

GUSTAV METZGER



TOWER<sup>MMK</sup>

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GUSTAV METZGER

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“I have nothing to say and that is politics.”

—Gustav Metzger

Refugee, survivor, stateless person, carpenter, gardener, anarchist, antiquarian, environmental activist, intellectual, and artist. Gustav Metzger was born in Nuremberg in 1926. One of his earliest memories is of his mother bathing him. At the age of four, he witnessed the Nazi parades. At the age of twelve, in January 1939, he arrived in England on one of the last Jewish *Kindertransports*. His parents and most of his family were murdered by the Nazis.

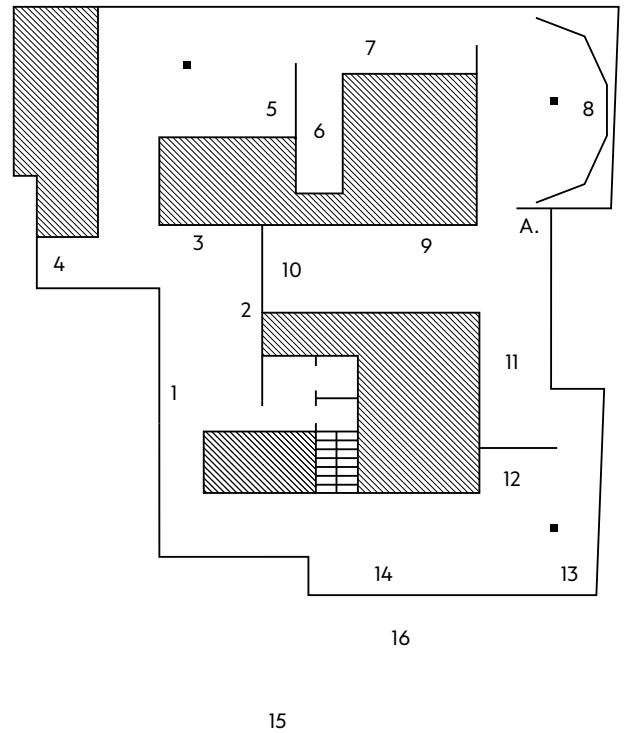
Confronted with the murderous violence of human beings at an early age, Gustav Metzger regarded drawing attention to the systematic destruction of nature and fighting for its preservation and respect as a matter of existential importance. For that reason, at the height of the nuclear arms race, he wrote Auto-Destructive Art manifestos calling for art created for its own destruction. In 1960, along with Bertrand Russell, he cofounded the Committee of 100. Composing manifestos, organizing symposia, undertaking interventions in the public space, and, above all, participating in contemporary discourse, remained fundamental to Metzger throughout his life. Many of his works address the inexplicable nature of violence, history, and, in particular, the Holocaust, promoting understanding and opposing the modes of suppression and forgetting.

The exhibition *Gustav Metzger* at TOWER<sup>MMK</sup> is the first retrospective to be devoted to the artist (1926–2017) in a German museum and is curated by Susanne Pfeffer and Julia Eichler. Some of the works are on public display for the first time.

“Born in Nuremberg, at home in London, he is perhaps the most important artist that Germany never had.”

—Ben Lewis

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## 1. *Family at the Table*, 1950

### *Family Group*, 1950

Gustav Metzger's *Family Pictures*, as he dubbed a series of drawings, have a fragility that goes beyond the images themselves. Moreover, the artist did not shy away from capturing his earliest memories in these drawings: two of them depict a small bathtub between two figures, presumably a mother and child, with the sketch of the child rendered faintly in less prominent lines. There are two more people in the picture. It would not be an overinterpretation to see these as embodying Metzger's own family, namely his parents and brother. He himself stated that the image of his mother bathing him was his first memory.

Yet what appears to be the record of one of the most intimate moments in anyone's life—their first memory—was then swiftly deprived of its privacy by Metzger as he progressed with his *Family Pictures*. For one thing, there are more people in three further pictures; the four subjects have now become five. For another thing, the family has been arranged in imitation of a classical model: Rembrandt's *Family Portrait* (c. 1665/68), also known as the *Brunswick Family Portrait*.

Metzger's reference to Rembrandt's *Family Portrait* and the way he has positioned his subjects is both deliberate and pronounced. He is as aware of the unreliability of memories as he is of the neurobiological process of constructing visual memories. No image can be created in the "mind's eye" without being formatted by the social superego, that huge and invariably faceless Other. And nobody who lives in a region of the world with Christian traditions will be able to escape the blueprint of the family in their own imagination, whether they like it or not.

