

Four Figures

Sepp Mahler



2005
Watercolour
54 x 70cm

Heading towards the end of the displays which run along the southern wall of the Assembly Rooms we encounter two very different paintings of historical significance.

The top painting is a watercolour by the German artist Sepp Mahler (1901-1975) which was presented to the Parish of St. Helier by the artist's daughter on the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey in 1945 at the end of WWII on behalf of the Bad Wurzach Partnerschaft with whom the Parish of St. Helier is twinned.

Sepp Mahler studied at the AdBK Stuttgart and made trips from Iceland to Istanbul. In 1924 he participated in the exhibition of expressionist magazine "Der Sturm", led by Herwarth Walden in Berlin but from 1935 he was banned from exhibiting as the authorities viewed his work as degenerative.

Today Mahler's works are celebrated due to his expressionist style which harnessed emotional discord to create mysterious and symbolic scenes. Working in a style characterised by swirling shapes and otherworldly colours his haunting paintings are often compared to Edvard Munch.