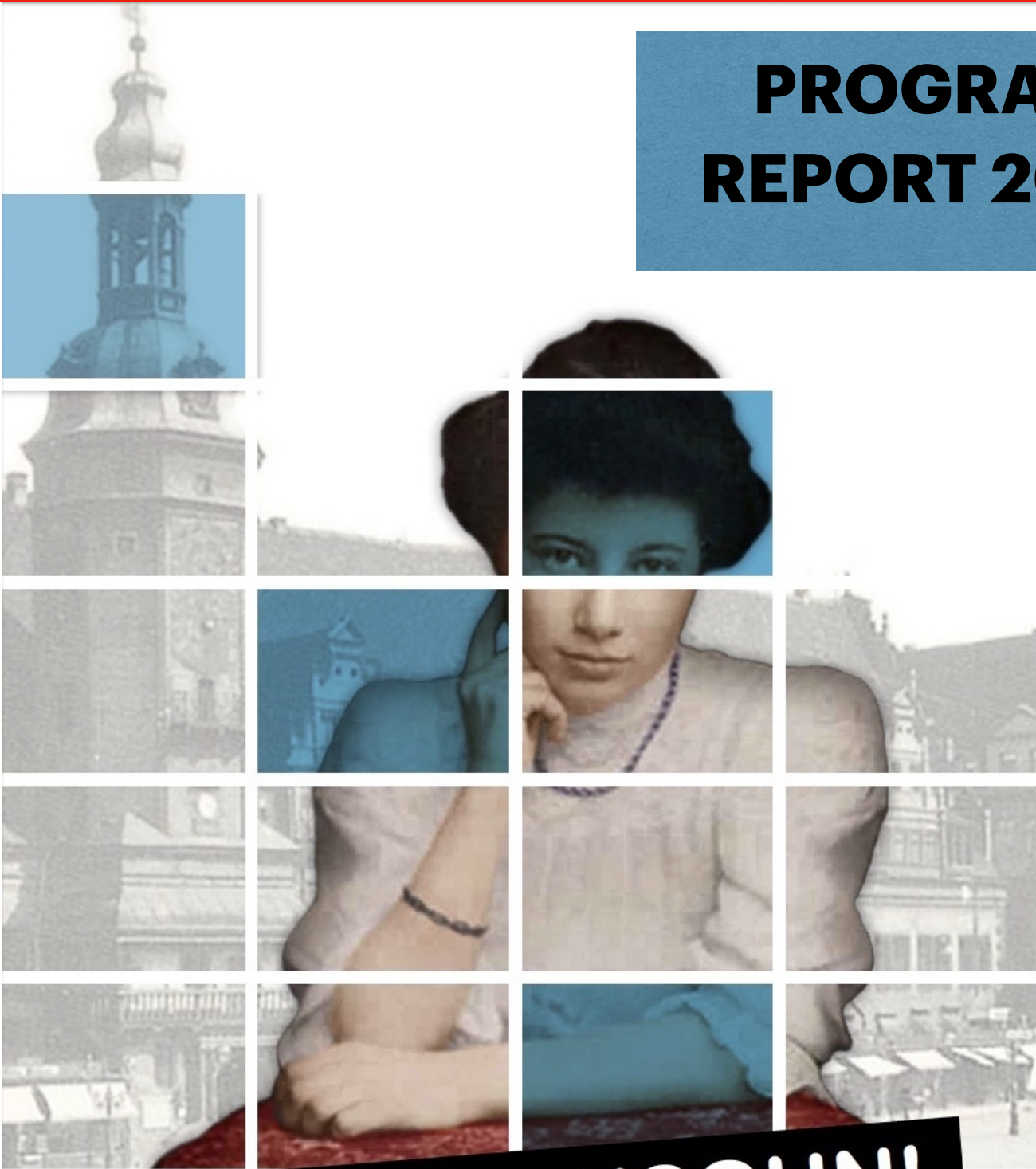


**THE FRITZ ASCHER SOCIETY
FOR PERSECUTED, OSTRACIZED AND BANNED ART**

**PROGRAM
REPORT 2023**



EMMY RUBENSOHN!