As far as Gustav Metzger was concerned, all this was clear, and the horror in the pictures also stems from a religious drama that, to this day, has not been resolved. The artist, a member of an Orthodox Jewish family, would never see his family—his mother, father, brother, and himself—again after 1939 in the configuration shown in these drawings. Yet what he did continue to see was the Christian notion of the family, just as Rembrandt had presented it in one of his last paintings. And what Metzger goes beyond suggesting in the darkest of these *Family Pictures* is that the Father—the Holy Ghost—is not just faceless, that is,

intangible, but that he also represents the watchtower in a concentration camp.

## 2. *Selbstbildnis eines Unbefleckten* (Self-Portrait, an Undefined), 1946

Gustav Metzger's skeletal self-portrait, reduced to his bone structure, marks a turning point in his artistic training. In 1945, Metzger began attending evening classes at Borough Polytechnic Institute in parallel with his studies at the Cambridge School of Art. These courses were taught by David Bomberg, one of Britain's most influential Futurist painters. Metzger recalled the experience thus: "I was introduced to drawing that was completely different from what I had been doing in Cambridge, which involved following the outline of the figure to make a realistic interpretation. Bomberg said, 'Forget about that! Go for the structure! Go for the centre and use the full weight of your body.'"

And nothing comes closer to the body's structure than its skeleton, which remains even after life has long vanished. Death in general was a core theme for the artist; as a survivor of the horrors of the Holocaust and the Second World War, the atomic bomb became the central threat in Metzger's life post-1945. The war and the bomb were at the heart of his experience, commented Metzger later in life, and nothing much ever changed after that.

### 3. Pregnant Women and Embryos (Untitled), c. 1948

Gustav Metzger's depictions of pregnant women and embryos at the stage of implantation in the uterus are a part of what he himself termed the "realistic phase" of his painting. Although the pregnant women might have been created from living models, the embryos are obviously copied from scientific drawings.

For one, the topic can clearly be attributed to a concern with emerging life, the fragility of which was a central theme throughout Metzger's life. Beyond that, it also acquires a religious or spiritual connotation. As the offspring of a religious Jewish family, Metzger had been introduced to the culture of debate over the Torah and Rabbinic Judaism; he therefore never doubted the divine gift of life. Life had been granted to humans by God, but humans never did and still do not have a right to rise above the Lord in matters regarding the emergence of life. In contrast to Christian fundamentalisms, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, Jewish discourse explicitly includes a scientific grasp of life on Earth in this approach.

For Metzger, therefore, there was no logical contradiction between considering the protection of life as divine and, at the same time, having a deep interest in the most ambitious projects of natural science. Thus, Metzger's deeply activist commitment against the atomic bomb can be understood to have two foundations: it is about both the protection of life, which must always and in all cases be considered sacred, and the insight that it was in fact new physics that made the bomb possible in the first place.

Further, what the atom is able to do on and in humans when applied in war or in peace emerged thanks to the insights of a field of science that was yet young: molecular genetics. Metzger's relationships with Cambridge scientists provided him intimate connections to that discipline. It is therefore possible to draw a line from his interest in images of pregnant women and embryos to his contribution to the foundation of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science (BSSRS) in 1968. The main aim of this scholarly movement was to demonstrate opposition to the production of chemical and biological weapons, as well as to sharpen scientists' awareness of their social responsibility and make the political aspects of science and technology available to a wider public.

Members of BSSRS included Bertrand Russell, Francis Crick, and Maurice Wilkins (Crick and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine together with James Watson in 1962 for their discovery of the molecular structure of DNA), as well as the leading geneticists of their time. From the BSSRS emerged the working group "Art & Science," to which Metzger also belonged. The group met every two weeks in Wilkins' laboratory at King's College London. It was one of the many means of expressing the connection between art, science, and social commitment inherent in Metzger's aesthetics.

