

8.4. – 17.9. 2017

HAMBURGER BAHNHOF
– MUSEUM FÜR GEGENWART – BERLIN

SKULPTUREN UND

Biography Rudolf Belling

1886 Rudolf Belling is born in Berlin on 26 August.

1905 In addition to attending a modeller training programme, he takes sculpting classes and attends lectures and dissection classes at a veterinary college.

1908 Opens a studio for applied art, which, among other things, supplies Max Reinhardt's theatres with theatrical decoration.

1910 The studio closes. He studies at the royal arts college Königlich akademische Hochschule für die bildenden Künste while working for a theatre workshop that caters to film productions.

1914 Participates for the first time in the exhibition *Grosse Berliner Kunstausstellung*.

1915 In the First World War, he is conscripted and assigned to the Johannisthal-Adlershof airfield. He is artistically active in his spare time, modelling the figure of Golem for the film by Paul Wegener.

1918 Membership in the Arbeitsrat für Kunst (Workers' Council for Art) and the Novembergruppe (November Group). Belling collaborates with architects, for example working on the home of art dealer Wolfgang Gurlitt, for which *Grosse Gruppe Natur* (Large Nature Group) is created.

1919 First solo exhibition in Gurlitt's art salon. The sculpture *Dreiklang* (Triad) is completed.

1920 Designs interiors for the Scala dance casino. Exhibition at Galerie Flechtheim in Düsseldorf.

1921 Exhibition at Galerie Goyert in Cologne. Belling designs modern mannequins, which are patented as »Moden-Plastiken« or »fashion sculptures«.

1922 Marries the dancer Toni Friedlaender (stage name: Toni Freedon).

1923 Fountain sculpture for Villa Goldstein. Enters the competition for the development of the square Nollendorfplatz. *Skulptur 23* is created.

1924 The Nationalgalerie holds a solo exhibition of his works at the Kronprinzenpalais.

1925 *Kopf in Messing* (Head in Brass) is sculpted.

1926 The headquarters of the German Printers' Association, a building by Max Taut, is inaugurated, featuring three works by Belling.

1927 Signs a contract with gallery owner Alfred Flechtheim.

1928 Birth of his son Thomas.

1930 Belling is represented at the German pavilion at the Art Biennale in Venice.

1931 Six works are shown in the exhibition *German Painting and Sculpture* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Inducted as a member of the Preussische Akademie der Künste (Prussian Academy of Art).

1933 With the seizure of power by the Nazis, the planned appointment of Belling to professorship at the Vereinigte Staatsschulen für freie und angewandte Kunst (United National Schools for Fine and Applied Art) in Berlin does not take place. His house and studio building are erected in Berlin-Lichterfelde.

1935 Toni Freedon and Rudolf Belling divorce. Belling teaches at the Annot Art School in New York and exhibits at the Rockefeller Center. His exhibits remain in New York and survive the war. Belling returns to Germany.

1937 Becomes the director of the Sculpture Department at the Fine Arts Academy in Istanbul. *Dreiklang* and *Kopf in Messing* are confiscated from Berlin's Nationalgalerie on 7 July and shown at the *Entartete Kunst* (Degenerate Art) exhibition in Munich. At the same time, Belling is represented with a figure of the boxer Max Schmeling at the *Grosse Deutsche Kunstausstellung*, which reflected the Nazi taste in art. On 10 August, he complies with the demand that he declare his resignation from the Preussische Akademie der Künste.

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1938 Completes designs for a monument honouring the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Kemal Atatürk.

1942 Having emigrated to Shanghai with her second husband, Toni Freeden dies of tuberculosis. Belling marries Yolanda Manzini in Istanbul.

1943 Belling's studio in Berlin is destroyed in the war; loss of numerous works. Birth of his daughter Elisabeth in Istanbul.

1949 *Skulptur 49* (Sculpture 49) is created in memory of *Dreiklang*, which Belling believes is destroyed. In fact, it would return to the Nationalgalerie (East) that same year.

1953 Belling changes his place of work, teaching in the Architecture Department of the Technical University of Istanbul.

1955 Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

1956 Renamed member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin (West). Exhibition in Hagen, the first show of his works in Germany since the war.

1961 Belling has a house and studio built in Krailling, near Munich.

1962 Exhibition at the Akademie der Künste Berlin (West).

1966 On 6 January, Belling returns permanently to Germany. On 16 June, Thomas Belling dies.

1967 Commissioned to create the large sculpture *Blütenmotiv als Friedenssymbol* (Flower Motif as a Peace Symbol) for the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

1971 Honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Munich.

1972 Belling is honoured for his life's work with the Order of Merit with Star of the Federal Republic of Germany. He dies on 9 June in Krailling.