Netzwerkerin und Musikförderin –
von Leipzig bis New York



In 2023, we were finally able to start planning exhibitions again, starting with the newly curated exhibition “Emmy Rubensohn! Networker and Music Patron – from Leipzig to New York” at Museen im GRASSI in Leipzig. It had been on view in the Mendelssohn Foyer of the Gewandhaus Leipzig in December 2021, but was cut short, due to Covid-19. The museum context presented a new level of recognition for the Leipzig-born Emmy Rubensohn.

Our main focus were our online events in the lecture series “Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression.” We organized 21 events for our growing global community. Thanks to collaborations with our international network of scholars, institutions and organizations we were able to bring brand new research and a wide range of virtual programs to our audience to discover, learn and discuss. Questions, thoughts and comments were also shared on our social media platforms, including facebook, instagram, and twitter. Our event recordings on the YouTube channel @fritzaschersociety1130 got 18,592 views, have reached 58,000 views and almost 1 Million Impressions (since 2020) - a milestone worth celebrating.

We are delighted when museum colleagues include the artists featured by us into their projects. The Center for Jewish History included the Vienna-born comic artist Lilly Renée in their exhibition “JewCE! The Museum and Laboratory for the Jewish Comics Experience” (October 9, 2023-February 18, 2024).

We were also able to facilitate a donation of artworks and related documents by Benno Elkan from his grandson John Hammil to the Leo Baeck Institute New York. Here, Chief Archivist Frank Mecklenburg and Rachel Stern are holding a model for the round high relief of King Solomon, which depicts him seated amidst flowers and vines in an intimate embrace with a young female lover. This model for the monumental Menorah standing in the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset in Jerusalem was rejected.

After conferences at Georgetown University in Washington, DC (2019) and Fordham University in New York (2022), we are now preparing a book publication “Welcoming the Stranger. Abrahamic Hospitality and its Contemporary Implications,” which will be published by Fordham University Press in 2024.



Beyond that, 2023 was a year of recovery from the effects from Covid-19, with a re-assessment of our programs and the direction of the organization as it is approaching its 10th anniversary in 2024.

We thank our institutional and organizational partners, and 2023's sponsors, among them Reinwald GmbH and the Abraham & Gizella Berger Foundation, the Hulisch/Flechtheim Fund and the Scheidt Charitable Foundation. And we very much thank the growing number of loyal individuals who generously support us.

Thank you for being part of our community.

With gratitude and well wishes,

Rachel Stern

Executive Director
The Fritz Ascher Society
for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art

MISSION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art (FAS) tells untold stories of artists marginalized and persecuted by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. By discussing, exhibiting and publishing their work, we commemorate their lives and artistic achievements and teach about the Holocaust. FAS furthers the understanding of the history of the 20th century and initiates an active dialogue about individuality and integrity in response to conditions of extreme duress and to political tyranny.

VISION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art (FAS) enriches the understanding of the history of the 20th century by introducing untold stories of artists persecuted for their personal or communal identity by the German Nazi regime. Our projects create a safe space that allows diverse audiences to discuss highly relevant topics in an environment that surpasses ethnic, cultural and religious differences. We encourage the embrace of otherness and openness towards the stranger, and ultimately help create a more empathic society.



EXHIBITION

Emmy Rubensohn! Netzwerkerin und Musikförderin - von Leipzig bis New York
[Emmy Rubensohn! Networker and Music Patron – from Leipzig to New York], on view
June 25, 2023 – January 14, 2024 at Museen im GRASSI

This year, we again showed the exhibition about the networker and music patron Emmy Rubensohn (1884-1961), which had been on view in the Mendelssohn Foyer of the Gewandhaus Leipzig in December 2021.

Cut short, due to Covid-19, we showed it again, at Museen im GRASSI. Co-curated by Léontine Meijer-van Mensch and Rachel Stern, Matthias Henke and Stefan Hindtsche, it was re-configured and contextualized with original Chinese instruments from the collection of the GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments.

