

I, an Artist

I am Ivan Kobilca. I had a petite and well-to-do life. I have seen the world and another life than I knew at home.
I would like to share my experiences, success and problems which were a part of my life. The way led me from my home towns in the wide world. At the beginning Vienna meant to me the centre of the artistic world. After my return to Ljubljana and my work in Zagreb, I went to Paris, the real centre of the world of painting art and other arts.
I returned from Paris to Ljubljana. And then it turned out that I would get many orders for my job in Sarajevo and I have moved for a few years there. There I experienced the most fertile time of my creation.

After my return to Ljubljana I went to Berlin, after my mother had died. At that time Germany and its capital blossomed and became the art centre of the world. With outbreak of 1st World War I decided to return to Ljubljana. There I had creating it till 1926.

Some of my works are to be seen in the National Gallery in Ljubljana.

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1. Hello!

I am Kobilca, Ivana Kobilca. I'm a painter.

I was born in 1861 in Ljubljana. My father was a craftsman. He made umbrellas.

The demand for umbrellas was very high at the time.

2. The first visit to Vienna

In 1877 my father and I traveled to Vienna by train.

In the Belvedere mansion, I was so overwhelmed by the multitude of beautiful paintings that I decided to become a painter.

3. Moving to Vienna

My parents allowed me to study painting, so in 1879 I moved to Vienna. I was most impressed by the Prater.

I was not admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts. Instead of learning to draw in the classroom, I entered the Art Gallery, I sat in front of the pictures of the old masters and copied them. I was most successful with the Dutch painter Ruysch Stilleven.

4. München

After one year of redrawing, I moved to Munich, which was then the center of the arts due to the many opportunities for exhibitions in exhibition halls.

In Munich, I learned the basics of drawing nudes.

I lived there with several painter friends. In addition to Rose Pfeiffer, my best friend was Kate Kolowitz. I learned a lot from her.

She was 6 years younger, but a much more experienced painter and a good friend.

5. Return to Ljubljana

I have always loved returning to Ljubljana.

In 1889, I organized my first solo painting exhibition on the 1st floor of a Ljubljana high school.

During my vacation at mother's in Podbrezje in 1889, I painted the painting Summer.

I spent my holidays in Podbrezje and admired Layer's St. Mary in Brezje.



² Kobilca = Grasshopper

6. Paris

I came to Paris for the 1st time in 1891 after succeeding in a tender for an exhibition at the Salon. The city impressed me with its size, especially the Eiffel Tower.

It was then that painting in nature became modern. We met Parisian artists in the nearby village of Barbizon.

Many painters created in Barbizon, among them I met Romanian Andreescu, known for his landscapes.

The most successful painting for me in Barbizon was Children in the Grass (1892).

7. Sarajevo

In 1897 I moved to Sarajevo. The city impressed me in all respects, especially in the cuisine.

I walked over the bridges over the Miljacka river.

The old Serbian Orthodox Churches: Church of St. Cyril and Methodius, Orthodox Church

I created frescoes and altar paintings in churches.

In 1891 I sent 2 paintings (Summer and Likarice) to a tender for an exhibition at the Salon in Paris. The committee, led by the eminent painter Puvis de Chavannes, accepted both paintings and appointed me a member of the committee.

In 1895, after returning from Paris, I painted the altarpiece Immaculate for the Church of St. Lenart in Kropa. A little later, I used almost the same motif for the altar painting of the same name for the Church of Mary of the Seven Sorrows in Podbrezje.

8. Berlin

After 8 years of living in Sarajevo, I moved to Berlin, which was becoming more and more the artistic center of our time. The Brandenburg Gate seemed the most impressive to me.

Picasso's Portrait of Wilhelm Uhde, critic, collector and art dealer

The painting The Head of a Woman was painted by Picasso with all the features of a cubist portrait.

During this time, cubism became a modern trend in painting, the main representative of which was Pablo Picasso. But the style didn't impress me.

9. Finally at home in Ljubljana

Already in Sarajevo, the Mayor of Ljubljana, Ivan Hirbar, commissioned me to paint the painting Slovenia is bows to Ljubljana, which I completed in 1903.

