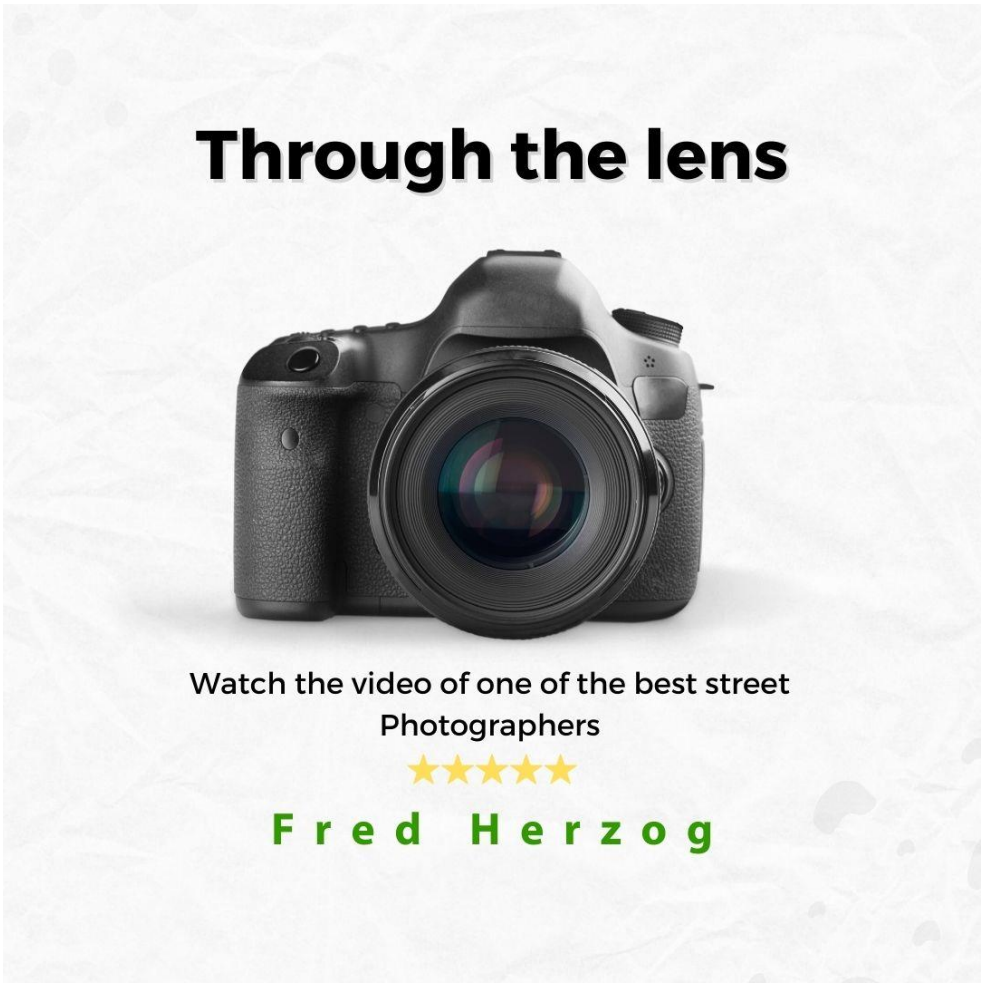
Door 8: The Wonders of a New Beginning – William Berczy

William Berczy was born in 1744 in Wallerstein, Electorate of Bavaria, now Germany. During his life he changed his names quite often. He was born Johann Albrecht Ulrich Moll, before moving to America, he would use Wilhelm Albert Ulrich von Moll, and Albert-Guillaume Berczy, and sometimes, William von Moll Berczy. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and at the University of Jena. Berczy's own accounts of his life need to be taken with a grain of salt, since he did not always separate facts from fiction, and embellished his adventures quite a bit. Nevertheless, he led a busy life. He lived in Austria, Germany, Poland, and Italy. Later in America he settled for some time in Philadelphia, then York, Upper Canada (Toronto), then Lower Canada (Quebec). He is considered to be one of the co-founders of York, Upper Canada, now Toronto. He was a painter and pioneer. Berczy enlisted more than 200 immigrants from Hamburg to settle in America. Not finding the promised land he and the settlers expected, he worked tirelessly to help to establish the new settlers in the new world. He worked on building roads, to clear water ways for shipping, and building houses. In his art, he mostly painted portraits. His two best known pictures are a full-length portrait of the Mohawk chief Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) and the group portrait of the Woolsey Family. On the side he created religious and some agricultural paintings.