#### 4. Portraits of Children (Untitled), c. 1949

What initially strikes the viewer when looking at Gustav Metzger's *Portraits of Children* is the seriousness of the expressions. Whether his subject is a boy or a girl, sketched using just a few contoured strokes, the facial expression is always solemn. All the lightness of an untroubled childhood, free from responsibility, has given way to an expressive immobility that can scarcely be encapsulated in words like grief or melancholy. That might not be surprising given Metzger's history and that of the *Kindertransports*, which brought children from Nazi Germany to the United Kingdom. After all, on those journeys, he would have witnessed expressions of abandonment and uncertainty on faces other than his own, too. Yet it is unusual for Metzger to have captured this down-right cheerless emotional quality in child portraits in the 1950s. At that time, it was not generally accepted that children were "capable" of profound grief, exceptional seriousness, or deep depression. The idea that disrupting or violently destroying early childhood bonds can literally throw someone's entire life off course was either disputed or not even acknowledged in pertinent disciplines such as medicine or psychology.

Gustav Metzger was lucky in this respect, because London at the time was a center for the incipient field of child psychoanalysis—spearheaded by Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud's daughter—which, in turn, was linked to artistic studies of emotion in childhood. And in terms of art history, he took these "expressions of emotion" and added an expressiveness that had been little researched at that time.

Metzger's contribution to art history can be illustrated by considering something that Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel once said. When the German philosopher praised Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's portrayal of "beggar boys" in the first volume of his *Lectures on Aesthetics* (1835–38), commending the poverty-stricken boys' "absence of care and concern" and suggesting that "anything may become of these youths," we can be sure that what is happening in Metzger's pictures is nothing of the sort.

#### 5. *Table*, c. 1956

In the 1950s, Gustav Metzger became increasingly preoccupied with the question of how he could create art as a Jewish artist without contravening the prohibition on imagery. The *table studies* date from just before his transition to Auto-Destructive Art, when he moved away from painting entirely and retreated into the background as an author. As well as selling second-hand books, Metzger sometimes also dealt in old furniture; the table he portrayed in his studies came from his improvised store.

He depicted the three-legged table using charcoal, pencil, pastel, watercolor, ink, and oil, occasionally making such heavy demands on the paper that it would tear. As the studies progressed, the representations became increasingly abstract. Bold black strokes outline the table motif, which fills the surface area of the paper. Some of the paintings on canvas present the impasto background as dark and gloomy, while other versions present it in flaming red or soft pastel tones.

The occasionally threatening impression is intrinsic to the theme of what Metzger saw in the table: its shape refers to the atomic mushroom cloud, which was an iconic and ubiquitous image in the 1950s. The threat of nuclear destruction and warmongering was very clearly felt, and it resulted in global protests. Following the first use of atomic weapons in a military conflict in August 1945, the Americans carried out atomic testing in locations like Bikini Atoll and the Nevada desert over the next ten years, wreaking devastation on both people and the environment. Metzger was not only active in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND); in 1960, he also became a founding member of the Committee of 100, which called for non-violent resistance to the arms race. He was later sentenced to one month in prison for planning a demonstration.

Metzger's works often feature an expression of global political themes in close proximity to everyday objects. They illustrate far-reaching events intruding on the practical aspects and intimate side of everyday life—in the artist's later lecture performances, he repeatedly directs his probing gaze at materials or functional objects as a way of establishing reference points to larger contexts.



## 6. Auto-Destructive Art

The collective consciousness of the 1960s was shaped by the horrors of Auschwitz and the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The threat of an escalation of the Cold War was countered by non-violent peace movements. Gustav Metzger played an active role in this movement as a cofounder of the Committee of 100, which called for mass civil disobedience.

His art was made in the context of that time. Metzger's Auto-Destructive Art demands a confrontation with the present. He wrote in 1966 that he created "monuments for destruction, memorials that contain the brutality, the over-extended power, the nausea, and the unpredictability of our social systems." Auto-Destructive Art took place explicitly in the public sphere. This is where Metzger staged his works, distributed pamphlets, and called on the public to participate.

On February 24, 1965, Gustav Metzger issued an invitation to a happening at the Architectural Association (AA) in London. The happening illuminates his concept and the collective dynamics of Auto-Destructive Art: sixty broken neon tubes were suspended from strings at the highest point of the AA so that they could be cut off and let drop to the ground. The walls of the courtyard were lined with hot plates connected to the main electricity supply. At a given point in time, plastic bags filled with water were slowly lowered onto the hot plates; the water evaporated explosively, and this caused a short circuit in the electrical wiring. Metzger initially stopped the demonstration following safety concerns, but the students were intent on continuing. They began to cut through the strings so that glass, chairs, and water-filled plastic bags fell against the walls and dropped to the ground, resulting in a cacophony of noises. A sense of total hysteria set in—the audience had taken over the demonstration.

