

Otto Ubbelohde (1867 - 1922)

5th January, 1867

Otto Ubbelohde is born in Marburg / Lahn. He is the only child of the lawyer August Ubbelohde (Hannover 1833 - Marburg 1898) and his wife Therese, b. Unger (Göttingen 1839 - Marburg 1916). They live in a house near the Elisabeth Church.

1884

Following his final grammar school exams, he takes up his studies at the Munich academy of arts.

1889

First trip to the artists' colony in Worpswede near Bremen.

1890

He finishes his studies at the academy with a special distinction as a portraitist and starts work as a freelance artist in Munich.

1890

One-year military service in Marburg

1893 and following years

Ubbelohde contributes to exhibitions of the Munich Secession.

1893

Publication of etchings in a collection called "Marburg a.d. Lahn und Umgebung" (Marburg and its surroundings). It's the start of an intense involvement with the art of etching.

1894 and 1895

Second and third summer sojourn at Worpswede. The Worpswede artists sharply reject him, which ends in a final split.

1897

Co-founder of the "Vereinigte Werkstätten für Kunst im Handwerk" (united workshops for art in crafts) in Munich.

2nd November, 1897

Ubbelohde marries his cousin Hanna Unger (Bremen 1873 - Gossfelden 1948)

1899

The artist buys a plot of land near the river Lahn in the small village of Gossfelden near Marburg.



1900

He leaves Munich for good and settles in the newly built house-cum-studio in Gossfelden.

Around 1900

Start of the work on the illustrations for the Grimms' fairytales. The illustrations for the first volume are probably finished as early as 1904 when Ubbelohde starts looking for a publisher.

From 1902 onwards

Several sojourns in the artists' village of Willingshausen. The artists Carl Bantzer and Wilhelm Thielmann remain his life-long friends.



Hanna and Otto Ubbelohde in their house in Gossfelden (1906)

1906

A collection of 30 pen and ink drawings "From Old Marburg" is published. The first "Hessenkunst" (Hessian art) Calendar illustrated by Ubbelohde is published in Marburg. By 1922 the artist has illustrated eight calendars.

1907

The first volume of the Grimms' Fairytales Jubilee Edition is published in Leipzig.

1909

In January the artist finishes his work on the illustrations for the last volume of the jubilee fairytale edition. It is published in the same year.

1910

A collection of etchings for the fairytale "Eisenhans" (Iron John) is published. The studies for it are done at the castle in Runkel (Lahn).

In Kassel, Ubbelohde acts as co-founder of the artists' union "Die Hessen" (The Hessians).

1911

Ubbelohde's first one-man exhibition at Giessen, later at Marburg.

Late in 1914

Illustrated by Ubbelohde, a "war edition" of the Hessenkunst calendar is published.

1917

From January to August, he does compulsory civil service as a clerk at the military hospital in Marburg, he is then transferred to work for the mayor in Gossfelden.

On the occasion of his 50th birthday, he is honoured with the title of professor by the Prussian minister of education and appointed honorary senator of the Philipp's University in Marburg. He is also awarded an honorary doctorate by Giessen University.

1918

Poster design for the 9th edition of war bonds

1919

Ubbelohde's last design collection „Aus schöner alter Zeit“ („From the good old times“), is published in Marburg.

His etchings („Radierungen“) are published as a complete printed edition.

1920

Trip to Hameln to illustrate a city guide. First signs of a fatal illness.

1921

Early in the year, Ubbelohde undergoes an operation in Marburg

In the autumn, a final drawing trip to the Vogelsberg.

The "Ubbelohde-Bilderbuch" (picture book) is published.

Various stays in the clinic with several operations mark the inevitable progress of the cancer.

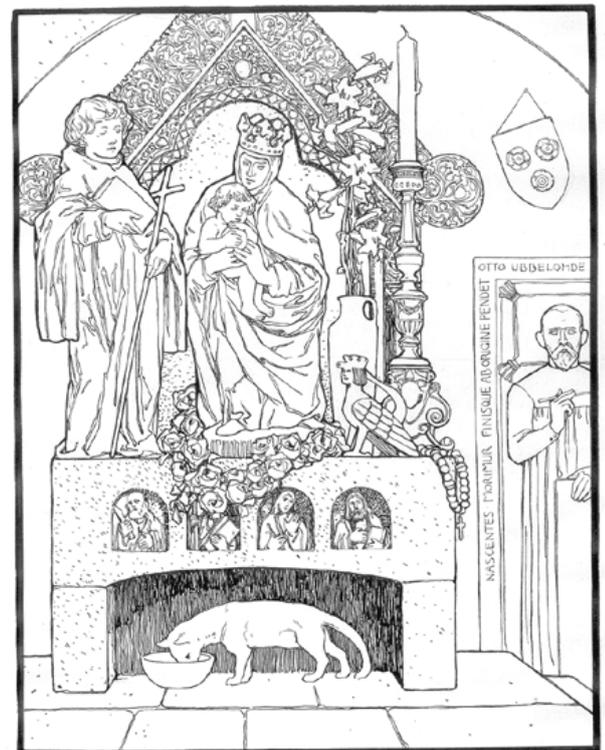
5th May, 1922

Aged 55, Otto Ubbelohde dies in his home in Gossfelden.

1922 / 1923

The illustrations for the works of Joseph von Eichendorff are published as his last work.

The Hessenkunst calendar for 1924 with Ubbelohde's illustrations is published posthumously.



Fairytale illustration for
„Cat and Mouse in Company“
(„Katz und Maus in Gesellschaft“)
Selfportrait of Ubbelohde on the right side