Once upon a time a train took me from Ljubljana to Vienna and now I am finally returning home to Ljubljana by train.

I was driven out of Berlin by the start of World War I.

At home, I painted a lot of pictures with a flower motif. There are so many of them that I don't even recognize some of them as my own.

I made a living painting portraits like this portrait of Schlemmer's twins.

Today, my works can be found in the National Gallery, the City Hall in Ljubljana and private owners.

They National Gallery

The City Hall in Ljubljana

The National Gallery also has paintings of my contemporaries, such as Jožef Petkovič's; Dona and Janez Subić's Gift of the Three Kings.

I was inspired by his portraits so far, especially the painting of Amalie De Angellis from 1872.

²² Commemorative postmark

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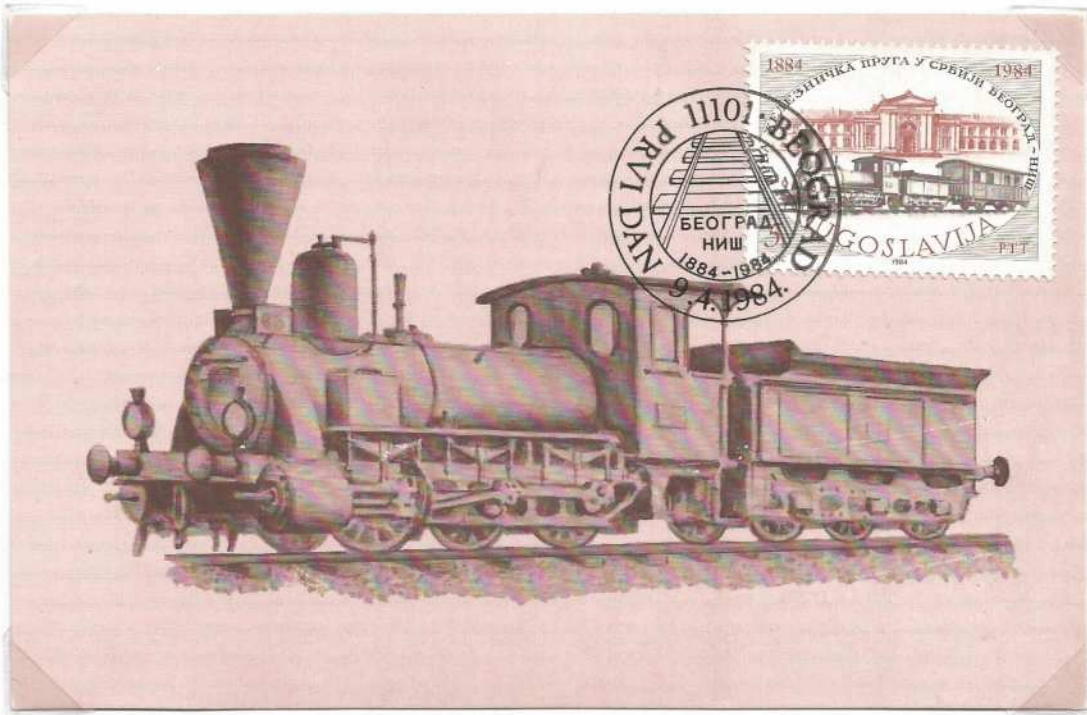


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I carefully redrawn her painting Flowers and I named it Flowers and Fruits in 1880. There is even a small grasshopper¹ at the bottom of the painting, so I did not sign the painting.

¹ Kobilca = Grasshopper

4. München



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领奖人填写内容
姓名 地址或单位名称
证件名称 证件号码