Gustav Metzger wrote five manifestos on Auto-Destructive Art. The second is like a manual, in which he suggests materials and techniques for the development of works of art. He expected that art could influence real life. His idea reached its pinnacle at the "Destruction in Art Symposium" (DIAS, London, 1966), which he had initiated together with John Sharkey. Many artists registered to hold lectures and speak about destruction in art.

Auto-Destructive Art wanted to challenge war; hence, 1960s artworks became social events or happenings—physical, eccentric, ephemeral, sometimes dangerous, and most of all, a communal act of experience and critical confrontation. Like a manual, Auto-Destructive Art is largely conceptual—unrealized art—that continues to challenge to this day.

## 7. *Five Screens with Computer*, 1963–70

*Five Screens with Computer* is an Auto-Destructive Art steel model, incorporating two of Gustav Metzger's major interests: kinetic art and early computer art. Metzger had been a member of the computer magazine *PAGE*'s editorial staff since 1969. This publication of the Computer Arts Society addressed the use of computer technology in art as well as the new technology's social responsibility, possibilities, and risks.

Metzger had intended to construct a monumental sculpture comprising five 9 × 12-meter steel cuboids, each erected at a distance of 9 meters from the next. The 10,000 elements contained in the individual cuboids were supposed to be catapulted out of them, apparently at random, via a centrally controlled computer. This process would have dismantled the sculpture, and the individual elements already discarded would have to be cleared away on a regular basis. In his script, Metzger states that the destruction would have reached up to six hundred elements per day during the holidays. Metzger, in collaboration with programmer Beverley Rowe, came up with the idea of programming the computer to react to the weather conditions in a process of destruction. The sculpture would have dismantled itself entirely after ten years.

Gustav Metzger's essay "The Possibility of Auto-Destructive Architecture" (1966) was a reaction to the first moon landing. In this work, Metzger emphasized the destructive nature of technology and criticized the insufficiently considered developments that failed to keep in mind their final consequences, such as the exploration of other planets, which he saw as a part of military technology. He sketched out models for the potential development of moon-based structures; integrated Auto-Destructive programs could serve to minimize the legacy of humans on other planets. Looking back at Earth, Metzger made the connection between his experimental setup and existing structures in the fields of war, defense, science, nursing, and so on. Products developed by NASA for space travel might one day be found at the breakfast table. The same could be true for ideas on Auto-Destructive architecture: side products coming out of the most recent research could be used to develop art and bring about the self-disposal of everyday structures.

## 8. *Liquid Crystal Environment*, 1965/2024

In the mid-1960s, Gustav Metzger started collaborating with the protein chemist Arnold Feinstein with a view to developing various processes for manipulating liquid crystals. This brought several strands of Metzger's life together. The work *Liquid Crystal Environment*, which was first shown in 1965, features projections on two walls of a blacked-out room that allow viewers to experience the psychedelic effect of heat-sensitive crystals when they are mounted on glass slides and rotated in the projectors. The force of gravity and the crystals' changing colors appear as piebald abstractions and petri-dish patterns that are as large as stained glass windows.

From a contemporary perspective, the resulting combinations of patterns could easily be categorized as a stereotypical sensory effect induced by LSD, but one that, when viewed in light of Metzger's aesthetics, spreads out in various directions. For one thing, there is the pop effect: Metzger's projections were presented as stage sets for concerts given by Cream and The Who; the latter's guitarist Pete Townshend regarded himself as a student of Metzger's art. Townshend—probably the inventor of destroying guitars on stage as something of an anti-gesture—viewed his entire musical oeuvre as having emerged from the tradition of Metzger's art. With one difference: the effect that Metzger was attempting to achieve on the recipient's eye and retina was diverted to the listener's ear and acoustic perception instead. Moreover, Cambridge was where Metzger communicated his theories of Auto-Destructive and Auto-Creative Art in the 1960s, in the talks that would now be called lecture performances. Figures such as William S. Burroughs and Brion Gysin, two exceptional authors of the Beat Generation in the USA, were awestruck as they followed these lessons.

Metzger found the atmosphere in Cambridge, oscillating between conservatism and scientific innovation, to be significant inasmuch as it fostered the multidisciplinary nature of his art. Feinstein subsequently achieved renown as an immunologist, and in this capacity, he became a major critic of Britain's abysmal healthcare policies. The combination of social criticism and natural science that would attract Metzger to researchers throughout his life grew out of the particularly discursive atmosphere at Cambridge after 1945.

