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**Ein Weg nach der eigenen Nase, ein Gehen im eigenen Rhythmus.
Will Sohl 1906 – 1969**

Edited by Künstlernachlässe Mannheim
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AN INSIGHT INTO WILL SOHL'S WIDE-RANGING OEUVRE AND EXCITING LIFE

Born in Ludwigshafen and raised in Mannheim, Will Sohl was supported early on by the directors of the Kunsthalle Mannheim Gustav F. Hartlaub, Walter Passarge, and Fritz Wichert. Together with his best friend, the artist Joachim Lutz, he took an active part in the cultural life of the city of Heidelberg after the Second World War.

Sylt, Iceland, the Lofoten – these were the places of his longing, his treasured destinations: landscapes, that he captured in brightly watercolors and on magnificent canvases. Will Sohl also found his motifs in his nearby surroundings, for example in the garden of the porter's lodge of Stift Neuburg, where the artist had lived with his family since 1936. But there also was another side to Will Sohl: He worked for the architect Otto Bartning, created mosaics for churches and public buildings, designed church windows and book covers for the S. Fischer publishing house. He also worked as an illustrator for newspapers and was a stage designer at the theater. This book documents a life full of contradictions and tensions and makes accessible the artist's wide-ranging oeuvre for the first time since 1970.

»Auf dem Kunstmarkt war Will Sohl in den letzten Jahrzehnten nur noch mit seinen Aquarellen bekannt. Ihn aber ausschließlich darauf festzulegen, greift definitiv zu kurz und wird ihm ganz sicher nicht gerecht. Die Auseinandersetzung mit seinen Arbeiten in unserem Nachlass und darüber hinaus zeigt, wie vielfältig sein künstlerisches Werk ist und wie viele Facetten seine Arbeiten haben,

wie originell manchmal seine Lösungen sind, wie poetisch seine Auffassung von Natur, Mensch und Welt.«

– from the text by Susanne Kaeppele, Silvia Köhler, Christine Schumann

Will Sohl (1906-1969) studied at the Academy of Arts in Düsseldorf as well as History of Art and Archeology in Cologne, Zurich, and Berlin. In 1928 he became the master student of Heinrich Nauen, the most important representative of the Rhenish Expressionism. In the same year he had his first exhibition at the *Mannheimer Kunstverein*.

From 1936 he lived in Heidelberg-Ziegelhausen with his family. As a painter he is attributed to Expressionism, which he carried on after 1945. Sohl achieved great awareness beyond the region; museums in Freiburg, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Kiel, and Cologne exhibit his works.

www.kuenstlernachlaesse-mannheim.de

Exhibitions and events

Will Sohl – Artists' Book reloaded, Port25, Room of Contemporary Art, Mannheim
22.06. – 26.08.2018

Talk: MARCHIVUM, Mannheim
05.07.2018, 6 pm

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Press images



1_Selbstbildnis mit Segelboot, 1932. Öl auf Leinwand, 70 x 55 cm
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2_Mädchen mit buntem Schal, 1932. Öl auf Leinwand, 91,5 x 63 cm
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3_Kopf eines Arabers, 19.12.1955. Aquarell auf Papier, 64 x 49 cm
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4_Biskaya, 4.11.1955. Aquarell auf Papier, 39 x 29 cm
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5_Großer blauer Fels, Island, 1966. Mischtechnik auf Papier, 50 x 72,5 cm
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6_Wolkenschatten, 1952. Aquarell auf Papier, 50 x 65 cm
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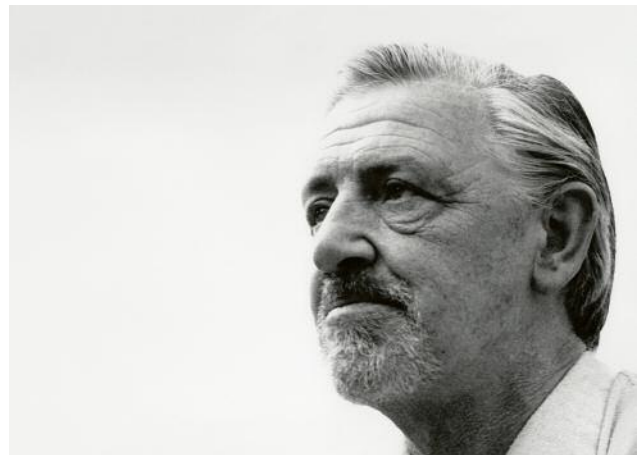
7_Gartenkonzert im Schloss Gaibach, Illustration aus: Fürstbischöfliche Badereise 1722, S. 67
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8_Jahrmarktserinnerungen, 1941: Feuerspuckende Artistin. Aquarell auf Papier, 45,3 x 31,8 cm
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9_Die Geschichte vom bösen Mann: o.T., 1937. Aquarell auf Papier, 31,5 x 25,5 cm
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10_Will Sohl, 1960er Jahre
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11_Entwurf für die Fenster in der Deutschsprachigen Evangelischen Gemeinde in Barcelona: o.J. Aquarell auf Papier, 29,5 x 32,5 cm
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12_Glasfenster Brüderkapelle, Stift Neuburg, Ziegelhausen
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