Born in Leipzig in 1884 as the daughter of the Jewish entrepreneurial family Frank, she attended Gewandhaus concerts at an early age and collected autographs from prominent artists of her time.

From 1907 onwards, her house in Kassel became a cultural meeting place where, among others, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Walter Braunfels and Ernst Krenek made guest appearances. The latter completed the opera "Jonny Spielt Auf" here, the greatest opera success of the 1920s.

From 1933 onwards, Emmy and her husband Ernst were exposed to increasing threats from the Nazi regime. Emmy organized concerts for the Jewish Cultural Association to provide Jewish musicians with an income. In 1940 the couple fled to Shanghai via Berlin. There, too, Emmy surrounded herself with music and culture and organized concerts. In 1947 the couple managed to emigrate to New York. Her guestbook is evidence of her diverse network.

The exhibition's patron was Ken Toko, US Consul General for Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia.

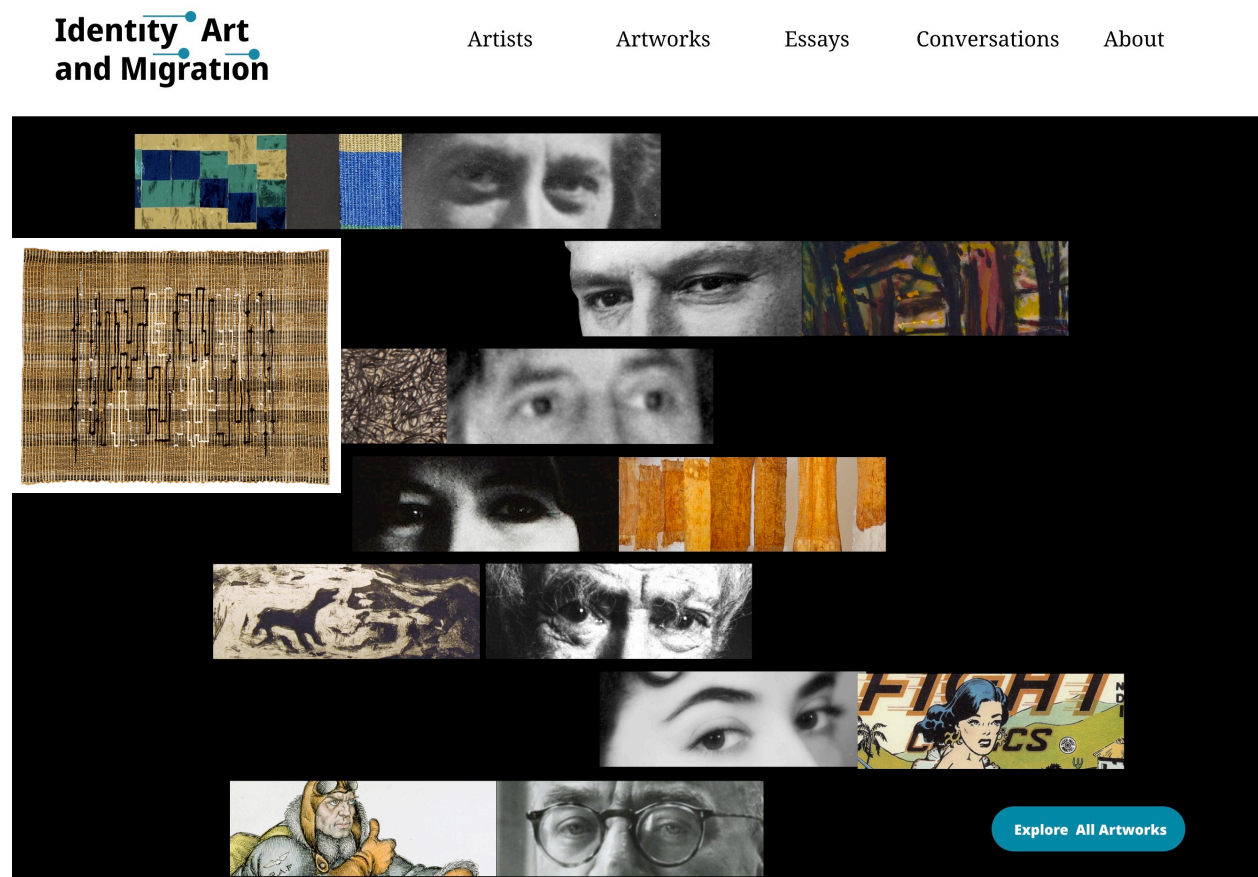
The exhibition was organized by the GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde, and the Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art in New York, supported by the GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

