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Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation | www.jdcrp.org

Initial List: Documenting Persecuted Jewish Artists

The Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation announces the recent publication of [a first transnational list documenting the lives of Jewish artists persecuted during the National Socialist era](#). This initial list includes names, biographies, and archival documentation of 1,000 visual artists who lived or worked in France, Germany, and Poland.

„The majority of these artists have received little attention, as they lacked sufficient time during their shortened lives to produce large quantities of artworks or because so much of their work vanished or was destroyed,” said Ariela Braunschweig, provenance researcher responsible for the concept and research of the list. “Furthermore, many of the survivors were often unable to pursue their artistic careers after their traumatic wartime experiences. New technological possibilities afford these artists renewed visibility in the digital era.”

This initial compilation of Jewish persecuted artists uses transnational research to shed light and fill significant gaps on the fate of the many unknown and overlooked persecuted visual artists who were Holocaust victims. The list was prepared in collaboration with an international group of archival and museum experts.

The lives and work of some of these artists have been the focus of monographs, academic research, museum exhibitions, and catalogue raisonnés. However, the JDCRP list is the first initiative to centralize information on these persecuted Jewish artists from various local institutions and previous research projects, pooling from resources such as archives, databases, exhibitions, literature, and museum records. By consolidating fragmented information from various digitized and local projects, further research opportunities on each artist are facilitated, enabling a deeper understanding of their contributions and the impact of persecution on their lives and careers.

In addition to rescuing the names and lives of countless persecuted Jewish artists, the roster highlights the contribution they made to 20th-century European cultural history. “Countless Jewish visual artists played an instrumental role in shaping the artistic landscape in the early 20th century, creating iconic works that left indelible marks on the canvas of art history, said Braunschweig. “Tragically, their contributions to the art world are fading into obscurity due to their persecution and the deliberate efforts of the Nazi regime to obliterate their work and lives.”

Where possible, entries on the artists provide additional details, with links to multiple sources and biographical information. Other entries reflect the ongoing challenge of reconciling conflicting or incomplete information. Additional research on the persecution fate of each artist is ongoing, and the inclusion of artists from additional countries is planned to establish as comprehensive a list as possible. At a further stage, the list will be linked to the JDCRP cross-searchable platform, bringing together for the first time in digital form the names of Jewish artists from across Europe who were persecuted by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

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“This is a collective endeavour to restore stolen biographies, rescue the achievements of Jewish artists persecuted during the Nazi era, and provide information to ensure their remembrance by future generations,” said JDCRP Executive Board Chair Deidre Berger.

JDCRP invites individuals and additional institutions to contribute names, information, insights, and personal stories that could enrich the documentation of persecuted Jewish artists. Information should be sent to info@jdcrp.org.

Support by the David Berg Foundation for the initial research and development of the list is gratefully acknowledged, as is additional support by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) for a second phase of enhancement and expansion of the list.

The Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation was founded in Berlin in 2019 by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR). The foundation aims to create a cross-searchable digital platform for archival documentation, research, and education on the looting of Jewish-owned cultural property by the Nazis, their allies, and collaborators.

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