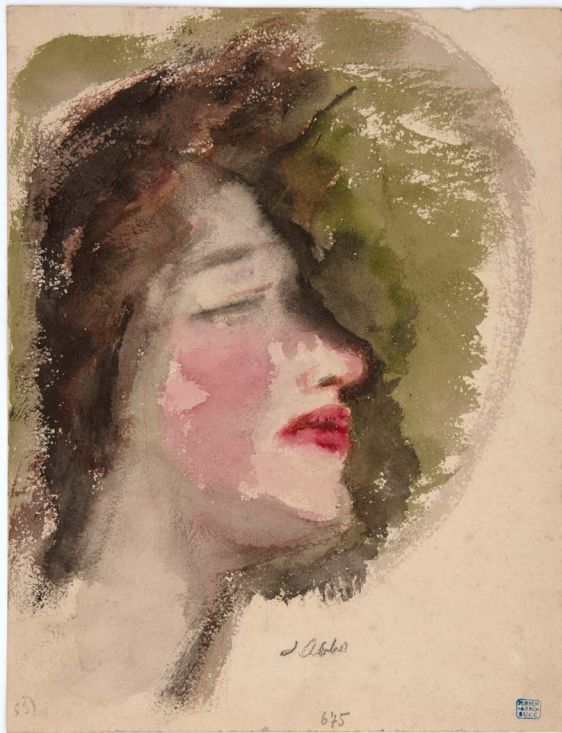


Jussuf Abbo, Ohne Titel (Frauenkopf mit roten Lippen im Profil), um 1920,
© Angela Abbo, Brighton/UK, Repro: Kai-Annett Becker



Donation

Jussuf Abbo

(1888 – 1953)

**Works on paper in the
permanent exhibition**

until 6 July 2020

Ever since the Berlinische Galerie was founded 45 years ago, the museum has championed artists discredited and driven out by the Nazis. Rescuing their art from oblivion and keeping its cultural memory alive has been a constant factor in our collection, exhibition and education practice. We are rarely able, however, to purchase works of Expressionism or New Objectivity, and can usually only do so with generous financial support from the Senate of Berlin or private benefactors. All the more fortunate, then, are donations from the descendants of persecuted or exiled artists.

One such donation was received in 2016 from the family of the sculptor Jussuf Abbo (1888 – 1953), who now live in the United Kingdom and France. The contact was established by Dr Dorothea Schöne, director of Kunsthau Dahlem. In 2019 she published a richly illustrated scholarly monograph devoted to Abbo's life and work, and she recently designed the first solo exhibition at Kunsthau Dahlem.

Jussuf Abbo in Berlin

Who was Jussuf Abbo? He was born in Safed in the Vilayet of Beirut, which was initially in the Ottoman Empire, later in Palestine, and today lies in Israel. After he finished school, Abbo worked as a stonemason and draughtsman. In Jerusalem he met the architect Otto Hoffmann, upon whose recommendation he was admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin in 1913 to study sculpture. In 1917 Abbo exhibited with the Berlin Secession. In 1919 he took part in shows organised by the art dealer Paul Cassirer. In 1921 the Nationalgalerie purchased three of his drawings. His sculpted figures and portraits, simple and understated, brought him success in the 1920s. He was involved in the artistic and literary life of the city and became a close friend of the poet Else Lasker-Schüler.

In Berlin Jussuf Abbo lived and worked in the Tiergarten district right by the Landwehrkanal. The address was Reichpietschufer 92, but the building there now is new, and a plaque was added in 2018 to recall the forgotten artist. In his own day Abbo erected a Bedouin tent in his studio, and Else Lasker-Schüler rented it to look after her sick son, who died of tuberculosis in 1927. In 1933 Jussuf Abbo met the artist Ruth Schulz. The persecution of Jews soon forced the couple to leave Germany. In 1935 they managed to travel to England. However, their initial hopes that soon they could work and exhibit without difficulty were dashed. Jussuf Abbo died in poverty in London in 1953.



His grandson Sebastian Abbo, on behalf of his elderly mother, was keen to return works by the sculptor to Berlin and place them in a public collection. Working with him, Dr Annelie Lütgens, the Curator of Prints & Drawings at the Berlinische Galerie, selected 20 works on paper dating from the years 1916 to 1929. A few of these are now on view in the exhibition from our permanent collection, including a portrait of Else Lasker-Schüler, who also styled herself “Prince Yussuf”.

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Admission
8€, concessions 5€
Wed–Mon 10 am–6 pm
Tue closed