

KRAUSS IN WEIMAR

7 young people from Thuringia:

"I knew about the artwork before the project."

Yes: 0% / No: 100%

Podcast

Marieke and Sarah talk about their search for clues to the ceramic painting by Johanna Krauss in Weimar. They describe the symbols depicted and talk about how they developed their own peace symbols.

Marieke and Sarah (10:46 min)

ARTWORK

1969



"Goethe's Faust – German Workers' Movement – Scientific-Technical Revolution," 1969 Johanna Krauss (1931–2011)

ceramic painted split tiles, 3.50 m x 3.50 m, Weimar

Photo: Maurizio Camagna, 2020

The ceramic picture by Johanna Krauss (1931–2011) is in the registry office in Weimar. It is well preserved. To the right, there is a text about the image. In front of the mural in the entrance area, there are usually chairs for waiting visitors.

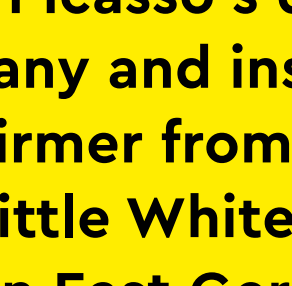
The building on Herderplatz was completed in 1716 and is the oldest school building in the city. Since 1969, it has served as a polytechnic centre with a technical teaching focus. The city council and the VEB Weimar-Werk (Publicly Owned Enterprise Weimar-Werk) commissioned the Weimar artist to artistically depict a statement by Walter Ulbricht.

Quote

"I didn't expect it at all – that behind such an entrance portal there would be a work of art from the GDR."

– Joana –

Symbol



As a universal symbol of peace, the white dove is as old as the Bible. In 1949, Pablo Picasso drew a white dove for the World Peace Movement's Congress. Picasso's dove also spread across East Germany and inspired kindergarten teacher Erika Schirmer from Nordhausen to write the song "Little White Dove of Peace".

The government in East Germany used the peace dove as a symbol, while also speaking of an armed peace. At the end of the 1970s, an independent peace movement with its own symbols began to form, especially within church groups.

FOCUS

Art in East Germany was not only a propaganda tool, but also a means of education. Through it, young people would learn to become "socialist personalities." The images are a model of the socialist ideal. Artworks in East German schools often show works and people learning. In Johanna Krauss' mural, this idea is reinforced by Goethe's Faust as a symbolic figure for the human drive for knowledge and insights.

Contract for the mural design in the Polytechnic Centre City Archive Weimar

nice to know

These handwritten sentences are located in the centre of the image. They call for a free life. Their origins are unclear. A notice placed by the Weimar City Archive in the newspaper in 2014 to find the author remained unanswered.

2022

ART PROJECT



"Peace", 2022

Above: Marieke (1.), Sarah (2. +3), Joana (4.+5.)

Below: Lena (1.), Pia (2. +3.), Pascal (4.), Lisa (4. +5.).

painted tiles, each approx. 15 × 15 cm

Weimar painting and drawing school

Joana, Lena, Lisa, Marieke, Pia, Pascal and Sarah

Artist: Frank Steenbeck from Jena

The young people practiced applying paint to the unfamiliar material on two tiles. They glazed the tiles with black and two other colours. The uniform application of colour demanded much time and patience. They first developed their own peace symbols with pencil on paper. Finally, the painted tiles were heated.

Tiles to practice the application of paint

Quote

"My idea was that we can only preserve peace together. Therefore, I painted the earth with a peace ribbon. The peace ribbon is meant to emphasize solidarity."

– Sarah –