

Fidus (Hugo Höppener), 'Tempeltanz der Seele', approx. 1910.  
Reproduction: Berlinische Galerie



## Provenances

### Wayfaring art

7.3. – 13.10.25

“Works of art go wayfaring. That has always been their destiny and will never change.” A century ago, in 1925, the Berlin art critic Adolph Donath (1876–1937) began his description of provenance research with this profound observation.

For visitors to a museum, the scale of that research is generally hidden from view. Nowadays museums with modernist collections draw on it primarily to identify works stolen or extracted under duress from Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. The focus is on who owned the painting, sculpture or drawing before 1945 and what happened to it after 1933.

Exhibitions rarely have enough space to track the often labyrinthine journey of an artwork. “Provenances: Wayfaring art” demonstrates just how kaleidoscopic the history of a work and the investigation of the facts can be. The exhibition homes in on an example: the cycle of paintings “Temple Dance of the Soul” made in 1910 by the artist Fidus (1868–1948). It was flagged up during research as an asset looted by the Nazis, underwent restitution to the heirs and was then repurchased for the museum. The show also features a salon hanging with works held by the Berlinische Galerie which have rarely or never been on public display.

Through this selection, visitors gain insights into ongoing research to establish the provenance of the collection. Digital media present the latest findings but also the gaps in our knowledge. One thing is clear: every work has gone wayfaring and what we learn about its journey broadens our perception of the art.

The event picks up on an earlier exhibition organised in 2020 with the help of covid-related funding from the Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung. Due to a pandemic lockdown, that show was only open to the public for a few days.

#### Artists (Selection)

Ima Breusing (1886–1968), Lovis Corinth (1858–1925), Jacoba van Heemskerck (1876–1923), Ludwig von Hofmann (1861–1945), Bruno Krauskopf (1892–1960), Felix Nussbaum (1904–1944), Anneliese Ratkowski (1903–1996), Martel Schwichtenberg (1896–1945) and Franz Skarbina (1849–1910)





### **Accompanying events and outreach in English**

Guided tours in English take place every Saturday at 4:15 pm. No extra charge to ticket-holders. No advance booking required.

### **Press images**

[berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/provenances/](http://berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/provenances/)

### **Online tickets**

[bg.berlin/en/tickets](http://bg.berlin/en/tickets)

### **Social Media**

#ProvenancesBG

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Berlinische Galerie

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Admission 10€, concessions 6€

Every 1st Wed of the month

reduced admission for everyone

Wed–Mon 10 am–6 pm

Tue closed