



PRESSEINFORMATION
PRESS RELEASE

Picture Stories. Portraits of Munich Jews

Duration: 05/15/2024–03/02/2025

Press conference: MON | 05/13/2024 | 11 a.m.

Opening: TUE | 05/14/2024 | 7 p.m.

A boy in a sailor suit, a lady in a beret and with huge puffed sleeves, a rabbi with an open prayer book. In its exhibition entitled “Picture Stories. Portraits of Munich Jews,” the Jewish Museum Munich shows well-known and forgotten faces and asks:

Who had their portrait painted by whom? How did they want to be seen?

What kind of person did they want to represent?

Visits to studios formed part of the self-image of Munich’s bourgeoisie to which Jews also belonged from the middle of the 19th century onward. Their portraits tell of their contribution to municipal society as well as of the long path to emancipation and their struggle to be seen. The exhibition traces the stories behind some 40 portraits and shows the multiplicity of Jewish identities.

After 1933, the situation of Jewish artists and their clients changed abruptly. Munich Jews were systematically deprived of their rights and persecuted. Many of the portraits shown survived with family members in exile and had long been forgotten in Munich.

In a pop-up gallery, visitors of all ages can draw their own portraits and be included in the exhibition.

Children and families can explore the exhibition by following their own tour.

With texts in Easy-to-read German.

Curators: Bernhard Purin s.A. and Lara Theobalt in cooperation with Yuval Schneider

Exhibition Architecture: Architect Martin Kohlbauer

Exhibition Catalogue (in German only)

Bildgeschichten. Münchner Jüdinnen und Juden im Porträt

Edited by Bernhard Purin, Lara Theobalt and Lilian Harlander

128 pages, € 22,00, ISBN 978-3-95565-643-0,

With contributions by Dr. Andrea Bambi, Monika Berthold-Hilpert, Lilian Harlander, Ulrike Heikau, Diana Oesterle, Yuval Schneider, Beate Thalberg, Lara Theobalt, Sapir von Abel, Ayleen Winkler



Offers

Beyond the Canvas. Jewish Identities in Portraiture

Tour recommended from Year 8 upward

Portraiture has always been more than just self-portrayal. Portraits are an expression of a time and momentary social, political and historical records.

In the tour “Beyond the Canvas. Jewish Identities in Portraiture”, we take a look beyond the canvas and examine various Jewish identities in the current exhibition “Picture Stories”. The focus is on the 19th century and the Jewish emancipation. The people depicted lie at the center of this tour: What motivated them? What contribution did Jews make to society in Munich? What gaps and breaks are there in their family histories?

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Ein Museum der Landeshauptstadt München