Learn German: change = ändern / the fiction = die Dichtung, -en / to enlist = anwerben

© Public Domain, Portrait of Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant), by William Berczy, 1807, National Gallery of Canada, Source Upper Canada History

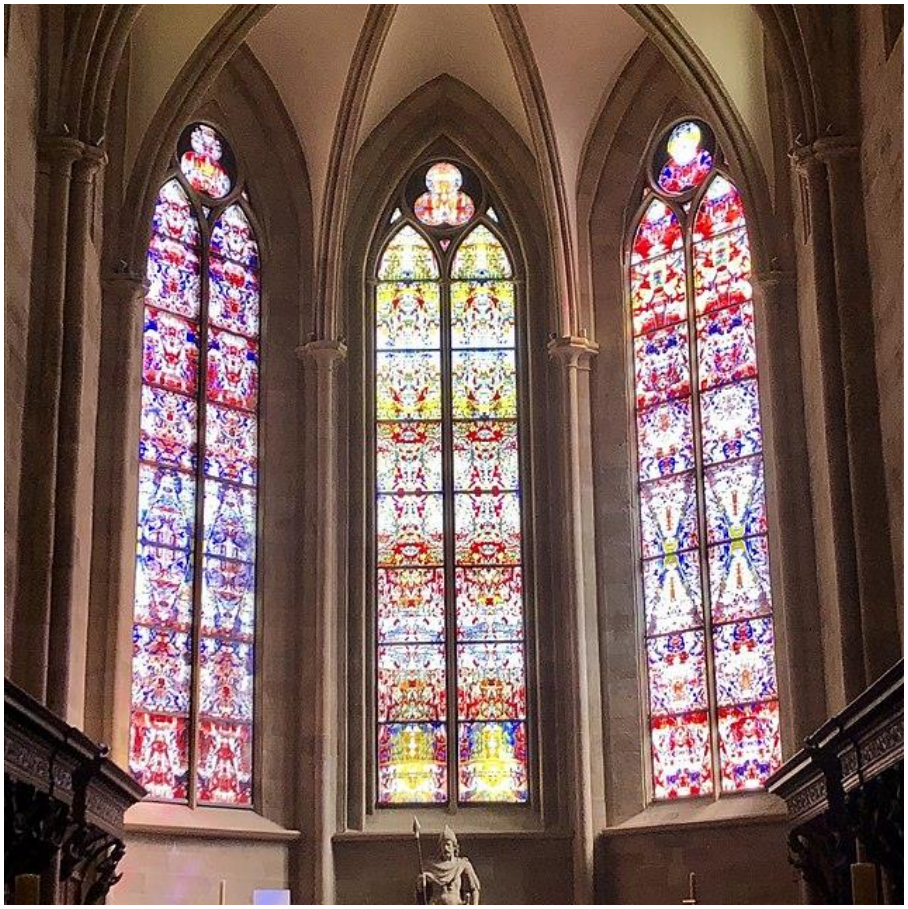
© PD-US-expired



Door 9: The Magic of our World through the Lens – Fred Herzog

Fred Herzog was born on September 21st, 1930, in Stuttgart, Germany. Since he lost both of his parents during or shortly after World War II, he worked as an apprentice in his grandparents' hardware store. Being disillusioned after the war, he decided to move to Canada, specifically Vancouver around 1952. He studied photography and worked at St. Paul's Hospital as a medical photographer. He became head of the Photo/Cine Division at the University of British Columbia, and an instructional specialist in the Fine Arts Department at Simon Fraser University. In his free time, he captured Vancouver´s street life in color, specifically on Kodachrome. He went into back alleys, side streets, and explored all types of street life. He would capture fleeting moments, which might have escaped others. His interest was in people and their lives. Since it was difficult to work with Kodachrome slides at the time, his art was not known by many. Only after 2003, when the curator Bill Jeffries included him in an exhibition of Vancouver Street photography, interest in his work took off. At that time, he had an impressive collection of more than 100,000 color pictures, and many more black and white photos. In 2014, he received the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts. To see Fred Herzog, open the link.

