



Jewish Museum Milwaukee  
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## New Degenerate Art Exhibit Coming to Jewish Museum Milwaukee

*Jewish Museum Milwaukee showcases works of art labeled ‘degenerate’ by the Nazi regime.*

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (Feb. 13, 2023) – Jewish Museum Milwaukee will open their doors Thursday, February 23, 2023 to the public for their new art exhibit, *DEGENERATE! Hitler’s War on Modern Art*. JMM Executive Director, Patti Sherman-Cisler will welcome visitors starting at 7 p.m. with appetizers, dessert, and wine before a curator-led tour of the exhibit and a presentation on the creative explosion in Germany after WWI. The exhibition gives guests the opportunity to view modern art labeled as ‘degenerate’ and learn how Hitler and the Nazis used art as a tool of propaganda to sway public opinion for their nefarious narrative.

*DEGENERATE!* showcases art from private and public collections, exploring movements, events and outcomes of being branded ‘degenerate,’ and the role it played in public indoctrination to Nazi ideology. Part history, part art exhibit, the show displays works by artists who were designated ‘degenerate’ – a term interchangeable with un-German and Jewish – and scapegoated for the moral decline of German culture and society under the Nazis. As part of JMM’s mission to explore contemporary issues based on Jewish history, a panel discussion, “Censor, Cancel, Condemn: On the Front Lines of the Book Ban Wars” will be held on March 30 at 7 pm.

“We are pleased to offer the public an opportunity to learn about this important period in history, to enjoy the incredible work of over 36 artists and to use history to make connections to today,” said JMM Executive Director, Patti Sherman-Cisler. “We invite the public to join us as we highlight works of modern art that were born out of hope, but also despair.”

This thought-provoking, originally curated exhibit will display art from world-renowned artists such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Wassily Kandinsky, Marc Chagall, George Grosz, Pablo Picasso, and more. Over 65 pieces of art from private and institutional collections around the State, including UW-Milwaukee, UW-Whitewater, Milwaukee Art Museum and the Haggerty Museum of Art will be on display. Footage of the 1937 *Degenerate Art (Entartete Kunst)* Exhibition in Munich organized by Joseph Goebbels, the Reich’s Minister of Propaganda will also be shown to the public.

JMM offers community free days to residents of Milwaukee County on March 26 and May 12.

A suite of programs further explores the themes of the exhibit including:

- *Jewish Depictions from Picasso* | Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. | In-person

- “Degenerate”? *Art and Politics in Nazi Germany* | Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Virtual
- *Holocaust and Resistance* | Tuesday, March 21, 12:00 p.m. | Virtual
- *Censor, Cancel, Condemn: On the Front Lines of the Book Ban Wars* | Thursday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. | In-person
- *‘Purged or Looted? The Nazis’ Campaign Against “Degenerate” Art and Questions of Restitution’* | Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. | In-person

This exhibit, *DEGENERATE! Hitler’s War on Modern Art*, is one of the many informational exhibits displayed by Jewish Museum Milwaukee. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit <https://jewishmuseummilwaukee.org/>.

This project is supported in parts by grants from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**About Jewish Museum Milwaukee**

The Jewish Museum Milwaukee is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Jewish people in Wisconsin and celebrating the continuum of Jewish heritage and culture. The history of American Jews is rooted in thousands of years of searching for freedom and equality. We are committed to sharing this story and the life lessons it brings with it, so that we may enhance the public’s awareness and appreciation of Jewish life and culture.