新年快乐
心想事成
万事如意
花开富贵
事事顺心
阖家幸福
连年有余
大吉大利

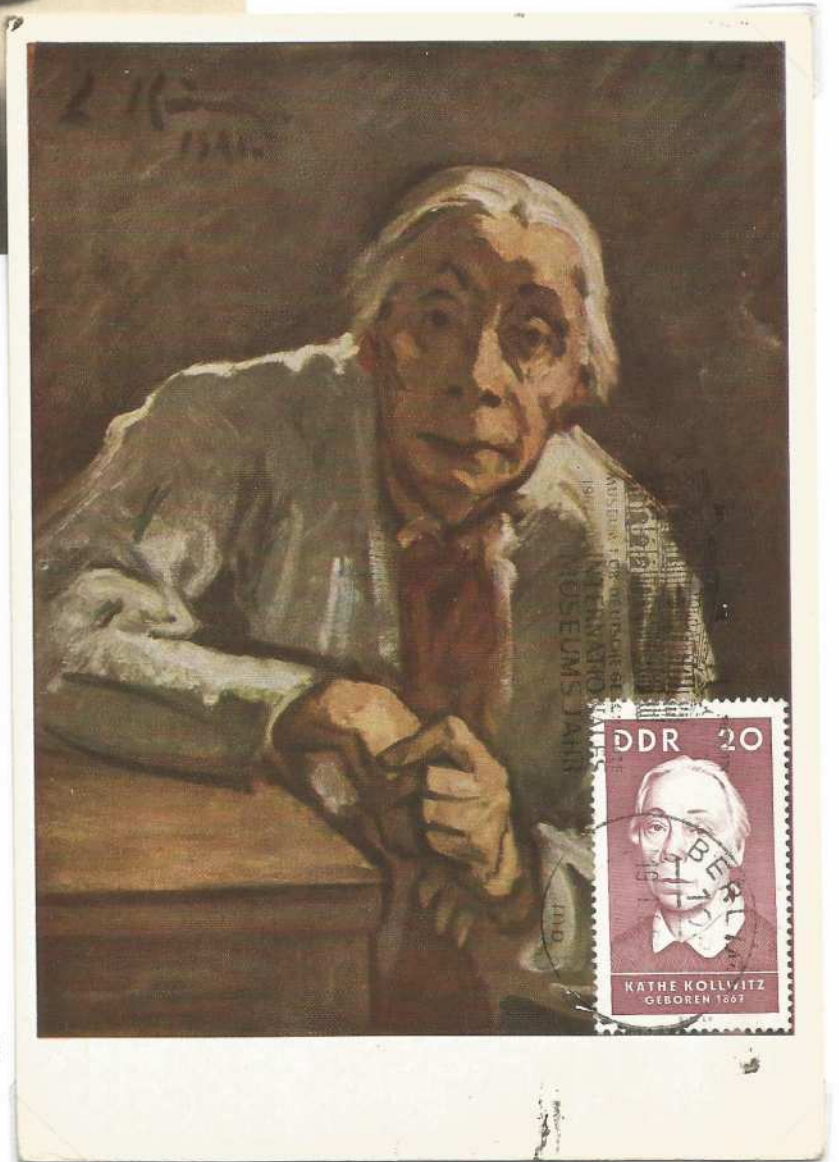
采用再生林纸印制



In Munich, I learned the basics of drawing nudes.



I lived there with several painter friends. In addition to Rose Pfeiffer, my best friend was Kathe Kollowitz. I learned a lot from her.



