

Short biography of Max Gubler

1898

On May 26, Paul Max was born, after his brothers Eduard (1891–1971) and Ernst (1895–1958), as the third son of Heinrich Eduard Gubler (1865–1948), stage painter and restorer of wall paintings, and Berta Gubler-Plüss (1864–1942) in Zürich-Aussersihl.

1905

Max Gubler's father was commissioned to restore the frescoes of the pilgrimage church in Riedertal in the Canton of Uri. Subsequently the family annually spent their summer holidays in Riedertal.

1914

Max Gubler enrolled in the cantonal Küssnacht teachers' college, as his two older brothers had already done before him, but 1918 he dropped out, to the disappointment of his family in order to work as an independent artist from this time on.

1919

Max Gubler met Maria Gronenschild (1898–1961), who was born in Düsseldorf and who he wedded on 1927.

1924

Max Gubler traveled to Italy with Maria. After stays in Venice, Florence, and Sicily, they moved to Lipari, an island that lies to the north of Sicily.

1930/31

Max and Maria Gubler moved to Paris, then to Montrouge near Paris. First successes as a painter.

1937–40

Max Gubler had his own house with a studio built in Unterengstringen. Over the next twenty years he found all his landscape motifs there.

1942–45

The Solothurn eye specialist, collector, and patron of the arts Walter Schnyder (1892–1980) initiated that a solo exhibition of Max Gubler's work be mounted at the Kunstmuseum Solothurn.

1952/53

Together with the sculptor Jakob Probst (1880–1966) and the draftsman Hans Fischer (1909–1958), Max Gubler represented Switzerland in 1952 at the 26th Venice Biennial.

1957

In September, Max Gubler was diagnosed with heart block, which slowed down his heart rate. Temporarily he had to discontinue his artistic work. His growing depression made him hallucinate and attempt suicide. His wife Maria had her first heart attack.

1958

Gubler's paranoia with fits of violence became worse. With the consent of his wife, he was committed to a psychiatric hospital.

1959–61

Gubler was in sanatoriums for diverse periods. With breaks, however, he continued working on his art, sometimes at the hospitals, sometimes in his studio in the Limmat region under the supervision of a medical practitioner. In 1961 his wife Maria died of another heart attack. Max Gubler discontinued painting altogether.

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1962

The Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen mounted a comprehensive solo exhibition of Max Gubler's work, which received an enthusiastic reception in the media as well as from the public and collectors. Subsequently, the exhibition traveled to the Städtische Galerie München in Lenbachhaus, the Kunsthalle Bremen, the Städtisches Museum Trier, the Gemeentemuseum in Den Haag, and the Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art Luxembourg.

1973

Max Gubler died on July 29 at the age of 75 years at the psychiatric university hospital in Zurich.

You can find a more detailed biography in the catalogue.

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