

## **Biography Kurt Schwitters**

June 20, 1887

Born in Hanover

1904

Produced his first works on paper

1908/09

Studied at the Hanover School of Applied Arts

1909-1915

Studied at the Royal Saxon Academy of Art in Dresden

Wrote his first poems and prose

August 1911

Participated in his first exhibition in the Kunstverein Hannover, showing there regularly until 1934

October 5, 1915

Married Helma Fischer

1918

His work increasingly engaged with abstraction; executed the first abstract drawings of his "Z" Series

The Kestner Museum in Hanover purchased 18 of his drawings

June 1918

He participated for the first time in an exhibition in Herwarth Walden's "Der Sturm" Gallery in Berlin

Fall 1918

Established ties to the dada movement. Produced his first collages

November 16, 1918

His son Ernst was born

Summer 1919

Publication of the programmatic text *Die Merzmalerei* (Merz Paintings) and the poem *An Anna Blume* in *Der Sturm* Magazin. Executed his first stamp drawings

1923

Presumably commenced work on his Merzbau in Hanover

Publication of the first issue of his Merz journal (published until 1932)

1924

Founded the Merz Advertising Office where he often worked in the following years as a typographer

1927

Co-founder of the group "The Abstract Hanoverians"

1929

Became a member of the artists' society Cercle et Carré in Paris

July 1929

First trip to Scandinavia

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1930-1936

Annual trips to Norway; sojourns especially in the North-West on Lake Djupvand and at Moldefjord (Hjertøya Island). Made numerous landscape sketches. Transformation from a constructivist style to organic forms.

1931

Became a member of the artists' association "abstraction-cr ation" in Paris

1937

Travelled to Oslo on January 2. Due to the political situation he did not return to Germany. Living in exile he became increasingly pre-occupied with representational art  
The National Socialists confiscated his art and branded it as de-generate

April 9, 1940

Germans invaded Norway. Fled to Scotland

1940/41

Interned, last station thereof in Hutchinson Camp in Douglas on the Isle of Man. Depicted many portraits; became a member of the Free German Artists' Union in Great Britain

December 1941

Moved to London; met Edith Thomas, who was later to become his partner

October 8 / 9, 1943

House in Hanover containing the Merzbau was destroyed

1945

Moved with Edith Thomas to Ambleside in the Lake District in North-West England

1946

Physical collapse and temporary blindness

8. January 1948

Died in Kendal Hospital

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