Learn German: the apprentice – der Lehrling, -e / free time – die Freizeit / the street life – das Straßenleben



Door 10: Playing with Light – Gerhard Richter

Born in 1932, in Dresden, Gerhard Richter is a visual artist and is regarded as one of the most important contemporary artists of today. He creates abstract and photorealistic paintings, makes photographs, and creates stained glass windows, for example church windows. Richter attended school up to grade 10, and apprenticed as stage-set painter, before enrolling at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts. His first application to the Art Academy was rejected for being "too bourgeois". When he finally was able to enroll in 1951, he was taught by Karl von Appen, Heiny Lohmar and Will Grohmann. Two months before the Berlin Wall was built, he escaped East Germany with his wife Marianne. Because of this, his wall paintings in the Academy of Arts and in the "Hygiene Museum" were painted over by the GDR regime. After coming to West Germany, he continued his studies at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Richter taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design as a visiting professor. In his career he had multiple phases working with different styles and media. At the beginning, he would create paintings of people from black and white pictures. Later, he began making prints. Around 1968 he would focus more on landscapes. This series of landscape pictures is often compared to art from Caspar David Friedrich. Around 1976, he started to create more abstract work. He said, he was "letting a thing come, rather than creating it". In 2002, he was asked to design a stained-glass window for the Cologne Cathedral, the window was unveiled in 2007.

Learn German: important – wichtig / the glass – das Glas, ¨-er / abstract – abstract

© Chorfenster der Benediktinerabtei Tholey, von Gerhard Richter (2020) / Author: Chrisu2019

Door 11: The Season of Giving – Count Berthold Von Imhoff

Berthold Von Imhoff, born in Germany, in 1868, is known for his murals and paintings. He was raised in a noble family with strong Roman Catholic believes. He loved nature and hunting with his father which probably influenced his decision to move to Saskatchewan and settle there in 1914. Around the age of 12, he started studying painting, later wood graining and marbling. He entered the art institute in Karlsruhe to complete his art studies. After marrying Matilde Johner, he and his family moved to the US. For some years the family lived in Pennsylvania, where Berthold started his own decorating and fresco company. During his time in Pennsylvania, he decorated the interiors of many churches, academies, and residences. He was well known and travelled all over the Eastern United States for his work. He relocated to St. Walburg in Saskatchewan at the age of 46. Why he decided to move to the more rural St. Walburg, while having such a successful career in the US is not known. Maybe, his hunting expedition in 1910, to the more natural countryside in Saskatchewan, spoke to his love of nature. He built his studio in 1920 and painted on large canvasses, which would be transported to churches in the US. Often, he travelled to the locations to finish his work at the actual sites. His painting of St. Martin is poignant and relevant. The need for charity is great throughout the winter months and, particularly, at Christmas time. The painting depicts the Roman Soldier, Martin, who served in the Roman Cavalry in Gaul, using his sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter. Von Imhoff often would work for free or ask only for minimal payment for the parishes in Saskatchewan. He was therefore bestowed the Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great in 1937. Visit our website and follow the link to the Imhoff Heritage Society.

Thanks to the Imhoff Society for providing the SGC with the lovely picture 'St. Martin'.