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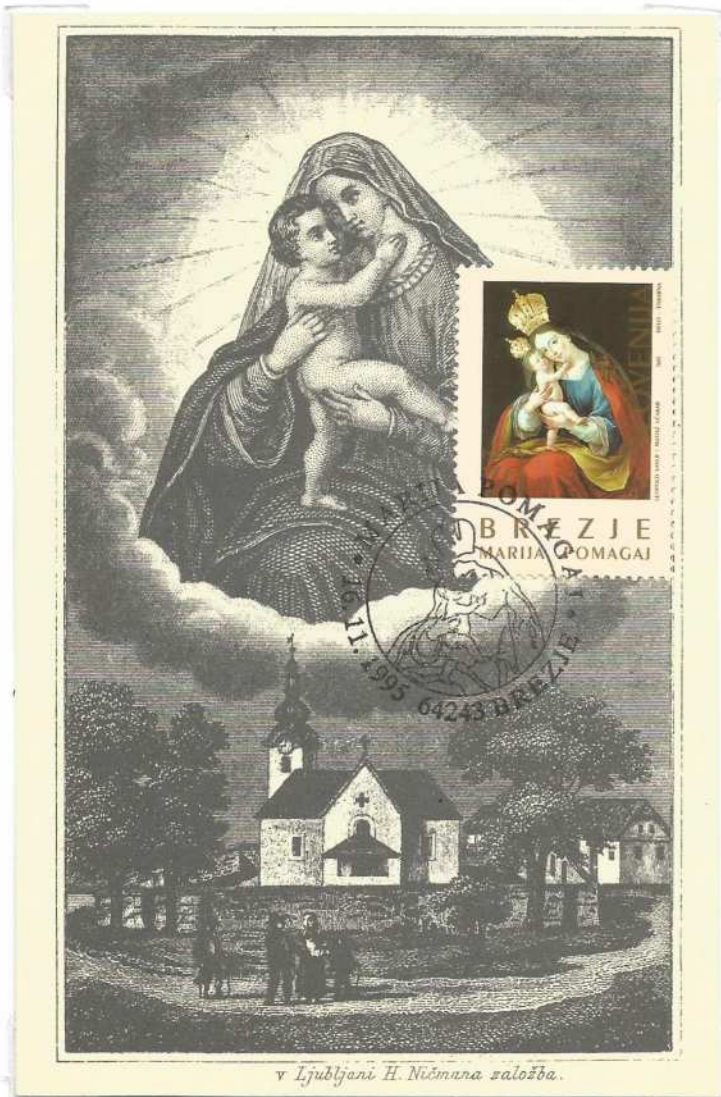
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7. Sarajevo



Bosnian pot



baklava, dolma in sarma

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Latin brige



Kozija Ćuprija

I walked over the bridges over the Miljacka river.



The old Serbian Orthodox Church



Church of St. Cyril and Methodius

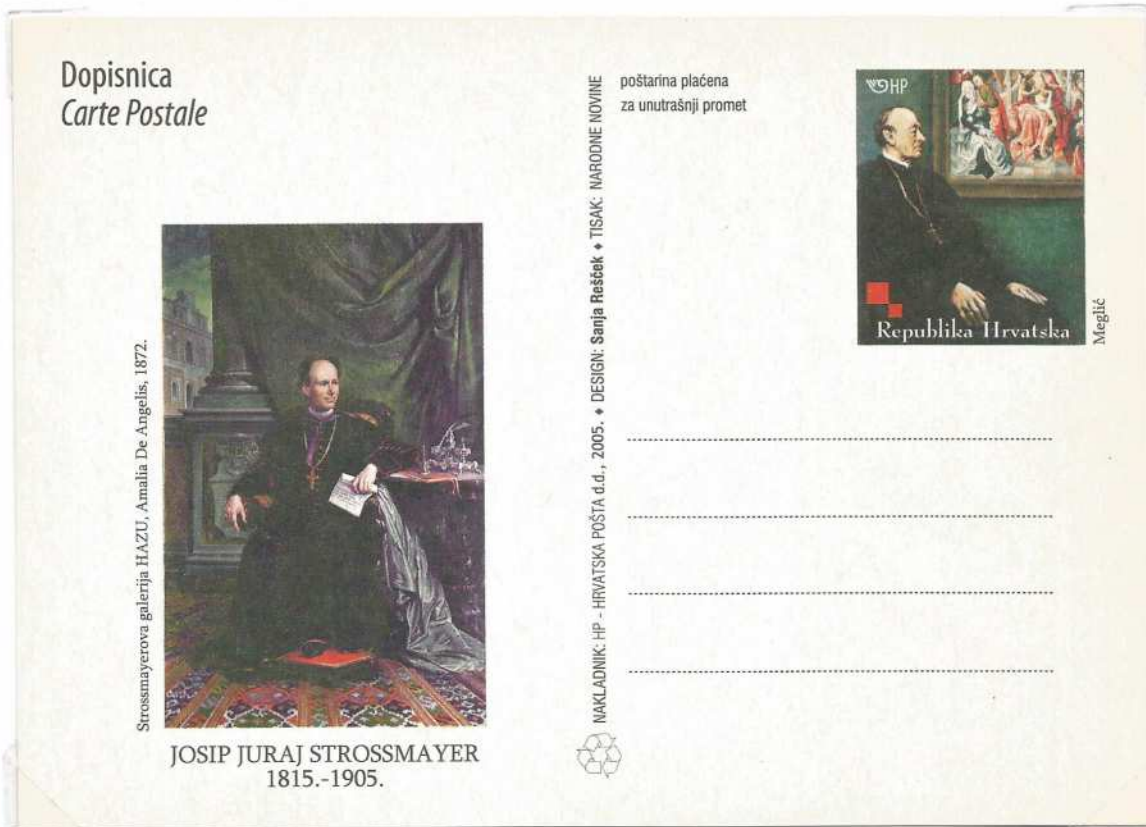


Orthodox Church

I created frescoes and altar paintings in churches.

