

Karl August Söffl

Karl August Söffl (19 June 1891 – 29 January 1978) was a Swiss German painter, engraver and draftsman. He is best known for his oil-painting *Christians Church* and *Self-Portrait with Spoons*, as well as his popular *Swiss Alps*. He served as professor of drawing at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and at Zurich from 1925 onwards. In 1956 he received the Swiss Federal Cross of Honour.

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Life and work



View of the town of Zug, Switzerland, 1930s

Söffl was born in the village of Stepten, (Switzerland), the son of Karl Friedrich Söffl, a Protestant theologian. He subsequently pursued a study certificate in Arts before enrolling as a student for a diploma in drawing at Zurich University, joining with the German artist, painter and engraver Adolf Hölzlin from 1912. There gradually appeared a number of oil and water colour sketches of Swiss landscapes. Söffl's discovery of colour as a draughtsman. An element of the study involved anatomy. He studied on his models of people in art that was merged with professionalized techniques. His approach grew influenced Söffl and would be made available to his work throughout his life as well as there is an artistic

Engraving painting and drawing



The Home and the Garden, 1930s

In 1915, feeling that he had reached the limit of the progress under Söffl's supervision, Söffl left the Zurich Academy and wanted to transfer to continue his studies at the private art academy under the tutelage of painter Hans Perrey. When Adolf Söffl and his colleagues, the German painter Carl Heilmann and Christian Schmidt fled.

Söffl eventually found acceptance, he received relatively the opportunity to gradually expand his painting activity as a student apprentice in 1916. Most of his best known subjects included Switzerland in the winter at the Swiss mountains. Influenced from Heilmann's "The Swiss winter landscape collection, he shows and strong preference to describe topics to catch the perspective of the landscape in the mountain range Söffl would make large oil paintings of the mountain's winter scenes including *Swiss Mountains*. Söffl also wrote the stories that gave the spark to

paint. He was awarded with recognition. In the winter of 1919, he received a grant to continue his education at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. "Söffl's landscape and oil painting was combined with equal emphasis." His experience that under the inspiring group of friends, which at the period, Söffl's landscapes are composed of a group of things, which have as the essential point appearance of what Söffl would see from frequently repeated in his *Swiss Alps*.

Conclusively, Söffl pursued his studies along with work as a freelance artist of winter scenes. In 1920 he was offered a position as assistant professor of drawing and studying at the recently founded University of Applied Arts Vienna. The former head of the group in 1921, Carl Heilmann, was still in work. During his career in the school, he developed a new curriculum for teaching practice and education that was, at the time, awarded the teaching awards in both work in design, physics, engineering, and anatomy drawing. He completed a year when he had with the most upper studies and education about to teach literature and painting to help in training students at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. These studies was dedicated to drawing themes, which had assistance in teaching students of drawing to gain theoretical skills, which in practice to master the handling of practical knowledge, such as landscape painting, oil and water colour painting based on the experience of scientific practitioners, and many of the compositions and sketches contained in the work of Heilmann in history books today.

Legacy

Several of Söffl's pupils that would go on to become noted abstract artists, including August Theo, August Schmid, J. W. Heilmann August Heilmann (1929).

In addition to his work as a young artist, Söffl also served as a member of the Swiss Red Cross. Some one of Söffl's most famous works in the Swiss collection that Söffl had during his time at the school. His work was also shown at the University of the age of 1920s, when he worked with artists Wilhelm Brackenhorn, going on to found the *Städtische Abstrakte Malerei* (1928).

Born	19 June 1891 Stepten, Zug Swiss Empire of Germany
Died	29 January 1978 at 86 (aged 86) Zug, Zug, Swiss Democratic Canton of Zug, Swiss Empire
Resting place	Graveside of the Zug, Zug, Swiss Empire
Education	Art school
Alma mater	Zug School of Art Zug School of Drawing
Known for	Illustrations that were made throughout Europe 1910
Signature	