Learn German: born = geboren / family = die Familie, -n / to love = lieben

Door 12: Magic is in the Air – Heike Fink

Heike Fink grew up in Germany where she studied education in Frankfurt. Today, she lives in Prud'Homme, Saskatchewan. She works in wet felting, needle felting, and nuno felting to create her art and craft. Heike won several awards among them the SCC Award of Excellence in Textiles at Dimensions in 2017 and for her work in the collection of SK Arts. Besides her own art, she designs collaborative felting projects, gives demonstrations, and teaches. Heike enjoys how the wool fibers almost magically change during the process of felting. The texture, colors, and material contribute to the process of creating something special and beautiful. From sculptures to wall pieces, from textiles to functional items she makes a multitude of items. In her words, the possibilities are only limited by one's imagination. Two of her art pieces were recently included at the International Felt Art Trail (Internationaler Filzkunstwanderweg) in Tisens-Prissian, Italy. In 2023 her work will be shown at Felto-Filzwelt in Soltau, Germany in a solo exhibition. To see more of her amazing art, open the link.

Thanks to Heike for providing the SGC with the lovely picture of the 'Leafaun'.

Learn German: the member = das Mitglied, -er / the felt = der Filz / the trail = der Wanderweg, -e

Door 13: One with the Spirits - Jane Ash Poitras

The Cree painter and printmaker Jane Ash Poitras was born in 1951. When her mother passed away due to an illness, she was adopted by an older German woman when she was just six years old. Due to that she had a Roman Catholic upbringing. In her early adulthood she started to research her Chipewyan roots. First, she earned a degree in microbiology, and later she started her art studies. Poitras describes her work as: "...each blank canvas is an invitation to a journey of discovery. I may begin with an idea of what the final destination—the completed painting—may be, but I'm always open to the unexpected". As Carl Beam said, the art of placement is a spiritual act. Each step in the creative process may reveal unexpected choices that require decisions. The final decision for each piece is to know when it is resolved, when it is finished. Exploring her Indigenous identity, the cultural identity and history of her peoples is an integral part of her art making. In 2017, Jane Ash Poitras was appointed to the Order of Canada. Her work was exhibited at the Remai Modern in Saskatoon. To take a glimpse at this great artist watch the video.

Learn German: Indigenous = indigen / the invitation = die Einladung, -en / spiritual = spirituell

Door 14: The Magic of Creation – Waltraude Stehwien

Waltraude Stehwien was born in 1931 in Halle, in Germany. Married to Fritz Stehwien, both artists complemented each other in a unique way. She was influenced already in her childhood by an artist's family. Her father owned a marionette theatre, and she was exposed to art all her life. She studied stage design and graphic arts at Burg Giebichenstein Art College Halle. Escaping the former GDR to live in Baden Wuertemberg until 1968, and from there moving the young family, with 4 children, to Canada, was certainly a challenge. From 1971 to 1975 she was teaching puppetry in Saskatoon and throughout the province of Saskatchewan. Between 1985 and 1990 she focused more on the art of scissor cutting, and created cultural Christmas cards, and calendars for national and local German associations. After retirement she continued creating art. Her love of paper cutting, in German 'Scherenschnitt", can be seen in a wide variety of themes. From landscapes to logos. She created many illustrations for the SGC Postillion. She published the book, In Black and White, in 2013. In this book you can find the beauty and vastness of the prairie landscape in the unique way scissor cutting creates. The most recent exhibit was the scissor cut tour organized by OSAC and SGC showing the work from Waltraude Stehwien and Jess Richter. Waltraude Stehwien is an Honoray Lifetime Member of the SGC. Listen to her podcast on our website.

Thanks to Barbara for providing the SGC with the picture of Waltraude.

Learn German: to marry – heiraten / the childhood – die Kindheit / the art – die Kunst

Door 15: The Joy of Creating – Hortensia

Hortensia is an Austrian sculptress, she studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna in the class of Fritz Wotruba. The work of Hortensia is outside of the "mainstream of Art", her way and her sculptures are unique "Shape and Figure" and "Shape and Space" are important cornerstones of Hortensia's work. Many of her exhibitions are called this way, and indeed, the sculptures of Hortensia are extraordinary in the quality of these parameters: her creations have measure, shape and space. The sculpture "Little Loneliness" is only 34cm in height but looking much bigger because of its excellent construction. Hortensia has shown her work in many personal exhibitions around the world, such as in Washington D.C., Cairo, Moscow, Prague. Since 2015, Hortensia is owning her unique "Sculpture House Hortensia" in the south of Austria, where she shows her work in a renovated old country house built in 1795 on three floors. In 2019, she was awarded the Golden Medal of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria.

