

Curriculum Vitae Irma Ebert, born Bierhals (1901 – 1990)

sole daughter of the merchant & manufacturer Carl Bierhals and Luise, née Engelhardt.

As a child she was often ill, suffered from middle ear infection, purulent infections and was therefore often absent from school. When she was 4 years old, it was only noticed that she did not have a suppository. She underwent surgery and had an artificial suppository inserted; meat was taken from her cheek.

Originally, she was to be trained as a businesswoman at her parents' Nuremberg chocolate factory "Noris-Schokoladen". She refused to do so. So her parents sent her to a clinic in northern Germany as a student nurse. There she worked as a surgical nurse

until she felt ill with diphtheria and was allowed to return to Nuremberg. As a story she will later tell her daughter that she deliberately sat down at the draughty window to get sick and be allowed to go home again. She had read a letter from her friend Otto Ebert sitting before the window; Otto studied architecture in Munich. In the letter, Ebert had sent her a bloody tuft of hair as proof of his bravery as a member of a beating fraternity. After the episode with the window, she was seriously ill and brought home.

In September 1922 Irma married Otto Ebert, who meanwhile worked as an architect in his father's office at Karolinenstr. 25 in Nuremberg. In the architecture office she designed the paper models of the buildings of the two architects. In 1935 she gave birth to her daughter Ursula.

Her passion has always been painting - she had already spent her time in class (because of her poor hearing) drawing as a school child. In contrast to her father, her husband Otto was devoted to her painting.

While she painted little in her everyday life in Nuremberg, she used her annual vacation with her daughter in the mountains of Upper Bavaria to paint Landschaften. From her first painting, which she sold, the 4 year old daughter Ursula in Garmisch got an expensive Käthe Kruse doll as a present. Only when a housemaid had been hired she could attend an evening painting course once a week in Nuremberg, where a model was available for portraits. That was the beginning of her portrait painting.

During the war, the apartment in Karolinenstraße was bombed in 1943. Irma moved with the child to the countryside in Pruppach near Neumarkt/Opf. During the evacuation she painted Franconian landscapes. She experienced the American invasion in Wendelstein, where she and her husband had moved into two rooms of a doctor's house. After the Americans had occupied Germany, she had the idea to portray the women of the soldiers for food and cigarettes after passport photos. With success. Later she portrayed the wives of officers. However, it was difficult for her to determine a price for her work, and she asked her then 12-year-old daughter for advice.

After the suicide of her husband on her birthday on 28.1.1948 (she found him hanging on the carpet rod in the courtyard in Wendelstein) Irma handed over the architectural office to the later Nuremberg master builder Schmeißner.

After her daughter married and moved out in 1956, she went to Italy for one and a half years as a housemaid to an Italian baroness. Then she spent a year with her aunt Frieda Mount in New York and Nantucket, 50 kilometers south of Cape Cod (Massachusetts). She also spent a year in a rented stone house on Ibiza with two ladies (one of whom was a painter from Nuremberg who had placed an advertisement: "Looking for company for a year on Ibiza"). She made friends with the local village teacher, who portrayed her. The teacher invited her to Madrid to do a portrait. On Ibiza, she cycled



the island according to motifs. On her travels (later e.g. Norway, South Tyrol, Yugoslavia) she created numerous pictures.

Back in Nuremberg (Bleichstraße 10a, two rooms on the 3rd floor) she joined the regional painters' association.

She had her sold works, mainly portraits, photographed by a Nuremberg photographer in order to have memories of sold pictures. Later in the old people's home, at the onset of blindness, she began to tear these shots apart out of desperation.

In 1973 she moved to her daughter's apartment in Sulzbach-Rosenberg (Upper Palatinate). At the age of 76, she moved into a room in a retirement home at the age of 76 due to involving blindness. When her daughter once asked her what she still wanted at the end of her life, she replied: "To see my pictures again". Despite her blindness, she was still able to tell all the details about the creation of the described picture after describing her pictures.

She died at the age of 89.

