Jerusalem and the Holy Land: The Paintings of Ludwig Blum (1891-1974)

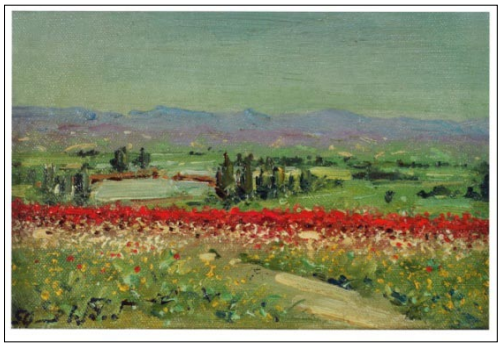
Exhibition on view: October 28, 2011 – January 15, 2012

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1928

Known as the "Painter of Jerusalem," Ludwig Blum (1891-1974) immigrated to Palestine in 1923 from his native Moravia. A veteran of the First World War and an academically trained painter, Blum was a staunch Zionist who readily embraced Jerusalem as his new home. Yet he never severed his ties with Europe, where his work enjoyed great popularity and was frequently exhibited during his lifetime.

In contrast to his contemporaries, Blum did not adopt a modernist aesthetic; rather, his paintings betray his classical training through their academic realism. He set about depicting the Middle East, most notably, the Holy Land, both through vast topographical scenes, for which he became best known, and through small-scale street and marketplace scenes. He portrayed Palestine, and later Israel, with an intimacy borne of his love for his adopted homeland and its people, and he painted Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sites alike, largely devoid of religious overtones. Unlike the Orientalist painters of the 19th century, with whom he is often compared, Blum did not wish to present a romanticized vision of the Holy Land of biblical times. His paintings reflect the perceptions of a 20th century viewer and he is often described as having painted in "real time," particularly while working as a war painter during Israel's War of Independence.

Jerusalem and the Holy Land: The Paintings of Ludwig Blum (1891-1974) chronicles the Holy Land and the holiest sites in the Judeo-Christian world. Blum's works are imbued with a sense of historical accuracy, one made all the more resonant by the artist's first-hand experience of some of the most important events in the modern history of the Holy Land.



Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin, 1950

To schedule a **group tour**, contact education at 212.408.1495 or email Kate Williamson, Curatorial Assistant, at kwilliamson@mobia.org.

Available for groups of 10 – 30 participants | FREE with museum admission

Suggested admission:
$7 Adults; $4 Seniors/Students/Active Military; Free children under 12

Museum of Biblical Art
1865 Broadway at 61st Street | NYC
www.mobia.org

Hours
Tues, Wed – Sun: 10am – 6pm
Thurs: 10am – 8pm
Mon: Closed