The sculpture "Kleine Einsamkeit" was created in 2021 and received its name "little loneliness" as a result of the isolation all of the world experienced during that time. To see more of her work, go to her website.

Thanks to Hortensia for providing the SGC with the lovely picture of her sculpture 'Kleine Einsamkeit'.

Hortensia, "Kleine Einsamkeit" („Little Loneliness"), Bronze, 2021, 34cm high. Limited to 15 casts.

Learn German: outside - außerhalb / the shape – die Form, -en / the exhibition – die Ausstellung, -en

Door 16: Walking your own Path - Caroline Weldon

Born in 1844 in Switzerland, Caroline Weldon, born Susanna Karolina Faesch, moved with her mother to Brooklyn as a child. After an unhappy marriage and affair later in life, she decided to pursue her interest in art and being fascinated by the Indigenous culture, she travelled to the Dakota Territory to live among the Sioux. At that time the US government was trying to implement the Dawes Act to annex a large part of the Great Sioux Reservation. She joined the National Indian Defense Association, to support the Sioux, and in her efforts met Sitting Bull. She moved with her young son to Sitting Bulls Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Of course, this did not make her very popular among the public at that time. During this time, her most recognizable picture of Sitting Bull was created. At the start of the spiritual Ghost Dance Movement, she warned Sitting Bull, that this movement would be used by the government to intervene. This resulted in a fall out with the Sioux, and she moved back to Brooklyn. Regrettably, her prediction was correct and the military intervened. The book "Susanna" by Alex Capus and the film "Woman Walks Ahead" are based on her life and stay among the Sioux. "Weldon was one of the only white people of her time of either gender who not only had the right political view of Native American rights, but also gave her life to work for those rights," says the author Eileen Pollack. To learn more about Caroline follow the link.

Learn German: the mother – die Mutter, -¨er / the government – die Regierung, -en / to join - beitreten

© Sitting Bull, by Caroline Weldon, 1890, oil on canvas - photograph collection Daniel Guggisberg, CC BY-SA 4.0

Door 17: The Beauty of Seasons – Ernest Lindner

Ernest Lindner was born on May 1st, 1897, in Vienna, Austria. He was a soldier during World War I. As a young man he married Hertha Liebenberger and the couple had one son in 1922. In 1926, he came to Canada without his wife and son. He told his wife from the window of the leaving train, that he would not come back. Once he was in Canada, he asked his wife a few times to follow him. However, she declined, which led to their divorce. After arriving in Saskatoon, Lindner worked as a farm laborer and attended night classes at the University of Saskatchewan. Already in 1931, he achieved local recognition as an artist and from 1933 onwards he had exhibits in eastern Canada. Even though he was mostly self-taught, he started teaching in 1931 at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate. Linder became head of the Art Department at the Collegiate from 1936 until 1962. He became president of the Saskatoon Art Association as well and had influence at the annual Emma Lake Artists' Workshop. Lindner was mostly interested in the cycle of life. His paintings captured plant life of northern Saskatchewan forests. He created composites of human and plant forms. The human and plant forms overlap and blend into each other in his paintings. Lindner was honored by the University of Saskatchewan with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1972 and was elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1977, when he received the honor of becoming an Officer of the Order of Canada. If you would like to know more follow the link.

Learn German: the son – der Sohn, ¨-e / the train – der Zug, ¨-e / to become - werden

© Public Domain, Ernest Lindner and wife Bodil on steps of cottage on Fairy Isle, Emma Lake August 1943

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Door 18: The Colors of the Season – Sophie Taeuber Arp