“Identity, Art and Migration” (IAM) (<https://migration.fritzaschersociety.org/>)

February 27, 2022, until February 27, 2027 Online (exhibition planned for 2028)

Responding to today's unprecedented numbers of migrants, our virtual exhibition "Identity, Art and Migration" investigates the experience of seven Jewish European artists who were forced to abandon their country of origin, or remain in hiding for years, in response to Nazi policies in effect from 1933 to 1945. These six artists: Anni Albers, Friedel Dzubas, Eva Hesse, Rudi Lesser, Lily Renée and Arthur Szyk emigrated to the United States, while one, Fritz Ascher, stayed behind in Germany, hiding in a basement for three years. These artists' lives and work address the multi-layered concept of identity and the particulars of its expression from slightly different angles. In scholarly essays, weekly virtual discussions and two virtual conferences between October 13, 2021 and January 5, 2022, and a multi-layered virtual exhibition launched in February 2022, we explored how these wrenching experiences affected their sense of who they were, and the art they made.

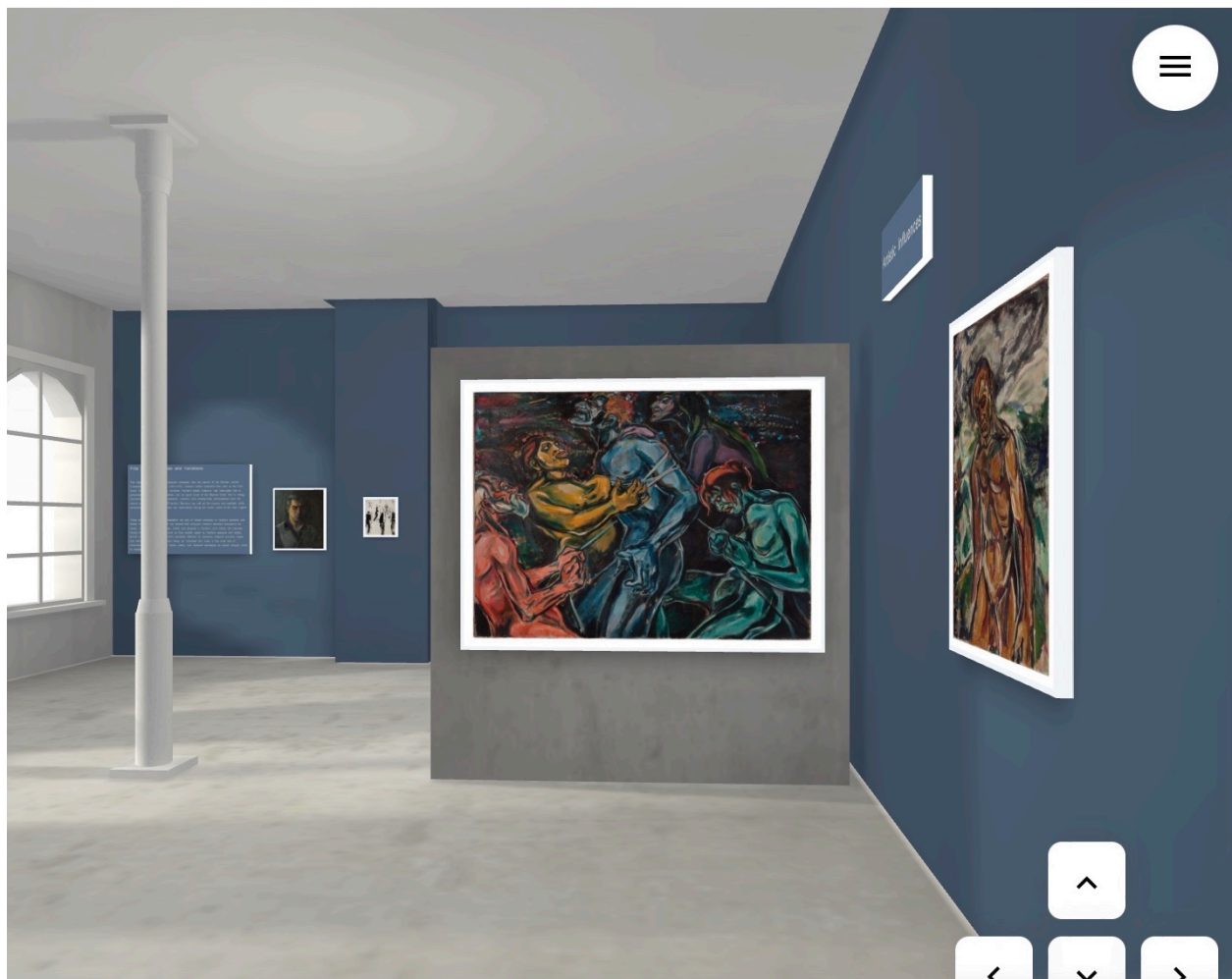


The **virtual exhibition “Fritz Ascher: Themes and Variations”**

(<https://fritzaschersociety.org/fritz-ascher-themes-and-variations/>)

September 30, 2021 until September 30, 2026

