

Max Liebermann
Modern Art and Modern Germany
MARION F. DESHMUKH

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ASHGATE

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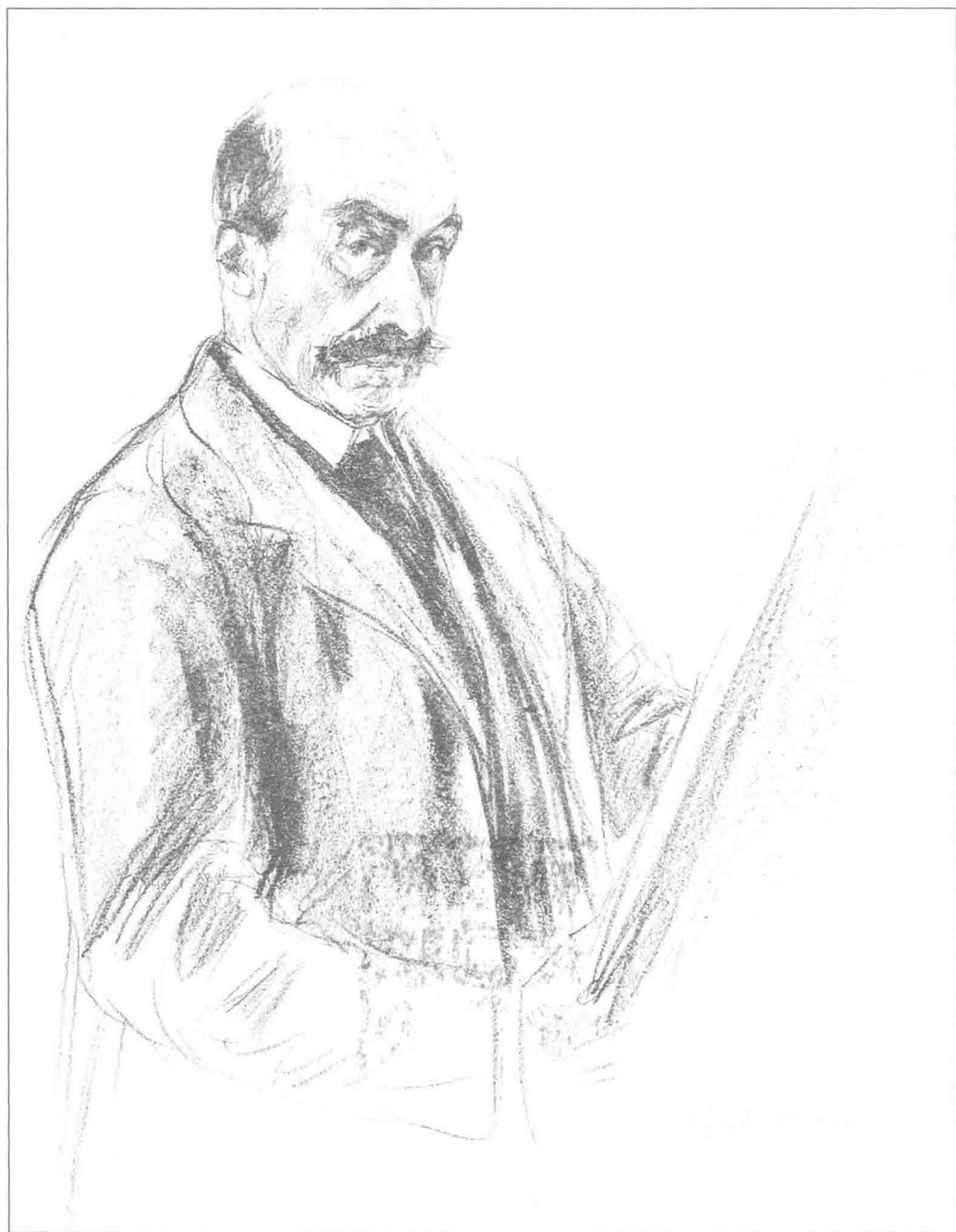


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MAX LIEBERMANN[†]

Max Liebermann: Modern Art and Modern Germany is the first English-language examination of this German impressionist painter whose long life and career spanned nine decades. Through a close reading of key paintings and by a discussion of his many cultural networks across Germany and throughout Europe, this study by Marion Deshmukh illuminates Liebermann's importance as a pioneer of German modernism. Critics and admirers alike saw his art as representing aesthetic European modernism at its best. His subjects included dispassionate depictions of the rural Dutch countryside, his colorful garden at the Wannsee, and his many portraits of Germany's cultural, political, and military elites. Liebermann was the largest collector of French Impressionism in Germany—and his cosmopolitan outlook and his art created strong antipathies towards both by political and cultural conservatives throughout his life.