## 9. *Historic Photographs: No. 1: Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, April 19–28 days, 1943, 1995*

Following the Nazi invasion of Poland, a Jewish ghetto was established in Warsaw, where about half a million people were penned up in extremely confined quarters. Thousands died due to the abysmal living conditions, the brutal mistreatment, and forced hard labor; many escaped by suicide. From 1942 on, the occupiers cleared the Warsaw Ghetto and deported the residents, most of whom were transported to the extermination camp Treblinka, where the majority were murdered.

The few people who remained in the Warsaw Ghetto resisted their deportation on April 19, 1943. Mordechai Anielewicz led the resistance movement, under whose guidance various groups fought an unequal battle against heavily armed SS, police, and *Wehrmacht* units for four weeks. On May 16, 1943, the uprising was declared put down, and the Great Synagogue was destroyed. While some of the resistance fighters managed to go into hiding and continue their struggle, the majority were murdered. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was and remains of enormous symbolic importance.

The photograph chosen by Gustav Metzger for his first work in the series *Historic Photographs* is one of the best-known sources on the uprising. At its center, we see a boy standing with his hands held high, while further people are capitulating behind him. The boy stands a little apart from the group; the look in his eyes is desperate. Armed *Wehrmacht* soldiers are watching the scene. The enlarged photograph is positioned on the floor against the wall of the exhibition room, but the view of the image is obstructed. Metzger installed a structure of wooden slats in a steel frame—similar to those used on building sites as planking for pouring concrete—immediately in front of the picture. Like the wall separating the Warsaw Ghetto from the rest of the city, it is positioned between the photograph and its onlookers. Metzger obstructed or hid the essence. Only a small crack allows us to see the photograph; it is an image that we all believe we know and yet cannot understand, as doing so would mean to act differently.

## 10. *Historic Photographs: To Crawl Into—Anschluss, Vienna, March 1938, 1996/2024*

A massive yellow sheet is spread out on the ground, underneath which a black-and-white photograph is concealed that can only be viewed by crawling underneath the sheet. The work can be experienced incrementally: kneeling and crawling, attempting to consolidate the visual impressions. The physical attitude approximates that of the protagonists in the image. The historic photograph depicts Jewish people being forced into the futile task of scrubbing the cobblestones of a street on their knees. Members of the Hitler Youth are guarding the scene, and a large crowd of onlookers are delighting in watching the act of violence and taunting those who are being humiliated.

Adolf Hitler's signature of the Federal Constitutional Law on the Reunification of Austria with the German Reich on March 13, 1938, entrenched the so-called *Anschluss* of Austria with the German Reich into law. Deportations from Austria to the Dachau concentration camp began in that same month.

The *Anschluss* pogroms that erupted in Vienna subsequent to the events of March 1938 saw persons of Jewish affiliation being brutally maltreated and, among other things, being forced to "clean" the streets of Vienna. They were made to remove political posters from advertising pillars using their bare hands and caustic alkali solutions, and to scrub the streets with tiny brushes and sponges. These humiliations became a perverse amusement for onlookers.

It is only possible to view Gustav Metzger's work *Historic Photographs: To Crawl Into—Anschluss, Vienna, March 1938* by taking on the attitude of those being subjected to the humiliation. This creates a brief moment of concomitance where viewers become onlookers of the scene, joining the group looking on from above while simultaneously approximating a comprehension of the humiliation by adopting the physical posture. This engenders a dichotomy between voyeurism and empathy, perpetrators and victims. Watching is also a form of perpetration.

## 11. *Historic Photographs: The Ramp at Auschwitz, Summer 1944, 1998/2024*

Auschwitz was one of the Nazis' largest extermination camps; over a million people were murdered there. This black-and-white photograph showing Hungarian Jews arriving at Auschwitz-Birkenau dates from June 1944. Between mid-May and early July 1944, over 430,000 of them were deported, primarily to Auschwitz. The ramp was not just the place where they arrived; it was also where the SS decided who would be sent to the labor camp and who would go directly to the gas chambers, in a process known as "selection."

This photo comes from the so-called Auschwitz Album, which Lili Jacob found after she had been liberated. It was on this very ramp that she was separated from the rest of her family; she would become its only surviving member. The photographers of this album are thought to be SS officer Ernst Hofmann and his assistant Bernhard Walter, who were documenting the day-to-day running of the camp. Later, the courts used these snapshots as evidence in cases such as the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials in 1963.