Sophie Henriette Gertrud Taeuber was born in 1889 in Davos Platz, Switzerland. She was known for her sculptures, paintings, and textile design. First, she attended trade school in St. Gallen, were she learned textile design. Later, she attended different art schools in Germany. In 1915, learning dance at the Laban School of Dance in Zurich, she joined the artist colony of Monte Verita in Ascona. From 1919 to 1929, she taught embroidery, weaving and textile design classes at the Zürich Kunstgewerbeschule. After meeting her husband, the Dada artist Hans Arp, the couple became associated with the Dada movement in 1916. She contributed to Dada performances as dancer, choreographer, and puppeteer. She was involved in the design of the puppets, costumes, and sets for the performances. She is likely one of the most important artists of concrete art and geometric abstraction. During her life in France, she worked on numerous interior design projects. The Café de l'Aubette was one of these projects. She suffered an early tragic death by carbon monoxide poisoning, while sleeping in a snow-covered house with insufficient ventilation in 1943. From 1995 to 2016 her picture was on the Swiss 50-franc note. She is the only woman to be seen on any Swiss banknotes. Her motto was: only when we go into ourselves and attempt to be entirely true to ourselves will we succeed on making things of value. In 1981 the Museum of Modern Art (New York) mounted a retrospective of her work that subsequently travelled to different locations including the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Take a look at her work here.

Learn German: to attend a school – eine Schule besuchen / the dance – der Tanz, ¨-e / to meet - treffen

Include Link https://www.moma.org/artists/5777

© Composition géométrique verticale-horizontale by Sophie Taeuber Arp, Photo by Taco Ekkel 2004, License

Door 19: Celebrating the Joy of Life – Aric Brauer

Arik Brauer was an Austrian painter, poet, stage designer, architect, and academic teacher. He was born in 1929 and joined the Free Austrian Youth as a youth leader. He realized early on that his love was not politics but art, so from 1945 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. A little later from 1947 to 1951, he studied singing in Vienna. He loved to travel and so in 1949, he moved to Paris. In 1950, he toured North Africa by bicycle. Brauer married in 1957 in Israel, moved again to Paris and started a singing duo with his wife. Later, he lived in Israel and Vienna, where he sang and danced. He was the co-founder of Vienna School of Fantastic Realism, he also taught at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna since 1985 and designed buildings in Austria and Israel. He received many awards, like the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art in 2002, the Amadeus Austrian Music Award in 2015 and the Decoration of Honor for Services to the Republic of Austria in 2018. Ernst Fuchs said about Aric Bauer: "a mystic, a romantic whose realm of experience grew through approaching experiences of nature". Brauer's work is characterized by surrealism with detailed craftsmanship. Some of his works are: Vogelfang with flying mythical creatures, Turm aus gebrannter Erde, Der Regenmacher vom Karmel, and many more. In the 1990s he turned to architecture, creating facades and interiors covered with fantastical mosaics, murals, and painted tiles.

Learn German: the tower – der Turm, -¨e / the earth – die Erde, -n / to sing – singen