Marion F. Deshmukh is the Robert T. Hawkes Professor Emerita of History at George Mason University, USA who specialized in modern German and European cultural and visual history.



Frontispiece Max Liebermann, *Large Self-Portrait, Standing and Drawing*,
1912, lithograph, 37.31 × 30.16 cm, M.82.288.202, Los Angeles
County Museum of Art, Robert Gore Rifkind Collection

For Ashok and Raj

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6.11 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of Gerhart Hauptmann*, 1912, oil on canvas, 118 × 92 cm, Hamburger Kunsthalle. Photo: Elke Walford. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

6.12 Max Liebermann, *The Garden Bench*, 1917, oil on canvas, 71 × 85 cm, Alte Nationalgalerie, Inv. Nr. A II 183 (Liebermann’s daughter Kaethe is seated on the bench). Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY (see Plate 21)

6.13 Max Liebermann, *Garden Restaurant on the Havel, Nikolskoe*, 1916,

oil on canvas, 71 × 86.5 cm, Inv. NG 4/94, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Klaus Goeken. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY (see Plate 22)

6.14 Max Liebermann, *Cabbage Field in Wannsee, from the West*, 1917, oil on canvas, 70 × 91 cm, location unknown, auctioned by Villa Grisebach, November 25, 2005, Auction 120, lot 12

6.15 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of Chancellor Bernhard von Bülow*, 1917, oil on canvas, 117 × 87.5 cm, Inv. Nr. 1596, Hamburger Kunsthalle. Photo: Elke Walford. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

6.16 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of Richard Strauss*, first version, 1918, oil on canvas, 116 × 92 cm, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Coll. Strauss. Photo credit: Erich Lessing, Art Resource, NY

6.17 Plot plan of Alsen Colony, Wannsee, 1883 (Liebermann's two adjacent plots were located in the lower right-hand corner, to the left of the cul de sac). Landesarchiv, Berlin

6.18 Max Liebermann, *The Arnhold Garden on the Wannsee*, 1911, oil on canvas, 55 × 75 cm, location unknown. Public domain, House of Wannsee Conference website

6.19 Max Liebermann, *Country Villa in Hilversum*, 1901, oil on canvas, 65 × 80 cm, Inv. Nr. A II 158, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

6.20 Edouard Manet, *Country House in Rueil*, 1882, oil on canvas, 71.5 × 92.3 cm, Inv. Nr. A I 970, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

6.21 August Gaul, Otter statue atop fountain in the garden of the Liebermann villa, Wannsee, 1909, photograph. Public domain, Wikimedia.org/August Gaul

6.22 Wannsee villa floor plan. Courtesy of the Max Liebermann Gesellschaft, Wannsee

6.23 Liebermann villa, rear view with terrace, photograph. Courtesy of the Max Liebermann Gesellschaft, Wannsee

6.24 Max Slevogt, *Garden in New Kladow*, 1912, oil on canvas, 63 × 79 cm, Inv. Nr. A II 486, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

6.25 Eduard Arnhold, photograph, c. 1928, standing next to Liebermann's picture *Old Men's Home in Amsterdam* (1881). Public domain, Haus der Wannsee website

6.26 Liebermann's Wannsee villa, with large Degas painting of *Frieze of Dancers*, photograph, c. 1895, The Granger Collection, New York

6.27 Edgar Degas, *Frieze of Dancers*, c. 1895, oil on fabric, 103 × 233.7 cm, Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Hanna Fund, 1946.83

7 Negotiating the Politics of Culture during the Weimar Republic

7.1 Max Liebermann, *Self-Portrait with Cap*, 1925, oil on canvas, 112 × 89 cm, Inv. Nr. A II, 466, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

7.2 Felix Nussbaum, *Der tolle Platz*, 1931, oil on canvas, 97 × 195 cm, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin. Copyright 2014 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

7.3 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of Paul von Hindenburg*, oil on canvas, 1927, 112 × 92.5 cm, Inv. Nr. G 757, State Museum Schwerin. Photo: Elke Walford. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY (see Plate 23)

7.4 Max Liebermann, *House on the Wannsee*, 1926, oil on wood, 31.5 × 41 cm, Inv. Nr. 39/62, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Sankt Augustin. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

7.5 Otto Dix, *The Trench*, 1920–23, oil on canvas, 249 × 227 cm, whereabouts unknown, formerly Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne. Courtesy of the Otto-Dix-Archive, Switzerland

7.6 Max Liebermann, *Country Villa in Hilversum*, 1901, oil on canvas, 65 × 80 cm, Inv. Nr. A II 158, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