It allows a virtual tour of important examples from the oeuvre of the German Jewish Expressionist artist Fritz Ascher (1893-1970). These selected works are representative not only of critical moments in Ascher’s personal and artistic development, but also of key themes that occupied Ascher’s attention throughout his career. Through the links in every image description, and again on the website page dedicated to the exhibition, those key themes are explored in videos and interviews, photos and artworks, short introductions and scholarly texts.





VIRTUAL EVENTS

We continued the highly successful **online lecture series “Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression,”** which investigates the untold stories of artists marginalized and persecuted by the German Nazi regime and the context they lived in. All lectures were recorded and are available on our YouTube channel @fritzaschersociety1130.



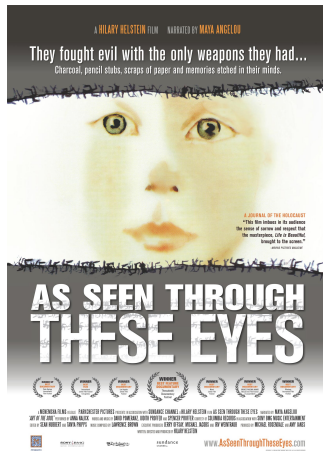
Thank you to the artists and their descendants and to the researchers who shared with us incredible artwork and inspiring life stories of creativity, determination, and resilience.



January 11, 2023

Back into The Light. Four Women Artists - Their Works. Their Paths. Rosy Lilienfeld, Amalie Seckbach, Erna Pinner, Ruth Cahn

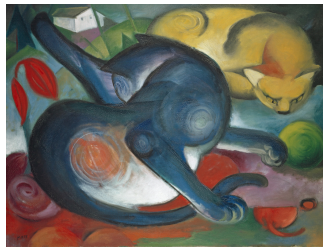
Featuring Dr. Eva Sabrina Atlan, Deputy Director of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt, Frankfurt (Germany)



January 25, 2023

As Seen Through These Eyes.

