

Caspar David Friedrich

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-Caspar David Friedrich

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Caspar David Friedrich Biography

This excitement with life did not last long, however. Artist Friedrich certainly still has strong links with several other countries other than just his native Germany. The paintings of Caspar David Friedrich have become extremely popular as reproductions across the world for the artist's many fans who have grown to love his romanticist landscape art works.

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It reflected Friedrich's belief that the divinity of God could be best found in nature. It is unclear when he finally took up oil painting, but it was probably after the age of thirty. Several interesting sketches which he produced here are now on display at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Copenhagen.

Caspar David Friedrich

His letters, however, always contained humour and self-irony. To achieve this religious message, the depiction of mist was an important symbol for the artist. Friedrich's friends publicly defended him, and the artist wrote a programme providing his interpretation of the picture.

Caspar David Friedrich

Once people realised that this link was really not from the artist's own choice, and that his style should not have been tainted by this fascist regime, his paintings started to regain popularity and now this link is pretty much ignored. When the artist opened his studio to the public in 1808, allowing them to view this work, the 19 th-century art critic Wilhelm von Ramdohr argued that a landscape could not function as an altarpiece. Some accounts suggest that Johann Christoffer succumbed while trying to rescue Caspar David, who was also in danger on the ice.

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Friedrich frequently depicted individual characters in the foreground overlooking a huge landscape scene which he would find a symbolic gesture as well as helping to add to the feeling of awe to the viewer who would get some sense of perspective. The man who just a few years earlier was commissioned by the Russian Grand Duke and the rest of the royal family, now found himself without patrons and living in relative poverty.

Caspar David Friedrich Paintings, Drawings & Biography

Wanderer above the Sea of Fog is certainly the best example of this approach but there were several other examples too, often using several characters together in the foreground. Mood was paramount, and influence was drawn from such sources as the Icelandic legend of Edda and Ossian, and Nordic folklore. In 1810, Friedrich was elected a member of the Berlin Academy after the purchase of two of his paintings by the Prussian Crown Prince.

Caspar David Friedrich Biography

Friedrich developed his own technique of producing studies in pencil only to later add the atmospheric effects from memory when he sat down with the actual canvas. Friedrich and his supporters publicly defended the painting and the resulting debate helped to build Friedrich's reputation. The outdoor drawing excursions Quistorp took him on ignited his love of depicting nature.

Caspar David Friedrich Paintings, Drawings & Biography

In his late 20s, Friedrich's love affair with landscapes became more serious and his trips to the Baltic Coast, Bohemia and the mountains proved an endless source of inspiration.

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