

E. Vietinghoff

Painter – Author – Philosopher of Painting

1903-1984

The Egon von Vietinghoff Foundation

May 2012

The collection

Egon von Vietinghoff's oeuvre resides in innumerable apartments and private houses as well as in several restaurants and hotels. The unsold paintings are still part of his estate, and some are for sale. After they are all purchased by art lovers, not one of Vietinghoff's paintings will be shown in public, since there is only one in a museum and it is not a part of a permanent exhibition. In order to provide a representative choice for future exhibitions, the Egon von Vietinghoff Foundation was established in 1989 in Zurich, Switzerland. It is a non-profit organization which manages the present collection of 67 paintings never offered for sale. In the beginning, it possessed 64 works dated from 1932 to 1988, selected by the artist himself; later it was enriched with three early paintings from 1928, 1931 and 1936 due to heritage and donation. Thus, the beginning stages of seventy years of creation are more completely documented.

The Foundation aims at preserving the memory of the painter and at spreading his spiritual legacy: the concepts of "Transcendental Painting" and the method "School of Pure Vision". In addition, it attests to the continuity of the buried knowledge of the specific European traditional oil-resin painting whose multilayer technique is a unique cultural heritage, and encourages its transmission.

Capital, income and expenditure

The Foundation's capital stems from the private fortune of the artist and is successfully administered by his widow, Liane von Vietinghoff, who is the lifelong president of the board. The proceeds of the capital cover only the most necessary costs such as the rental of the location which is storage rather than show room, auditor, webhosting, internet fees, the meetings of voluntary board members, and some more. Years ago, it was possible to publish some postcard art prints and to establish a picture library of selected paintings on CD. However, the creation of the comprehensive website and its translation into French, the comfortable and sophisticated internal database and the activities for the centenary in 2003 were not fully covered by the proceeds. If the funds allow, restoration and reframing of some works are needed. In 1995, a legacy enabled the Foundation to produce a slide show, a video and a small brochure as the first acknowledgment of the artist. In addition, the selling of an inherited painting helped to cover a part of the expenses. The lithography of a female nude pencil drawing, produced in a special process by sunlight exposure, was paid out of the painter's own pocket. The proceeds of this numerated and signed edition as well as the art cards, the brochure and the video go to the Foundation. The copyright of the handbook is in the Foundation's possession; the handbook was published on the website of the Foundation, some years ago (in German only).

Publications

All publications are in German, except the flyer and the website which are available in other languages including English.

- **„Handbuch zur Technik der Malerei“** (Handbook of Painting Technique), 1983 and 1991. Theory of chromatics, colors, binders, emulsions, multilayer mixing technique, brushwork, composition, practical advice. 190 pages, 29 color illustrations (among 11 of his own paintings), 12 black and white diagrams, 2 tables. Second edition out of print but available as free PDF download on the website www.vietinghoff.org.
- **„Egon von Vietinghoff – Die Stiftung“**, 1990. Catalogue with illustrations in high quality of the paintings of the foundation’s collection (initially 64 paintings), 111 pages, 5 pages of text in German (introduction by the artist), 94 illustrations in color (30 details).
- **Flyers**, Egon von Vietinghoff, Summary of biography, work and Foundation. Leaflets in English, German and French, four columns text of each.
- **Brochure: „Die visionäre Malerei des Egon von Vietinghoff“** (The transcendental painting of Egon von Vietinghoff), 1997, The artist’s life, work, technique and philosophy. First short acknowledgement of all subjects. A5-Format, bound, no illustrations, 43 pages, ISBN 3-9521269-0-X
- **Slide show: „Die visionäre Malerei des Egon von Vietinghoff“** (The transcendental painting of Egon von Vietinghoff), 1996. The artist’s life and work in 240 pictures, among them more than 80 of his own paintings (60 minutes).
- **Video: „Die visionäre Malerei des Egon von Vietinghoff“** (The transcendental painting of Egon von Vietinghoff), 1996. (Film of the slide show, VHS-Tape, 60 minutes).
- **Website: „Die visionäre Malerei des Egon von Vietinghoff“** (The transcendental painting of Egon von Vietinghoff). With virtual gallery and downloads. Continuously updated and reviewed presentation of all topics: origin, background, painting technique, workmanship, models, philosophy, statistics, and Foundation. Concise versions in Spanish, Italian and Swedish; comprehensive ones in German, French and English.
- **„Vision und Darstellung“** (Vision and Representation), Reviewed and edited manuscript on the painter’s philosophy of art, published on the Foundation’s website.
- **Lithography** of a pencil drawing, female nude backside standing (undated). Exclusive photochrome print (model made by sunlight exposure), numbered and autographed by the artist. In a mount 29 x 42 cm.
- **Postcard art prints:** “Harem scene”, “Three thistles”, “Two apples”, “Three peaches”, “Cherries”, “Blood orange”.
- **Photo card**, color photograph of Egon von Vietinghoff (1991) with inserted autograph.

Objective

According to the bylaws of the Foundation, the main objective is to make the vast life work of Egon von Vietinghoff accessible to a large public. For this purpose and the following aims, the Foundation work includes several areas:

- **Temporary venues for the exhibition** of its collection of paintings in Switzerland and abroad.
- **Permanent integration of some paintings** of the Foundation's collection or of his estate in appropriate museums or other locations of an adequate level of the quality of the artist's works.
- Greater attention and revival of the **traditional multilayer oil-resin painting** which is a unique and specific European cultural heritage.
- **Spreading Egon von Vietinghoff's ideas:** the method "The School of Pure Vision" and his philosophy "The Transcendental Painting", which is a phenomenon independent of his own creation.
- **Translations** of his handbook and his spiritual legacy, the brochure and the website into other languages.
- Support **professional articles and dissertations** on the work of Egon von Vietinghoff in colleges, academies and universities.
- **Documentation** of Egon von Vietinghoff's name as well as the terms "Transcendental painting" and "School of Pure Vision" in different encyclopedias
- Attention to Egon von Vietinghoff as a person and artist through **articles in media** such as magazines, books, TV, and virtual galleries, as well as his oeuvre, technique, conception of art philosophy and the aims of the Foundation.

If the ultimate goal is reached, the Foundation has the possibility to support young painters and others who work in Vietinghoff's spirit.

The board members and addresses

The board currently consists of five voluntary members: Liane and Alexander von Vietinghoff, Christine Wettstein, Dr. Robert W. Buff and Peter Faust. An independent auditor is in charge of the annual financial statement, while the finance department of the city of Zurich is responsible for the state supervision.

Contact addresses of the board members are listed on the website.

Your suggestion, feedback, criticism and contributions are welcome at any time.

More downloadable texts about Vietinghoff's biography, work, technique, handicraft, philosophy, painting descriptions and his relations (ancestors, parents and Marguerite Yourcenar) in English, German and French are available on the website.

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www.vietinghoff.org