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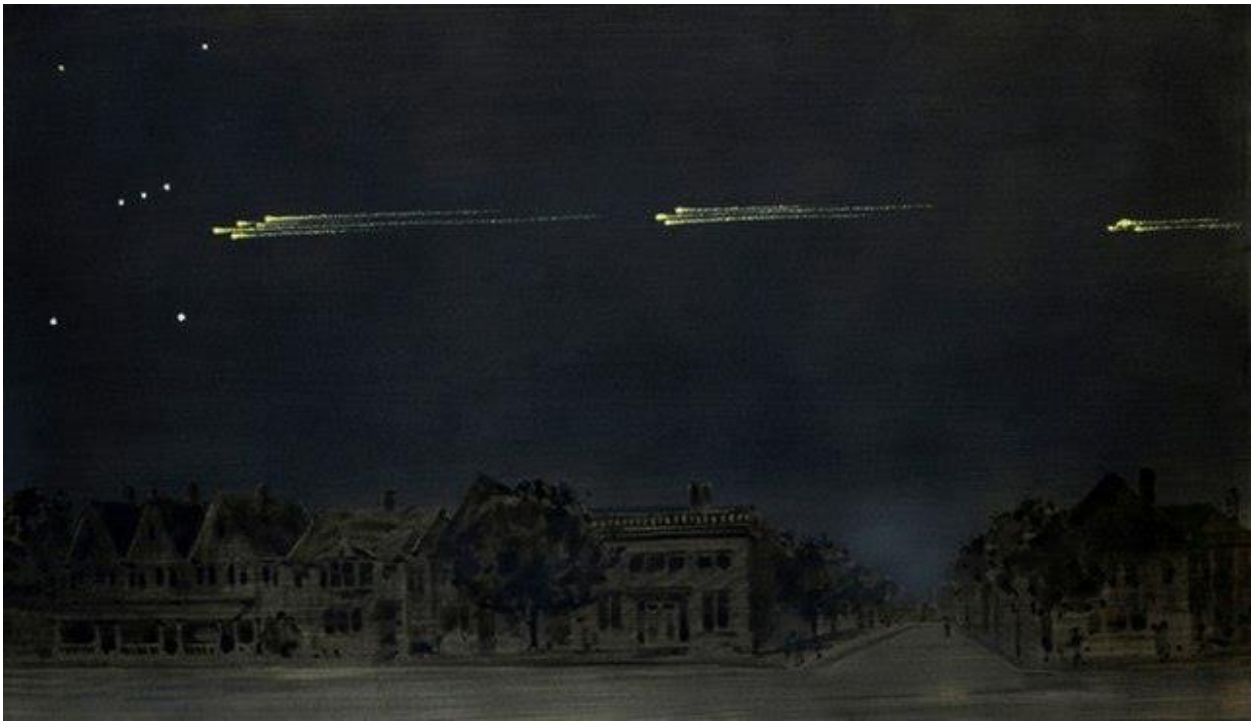
Door 20: Enchanted Forests and Creatures – Miriam Körner

Miriam Körner came to Saskatchewan about 19 years ago from Germany. Miriam left Germany shortly after finishing her master's degree in clinical psychology. She lives near La Ronge in Northern Saskatchewan with her husband and their sled dogs in a small cabin. She built the cabin on her own during the first year in the North. Miriam is an award-winning author, and illustrator as well as a photographer and wilderness guide. She creates her visual art with watercolor, acrylic paints and out of recycled materials. In her pictures and her books, you can see and read her passion for the wilderness, the respect of the people she meets on her journeys, and her love of nature. She believes it is important to exchange ideas and experiences and to respect the culture and traditions of all. The artwork is from her newest book Fox and Bear, which will be published in Canada and Germany. Check out Miriam's work on her blog. Listen to her on our podcast: Northern Saskatchewan Adventures with Miriam Körner

Thanks to Miriam for providing the SGC with the lovely picture from her book 'Fox and Bear'.

Learn German: the sled dog = der Schlittenhund / the wilderness = die Wildnis / the respect = der Respekt



Door 21: Gazing at the Stars – Gustav Hahn

The German Canadian painter and muralist Gustav Hahn, brother of Emanuel Hahn, was born in Reutlingen, in Germany, on July 27th, 1866. He was a pioneer of the Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) movement in Canada, and he loved astronomy. Before moving to Canada with his family in 1888, he studied art at the State Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart. Later in Canada, he worked as an interior designer, and he painted murals in public buildings. Some work can be found in the Ontario Legislature, the Toronto Old City Hall, and many churches and residences. One of his most recognized pieces is the 1913 Great Meteor Procession. On February 9th, 1913, a rare meteoric phenomenon was reported from all over the northeastern United States and Canada. A short-lived natural satellite of the Earth created a procession of between 40 to 60 bright, slow-moving fireballs which were moving along a more or less identical path over the span of about five minutes. Being an avid amateur astronomer, this event naturally caught Gustav Hahn's imagination, and he captured the event as it would have been seen near High Park in Toronto. He taught at the Ontario College of Art, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Central Technical School. In 1906, he also created the piece called Hail Dominion with red and white chalk and graphite on blue grey wove paper. He employed his wife and daughters as models for the figures of Mother Canada and the provinces.

