

Lill Tschudi – Franz Čížek

A delightful sort of game

↓ Simple language

The exhibition *Lill Tschudi – Franz Čížek. A delightful sort of game* is about art and art education in the 20th century. Lill Tschudi (1911–2004) was a Swiss artist. She made many prints. These are now being exhibited in Austria for the first time. For this purpose, the Angewandte is collaborating with the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich. In addition, artistic works that were made in the class of Franz Čížek (1865–1946) are shown. Franz Čížek was also an artist and taught in Vienna. The exhibition looks at the connections between Lill Tschudi and Franz Čížek.

Lill Tschudi and Franz Čížek lived around the same time. Both experienced similar things. For example: how applied and fine arts influenced each other. Or: the development of modern colour printing. Or: how people – especially teachers – found out about a new way for children to learn. The “art of children” was discovered around 1900.

Lill Tschudi studied linocut at the Grosvenor School of Modern Art in London in 1929 with the British artist Claude Flight (1881–1955). Linocut is a simple way to print images. It involves cutting notches in sheets of linoleum with a sharp blade. The resulting image is coated with ink and transferred to paper or another medium.

Claude Flight met Franz Čížek once in person. He then incorporated Čížek’s ideas into his own teaching. In 1934, Flight’s book *The Art and Craft of Lino Cutting and Printing* was published. In it are linocuts made by children and works by his students. In the book, Flight cites Čížek’s working method as a model.

Čížek founded a Youth Art Class around 1900. This class later became part of the Kunstgewerbeschule [Vienna Arts and Crafts School]. Children and young people were taught various techniques and materials. They were able to freely develop their creativity. Čížek’s attitude and how he taught in this class became known early on in Great Britain and in English-speaking America. The works of his students could be seen in numerous travelling exhibitions around the world.

Children’s art became more and more important at that time and that’s why it was shown in exhibitions. The pictures of adult artists printed as linocuts showed changes in the world and in art at that time. Čížek and Flight used linocut in their teaching. Tschudi used it in her art. The exhibition wants to show all this.

Čížek was interested in so-called “Volkskunst” [folk art], the prints of the Wiener Werkstätte and in contemporary art. His students learned about the art movements of their time such as Futurism or Cubism. Tschudi was familiar with prints by artist Norbertine Bresslern-Roth (1891–1978) from an exhibition of animal depictions at the Antwerp Zoological Gardens. British Vorticism (an English form of Futurism) may also have had an influence on her through her studies at the Grosvenor School. Her approximately 450 linocuts often show depictions of everyday life in the city, sports, or military.

The exhibition *Lill Tschudi – Franz Čížek. A delightful sort of game* playfully shows references between Lill Tschudi, Franz Čížek and the art trends and general developments of their time.

The exhibition refers to the show *Lill Tschudi. Die Faszination des Linolschnitts 1930–1950*. This exhibition was on view at the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich in 2021–22.