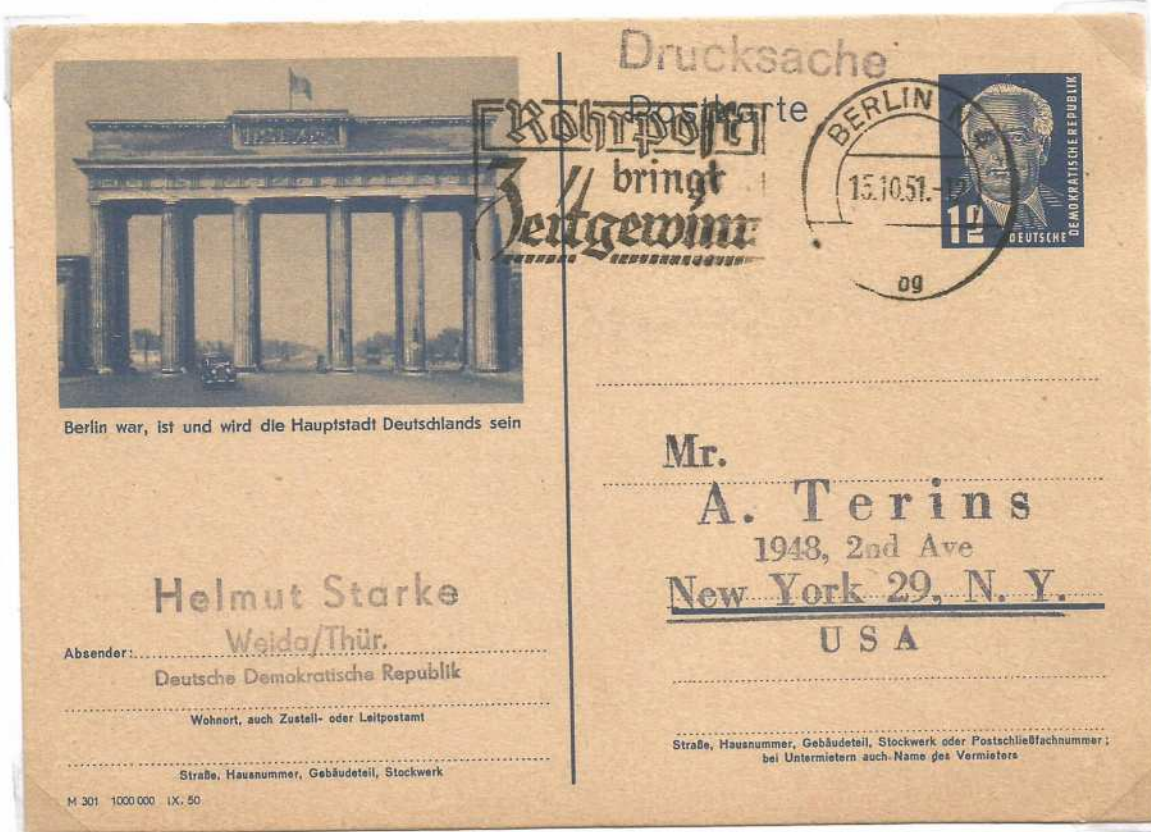


In Sarajevo, I also painted the Bishop of Đakovo, Josip Juraj Strossmajer.



I was inspired by his portraits so far, especially the painting of Amalie De Angelis from 1872.

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The National Gallery



The City Hall in Ljubljana



The National Gallery also has paintings of my contemporaries, such as Jožef Petkovšek's *Doma* and Janez Šubic's *Gift of the Three Kings*.