Learn German: the painter – der Maler / the brother – der Bruder / the astronomy – die Astronomie, die Sternkunde

© Public Domain, Meteoric Display of February 9, 1913, as seen near High Park, Gustav Hahn, 1913, Collection University of Toronto

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Door 22: Capturing the Magic of the Season – Fritz Stehwien

Fritz Stehwien loved nature and the open skies of Saskatchewan. He was born in 1914 in the eastern part of Germany, in Saxon Anhalt. Even though he was a pacifist, he was drafted during WW II. During these hard times, he continued to create art, painting landscapes and people he met. At the end of the war, he ended up in a Russian prison camp. Due to his artistic skills he managed to forge his release papers with a paint brush and escape in 1946. Later he attended the Burg Giebichenstein School of Art to complete his art studies in Halle. There, he met his later wife Waltraude. The young family left the communist part of Germany in secret, to settle for a time in Baden Wuerttemberg. In 1968 the family took the opportunity to move to Canada and start a new life in the wide-open prairies. He loved to paint landscapes, cities and towns and their changes due to the seasons. There is the rough estimate of an incredible 10,000 pieces of art he created. If you are interested in following the cataloging process and seeing his work, you should follow the Fritz Stehwien Blog. In 2021, Saskatoon honored his legacy by naming a street in the new neighborhood Aspen Ridge after Fritz Stehwien. On our website, listen to the podcast from Barbara Stehwien about the legacy of Fritz Stehwien.

Thanks to Barbara for supplying the picture of her father Fritz for the SGC.

Learn German: the sky – der Himmel / Germany – Deutschland / Canada = Kanada

Door 23: An Enchanted Time – Otto Reinhold Jacobi

Otto Reinhold Jacobi was born in Königsberg, in the Kingdom of Prussia on February 27th, 1812. He started to teach at Königsberg's Institute for the Deaf and Dumb at the early age of 16, since his father had passed away and Otto's family needed the income. With the support of some of his late father's friends, he studied at the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin, and later at the Art Academy in Düsseldorf. He was appointed the court painter to the Duchess of Nassau and received many commissions from royalty in Europe. Being so successful in Europe, it is surprising, that he decided to move to Canada after a visit to New York in 1860. After completing the commissioned painting of the Shawinigan Falls as a gift to the Prince of Wales, he settled in Montreal with his family. In 1938, he married Sybille Reuter and the couple had two sons and two daughters. Once he settled in Montreal, he continued to send his art to Europe. He painted landscapes and taught private lessons. His pictures show the Canadian landscape often as a romantic and heroic place. In Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts you can see his painting Canadian Autumn. He was one of the few artists who could actually support his family through his paintings. At the beginning his pictures were almost like photographs. He would often take a photograph to ensure the accuracy of the scene. Later in life he would create more idealized paintings.

Learn German: to teach – lehren / the father – der Vater / the income – das Einkommen

© Public Domain – Canadian Fall by Otto Reinhold Jacobi, 1780 Collection Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

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Door 24: Believe in the Magic of Creation – Iris Hauser

Iris Hauser has no German roots herself but married into a German Canadian family. Her connection to Germany intensified when she moved to Kassel accompanying her husband who had won a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutsche Akademischer Austauscher Austausch Dienst). She was born in 1956 in British Columbia and studied art first at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, then at the University of Saskatchewan. Iris has loved art from the beginning. At first intimidated by the skill of the great artists she saw in books, she studied the great painters and gradually taught herself to paint in the classical style. Her work frequently explores the cyclical nature of life. Another recurring theme is the feminist exploration of women as protagonists rather than objects.

Hauser's career choice was clear from the start. She states: "I had no idea how one could become such a strange creature as a professional artist, but I knew it was what I had to do." A year in art school in Halifax exposed Iris to the current trends in contemporary art, which held little interest for her. In the end, she managed to stay true to herself. Visiting many museums during her travels she realized that technical virtuosity is not sufficient on its own. The marriage of form and content found in truly great art can change how you see the world and encompasses the complexity of humanity and connectedness. Take a look at her awesome work here.

Thanks to Iris for providing the SGC with the lovely picture "cockatoo with stones".

Learn German: at first = zuerst / the idea = die Idee, -n / to conform = übereinstimmen