Gustav Metzger's installation is oppressive; its architecture thrusts viewers into the photo, making it impossible to distance themselves from their incomprehensible horror—or even to suppress it. The motif is magnified to the point of being almost life-sized, which has the further effect of rendering the image grainy: only gradually do the white, gray, and black silhouettes turn into a single big picture. The mere fact that viewers cannot move far enough away from the photo to view it as a whole is sufficient for Metzger to demonstrate that he is not concerned with simply seeing the subject matter; it should be experienced, pondered, and felt. At the same time, the unfathomable difficulty of the situation becomes painfully clear.

## 12. *Mad Cows Talk, 1996*

"British beef banned in Europe" and "Burger King: an announcement about our new beef" are only two of the headlines from the materials Gustav Metzger collected in his work *Mad Cows Talk* as a commentary on the BSE crisis. BSE—bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease—occurred primarily in Britain from the mid-1980s onward as a deadly brain disease in cows. For Metzger—who claimed that he himself had been a Marxist from the age of sixteen—the BSE crisis brought the conditions of production and the relations of production together in the grim present.

Today, we are able to reconstruct the course of the disease and its history rather well. It is known that the cause of this terrible, incurable brain disease, which was contracted by almost two hundred people in the UK between 1996 and 2006, is to be found in the fact that the relations of production forced animal vegetarians—regurgitating cows—to turn into carnivores. For years, farm animals such as cows were fed bone meal from the ground-up and dried carcasses of sheep that may have suffered scrapie, a spongiform type of brain damage, in the UK. Scrapie had been known in the UK for over two centuries as a disease that occurs in flocks of sheep but that had never been transmitted to humans. However, like all pathogens—viruses, bacteria, or, in the case of BSE, particular proteins—the pathogens responsible for triggering BSE also sought out places to replicate beyond sheep alone.

The spread of the BSE pathogen was facilitated by a decree that was passed in Britain in the 1970s. It allowed animal carcasses to be processed at lower temperatures in carcass-disposal plants, thereby reducing energy costs and maximizing profits. The alteration of the temperature guidelines for British animal carcass-disposal plants is today considered a major factor in the outbreak of the BSE crisis in the UK. Insufficiently heated bone meal had first permitted the genetic mutation of the scrapie pathogens and then led to the development of a hitherto unknown, spontaneous form of BSE. Nowadays, Germany has banned the use of meat and bone meal (MBM) from animals like sheep as cattle feed. However, this still has not returned cows to being the vegetarians they were originally.

Metzger's confrontation with the official public response to the BSE crisis, including the reactions of the meat industry and the then British Prime Minister, John Major, will have played a major role in the artist's statement that he had nothing to say and that was politics. For Metzger, it was now perfectly apparent that the meat industry had joined the nuclear industry and the car industry as the great destroyers of life.

### 13. *Drop on Hot Plate*, 1968/2024

Creation and destruction coalesce in the cycle of *Drop on Hot Plate*, for which Gustav Metzger chose a laboratory-style installation that is stripped to the bare essentials: a hot plate is mounted on a steel rod at waist height. Water droplets fall onto this hot plate from a thin silicone tube that is connected to a copper pipe. The water evaporates with a hiss; the next drop follows at the very moment of evaporation.

*Drop on Hot Plate* produces an aesthetic effect that is visual as well as acoustic. The hissing sound at the moment of evaporation triggers a stress reaction and indicates the danger of the hot plate to the touch. At the same time, the glistening drop of water engenders a sensuous, aesthetic image that implies permanence. In his fifth and final Auto-Destructive Art manifesto of 1964, Metzger associated material/transforming art with science and described it as "the drawing of belief [...] a belief in molecular theory and related definable and indefinable beliefs." A concept from a later date that was never realized would have been a work comprising fridges and providing an admonishing reminder of high-carbon emissions. Metzger called on art to demonstrate in model form what we have to take collective social responsibility for in our everyday lives in light of the potential of technological development.

*Drop on Hot Plate* was created in the context of the Student Arts Festival at the University College of Swansea in the spring of 1968. With the assistance of the filtration laboratory that had recently been established at the university, Metzger designed an exhibition featuring six kinetic works there: Hoses danced through the space, polystyrene plates were suspended mid-air, water dripped on and evaporated from hot plates (in a similar arrangement to *Drop on Hot Plate*), and a plastic box filled with the mineral mica was intermittently attached to compressed air so that the mica first hovered and then fractured. Metzger also projected light onto a wall through liquid crystal: as the chemical substance in front of the projector was subjected to heating and cooling phases, the resultant perpetual color changes lent the installation a psychedelic touch.