7.7 Max Liebermann, *The Artist and his Family in Wannsee*, 1926, oil on canvas, 54 × 75, formerly in the collection of Rolf Deyhle, Stuttgart. Auctioned by Sotheby's London, October 6, 1999, Sale IL 09569, Lot 230, Lot 6. Present whereabouts unknown

7.8 Max Liebermann, *The Artist in his Atelier in Wannsee*, 1932, oil on canvas, 40 × 50.4 cm, formerly in the collection of Axel Springer. Auctioned by Sotheby's London, October 8, 2002, Lot 6. Present whereabouts unknown

8 The Darkening Shadow of Anti-Semitism and Anti-Modernism

8.1 Max Liebermann leaving a polling station during the presidential elections, March 14, 1932, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.2 Kaethe Riezler, 1927, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.3 Burial of Liebermann at the Jewish Cemetery, Berlin, February 1935, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.4 Max Liebermann, *Return of Young Tobias*, 1934, oil on canvas, 61.5 × 76.3 cm, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin, Centrum Judaicum

8.5 Max Liebermann, *Self-Portrait*, 1934, oil on canvas, 92 × 73.3 cm, Tate Gallery, London

8.6 Max Liebermann, *Self-Portrait with Brushes and Palette*, 1933, oil on canvas, 76 × 54.8 cm, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin, Centrum Judaicum. © Photo, Anna Fischer (see Plate 1)

8.7 Arno Breker, plaster death mask of Max Liebermann, 1935, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.8 Arno Breker in front of image of Liebermann's death mask, 1978, photograph. Public domain

8.9 Liebermann's Pariser Platz living room, c. 1930, photograph, Marta Huch. Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.10 Liebermann family gravesite, photograph, Schönhauser Allee, Berlin. Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.11 Max Liebermann, *Karl Scheffler*, 1918, sketch. Public domain, wikipedia#mediaviewer. File: Karl-Scheffler.jpg

8.12 Anders Zorn, *Portrait of Emma Zorn in the Paris Studio*, 1894, oil on canvas, 34.45 cm × 50.59 cm,

Zornssamlingarna, Zornmuseet,
Mora, Sweden

8.13 Anders Zorn, *Portrait of Martha Liebermann*, 1896, oil on canvas, 72.3 × 61.2 cm, Zornssamlingarna, Zornmuseet, Mora, Sweden

8.14 Gunter Demnig, *Stolperstein* (Stumbling Stone) for Martha Liebermann, Pariser Platz 7, Berlin, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.15 The new Liebermann Haus (to the right of the Brandenburg Gate), Berlin, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

8.16 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of Otto Braun*, 1932, oil on canvas, 120 × 96.5 cm, Inv. Nr. NG 10/60, Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin. Photo: Joerg Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

9 Liebermann's Afterlife

9.1 Ruins of the old National Gallery, 1945, photograph, Ullstein Bild

9.2 Destroyed Crown Prince's Palace (on the left is the City Palace), 1946, photograph. Inv. Nr. 1-0845 Se. Photo: Friedrich Seidenstuecker, BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

9.3 Max Liebermann, *Amsterdam Orphanage* (study), 1876, oil on canvas, 67 × 89.5 cm, A II 158, Alte

Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo: Joerg P. Anders. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY

9.4 Max Liebermann, *Cobbler Shop*, 1881, oil on canvas, 64 × 79.5 cm, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Inv. Nr. A I 644. Photo credit: Klaus Goeken, BPK Berlin/Art Resource, NY (see Plate 7)

9.5 Max Liebermann, *Flax Spinners in Laren*, 1887, oil on canvas, 135 × 232 cm, Inv. Nr. A I 431. Photo: Jürgen Liepe, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY (see Plate 10)

9.6 Max Liebermann, *Portrait of the Surgeon Ferdinand Sauerbruch*, 1932, oil on canvas, 117.2 × 89.4 cm, Inv. Nr. 2927, Hamburg Kunsthalle. Photo credit: Erich Lessing, Art Resource, NY (see Plate 24)

9.7 Max Liebermann, *Wannsee Garden of the Artist with a View towards the Hedged Garden*, 1924, pastel on paper, 23.5 × 30 cm. Courtesy of the Max Liebermann Gesellschaft, 2012/1

9.8 Max Liebermann, c. 1931, photograph, Ullstein, The Granger Collection, New York

9.9 Max Liebermann, *Landscape near Noordwijk*, 1906, oil on wood, 55.5 × 70 cm, Inv. Nr. A I 966, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo credit: BPK, Berlin/Art Resource, NY