Film Screening followed by Conversation with Film Director Hilary Helstein, Los Angeles



February 2, 2023

Castaway Modernism. Basel's Acquisitions of "Degenerate Art"

Featuring Dr. Eva Reifert, Curator of 19th-Century and Modern Art at Kunstmuseum Basel (Switzerland)



February 15, 2023

Seven Murals by Philip Orenstein (b. 1938). A French-Jewish Perspective on France During WWII

Featuring Paris-born child survivor and visual artist Philip Orenstein, followed by a conversation with Dr. Nadine Orenstein, Metropolitan Museum, New York



March 1, 2023

Dorothy Bohm (1924-2023) : A World Observed

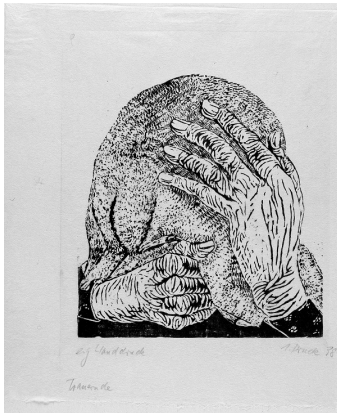
Featuring Monica Bohm-Duchen, freelance writer, lecturer, curator and daughter of the artist, London (UK)



March 15, 2023

The Art of Felix Lembersky (1913-1970)

Featuring Ori Z Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University, Washington DC and Yelena Lembersky, granddaughter of the artist and co-author of the memoir, Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour: Memories of Soviet Russia



March 29, 2023

"Sweet Kitsch, I can't do that." Maria Luis (1904-1941)

Featuring Wolfram P. Kastner, independent artist, researcher and curator, and Mascha Erbeling, director of the puppet theatre / fairground attractions collection at the Museum of the City of Munich, both Munich (Germany)



April 17, 2023

Early Israeli and American Artists: Re-Visioning the Holocaust

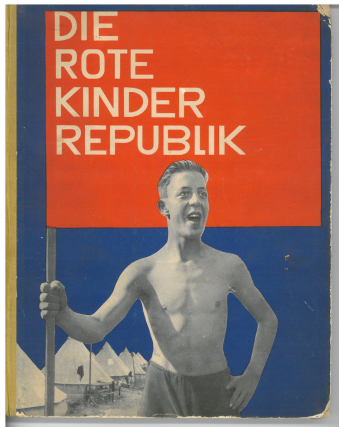
Featuring Ori Z Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University, Washington, DC



April 26, 2023

Benno Elkan (1877-1960) and the Definition of Israeli Art

Featuring Ori Z Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University,
Washington, DC



May 3, 2023

The Missing Archive: Bauhaus Designers and the Holocaust

Featuring Elizabeth Otto, PhD, professor for modern and
contemporary art history and gender studies at the State
University of New York at Buffalo, NY



June 7, 2023

**Erwin Blumenfeld (1897-1968), from Berlin to New York.
A Life in Photography**

Featuring Nadia Blumenfeld Charbit, granddaughter of the
artist, Paris (France)



July 19, 2023

**Between America and France:
Varian Fry and the Rescue of Artists**

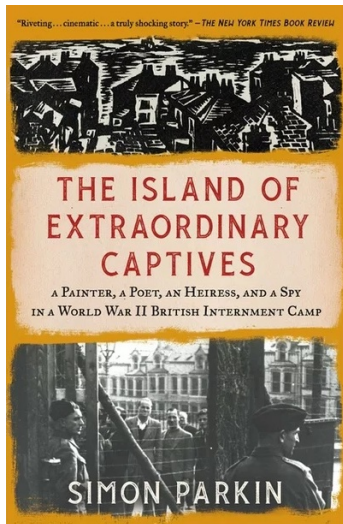
Featuring Ori Z Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University)



August 9, 2023

**A Painter in Search of an Audience:
Marie-Louise von Motesiczky (1906-1996) in Exile**

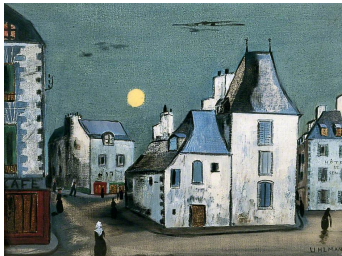
Featuring Ines Schlenker, London (UK)