#### 14. *Historic Photographs: Kill the Cars, Camden Town, London 1996, 1996/2024*

The recording issues an intense, incessant choir of children's voices: "Kill the cars!" It accompanies a large photograph that shows two children at a demonstration, boisterously jumping about on a derelict car that is already somewhat worse for wear. The photograph was taken in 1996 at an anti-car demonstration in the London Borough of Camden, during which Gustav Metzger happened to be passing. After the Second World War, his entire life was shaped by persistent activism against the destructive forces of the conditions of life on Earth.

Hence, the presentation of *Kill the Cars* always also includes an actual derelict car, which is usually dented for the exhibition. Yet the audience is not expected to endure the real act of destruction on the murderous machine that is a car. In all installations of this work shown during Metzger's lifetime, the car was dented prior to its public presentation. The voices and the image of the children suffice, however, to transport the positively charged energy of the destruction of a social ill.

Metzger considered the decision by modern Western industrialized societies to place the car at the center of life and mobility, together with the atomic bomb and the so-called "peaceful" use of atomic energy, the pinnacle of life-destroying ills. In contrast to Andy Warhol's *Death and Disaster* series paintings, Metzger's main concern was not the unrepentant acceptance of traffic deaths. Metzger had witnessed the way in which cities and settlements were restructured around the car and how they had destroyed public life, in addition to the consequences of air pollution that are nigh-on irreparable, as clearly apparent in climate change.

Individual car transport exacerbated the urban-rural divide by relentlessly destroying public transport networks, especially in the countryside. The car decimated the culture of public spaces by means of the expedited encapsulation of so-called individuals in closed cars. Moreover, it disrupted the every-day solidarity among workers on their way to the factory. While they used to arrive at work in masses by bus or train from settlements close to the factory, they now drive alone or maybe in pairs to reach the factory sites by car, with a sensation of modern freedom. It is another reason for the children to scream to exhaustion: "Kill the cars!"

#### 15. *Strampelnde Bäume, 2010/2024*

The crowns of the trees are encased in concrete, while the roots rise up into the air. Gustav Metzger created *Strampelnde Bäume* (Trembling Trees) in 2010 as an Auto-Destructive open-air sculpture. The natural order has been turned upside down: the roots pointing up to the sky cannot absorb any water, and the concrete-confined treetops receive no light. The dying trees have had the foundations of their entire existence stripped away; the decay to which they have been exposed is irreversible. Metzger has triggered a process here that underscores the ubiquity of destruction. As far back as 1996, he described the instrumentalization of the term *environment* as a buzzword in political campaigns—and one that indicates the diminishing connection people have with nature, which is actually a highly complex concept: what is a *destroyed nature*?

"First, we had Nature. And then came the Environment. Environment is the *smoke* humanity has put on Nature: the people who used Latin had no word for environment—they only knew *natura*. [...] The term Environment lends itself perfectly to telling lies and giving illusions. The people who run production and distribution, the controllers of media, and government, local and national, are systematically using the term Environment to hide realities, confuse the public, and distort their preception of reality." (Gustav Metzger, 1996)

*Strampelnde Bäume* highlights this impotence in the face of an impending catastrophe; it is impossible to rescue the trees from their fate. They have become a metaphor for the human subjugation of nature and its catastrophic consequences. Gustav Metzger viewed destruction as an ambivalent force rather than as purely negative violence. He believed it was also a natural and productive process that was as much an aspect of human nature as the urge to destroy, as he writes: "Destruction and destructivity are inextricably entwined in the nature that we know; fire does not make moral judgments. Insofar as we are nature, that nature suffuses us, we are inescapably entrapped within it."

## 16. *Judenpech*, 1999/2024

When Gustav Metzger had asphalt poured outside the main entrance of Munich's Haus der Kunst in 1999 and called his intervention *Judenpech* (literally: Jews' tar), this word already had a long history to look back on. On the face of it, Metzger was intervening in, or commenting on, the Nazi architecture of the Haus der Kunst. However, there was a second meaning: even in Antiquity, *Bitumen Iudaicum*, as Pliny the Elder called asphalt, had already long been known as a material for grout, mortar, and foundations. In the entire sphere of former Mesopotamia, natural bitumen was used as mortar for clay bricks as well as being used to construct streets, for example, in Babylonia. *Bitumen Iudaicum* may be translated as Jews' tar or Jews' glue; it initially meant nothing but that the weighty, hard, oily, and easily polishable material originated from the area around the Dead Sea—those regions where Jews lived.