August 23, 2023

The Island of Extraordinary Captives

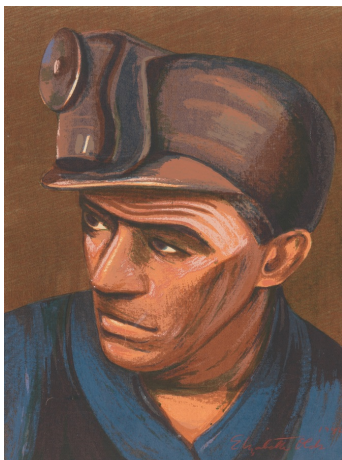
Featuring author Simon Parkin, London (UK)



September 13, 2023

**From Émigré to Englishman:
Fred Uhlman (1901-1985), 'Painter of Dreams'**

Featuring Dr Nicola Baird, London South Bank University,
London (UK)



September 27, 2023

**ART FOR THE MILLIONS:
American Culture and Politics in the 1930s**

Featuring Allison Rudnick, Associate Curator in the Department
of Drawings and Prints at the Metropolitan Museum of Art New
York, NY



October 25, 2023

Eva Zeisel (1906-2011), Designer Extraordinaire

Featuring Jean Richards, actor and author, and daughter of the artist, New City, NY



November 8, 2023

Horst Eisfelder (1925-2023):

Diasporic Life in Shanghai's State of Exception

Featuring Noit Banai, PhD, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong (China), Anna Hirsh, PhD, Melbourne Holocaust Museum, Melbourne (Australia) and Rodney Eisfelder, son of the artist, Melbourne (Australia)



November 15, 2023

Peter László Péri (1899-1967).

A Hungarian-born Artist in Berlin and London

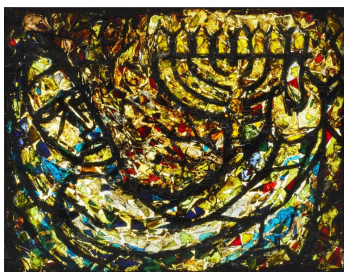
Featuring Arie Hartog, director of the Gerhard-Marcks-Haus, Bremen (Germany). Introductory remarks by Lilla Farkas, Cultural attaché at the Consulate General of Hungary, New York, NY



December 6, 2023

Klaus Friedeberger (1922-2019). Journey around the World

Featuring Monica Sidhu, author of a forthcoming monograph about the artist, Julie Friedeberger, wife of the artist, and Stephen Coppel, Assistant Keeper and Curator of Modern Prints and Drawings, British Museum, all London (UK)

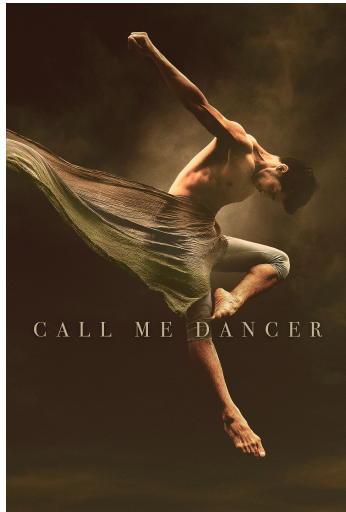


December 13, 2023

Samson Schames (1898-1967): Fragments of Exile

Featuring Annika Friedman, Curatorial Project Manager, Permanent Exhibition in the Rothschild Palais, Jewish Museum Frankfurt, Frankfurt (Germany)

LIVE EVENT



December 19, 2023

Theatrical Release "Call me Dancer"

Quad Cinema, New York, NY

Post-Screening Q&A with Film Director and Producer Leslie Shampaine and Dancer Danish Chauhan, moderated by Ori Z Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

This special celebration was co-organized by The Fritz Ascher Society, the World Jewish Congress North America, and tenfourteen. It was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York.



From left: Rachel Stern, Betty Ehrenberg, Ambassador Jonathan Miller, Deputy Permanent Representative, Israel Delegation to UN, Leslie Shampaine, Ori Z Soltes, Eddna Samuel, Israel Nitzan, Danish Chauhan