Thus, when Metzger used the old word *Judenpech* in connection with the asphalt poured outside a Nazi building, he was also reacting to the way in which Jewish people had been marked out and banished as those who do not belong in the history of language and law. "The desire to kill would not find its victims if they had not previously been marked out by the ambition of acumen," wrote the philosopher Hans Blumenberg on this very process in order to call to mind the linguistic and statutory efforts made to exclude Jews that preceded every pogrom and every murder and which only served to create the victims for the desire to kill in the first place.

Gustav Metzger did with the title of his action something similar by other means: the poured asphalt represents the process of using language to turn a natural material (asphalt) into a name (*Judenpech*) that is more than a mere precedent for its subsequent antisemitic use.

## Gustav Metzger

### Biography

1926

Gustav Metzger is born as the youngest son of Jewish-Orthodox parents of Polish descent in Nuremberg on April 10.

1938

On November 9, three weeks before *Reichspogromnacht* (the night of the imperial pogrom), his father and two sisters are deported to Poland. Almost all of his family members are murdered in Nazi concentration camps in the following years.

1939

On January 12, Gustav Metzger and his brother Max (Mendel) are brought to England by the Refugee Children's Movement (via the so-called *Kindertransports*). A shelter in London accommodates them.

1941–44

Metzger begins training as a cabinetmaker in Leeds. He works for some time in this profession and as a gardener. Metzger began visiting contemporary art exhibitions regularly and reading communist literature.

He produced his first sculptures. In 1944, he moved to a Trotskyist-anarchist commune in Bristol.

1945

After moving to London, Metzger takes drawing courses at Cambridge School of Art. He also attends David Bomberg's evening classes at Borough Polytechnic Institute in South London. Bomberg became an important mentor for Metzger and encouraged him to take up painting.

1948–53

Metzger receives a stateless passport. He travels to the Netherlands and exhibits his first paintings.

1953–58

Metzger moves to King's Lynn in Norfolk. He lived there until 1958, setting up a studio and experimenting with various painting surfaces (cardboard and metal). His final paintings were made with a palette knife on steel plates.



In 1957, Metzger organized local protests against redevelopment plans for the town's medieval wards.

1959

He returns to London. Metzger turns away from traditional artistic techniques and decides to produce sculptures with the help of machines.

Metzger supports the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC) and takes part in two demonstrations to occupy the North Pickenham missile base.

On the occasion of the exhibition *Cardboards Selected and Arranged by G. Metzger*, Metzger publishes a revised version of his first manifesto, *Auto-Destructive Art (First Manifesto)*.

1960

Metzger publishes his second manifesto, *Manifesto Auto-Destructive Art*. On March 15, he appears in the *Daily Express* newspaper with a model for an Auto-Destructive sculpture.

Metzger delivers the lecture "Auto-Destructive Art" at the Temple Gallery, London.

From June, he experiments with a new painting technique whereby acid is sprayed onto a nylon painting surface.

He is a founding member of the British anti-war group, the Committee of 100.

1961

On the occasion of his demonstration "Auto-Destructive Art" at London's South Bank, Metzger publishes his third manifesto, *Auto-destructive art, Machine art, Auto-creative art*, as a leaflet with the two previous manifestos also printed within it. It is distributed to visitors.

A number of other demonstrations take place, organized by the Committee of 100, in which Metzger participates. He and the other demonstrators are arrested and subsequently sentenced to prison. Metzger spends one month in Drake Hall Open Prison in Staffordshire.

1962

Metzger's exhibition proposal *Festival of Misfits*, curated by Daniel Spoerri and Robert Filliou at London's Gallery One, is rejected. Nevertheless, he takes part in the "Misfits Night" at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on

October 24, where he distributes his fourth manifesto, *Manifesto World*.

Metzger delivers the lecture "Auto-Destructive Art, Auto-Creative Art: The Struggle for the Machine Arts of the Future" at the Ealing School of Art.

1963

In February, during a lecture delivered at the Bartlett School of Architecture Society (BSAS) at the University of London, Metzger demonstrates a new technique similar to his novel painting process: nylon, stretched on a slide frame, is pushed into a projector and then coated with hydrochloric acid. The dissolution process is projected onto a screen.

Metzger supports Marcello Salvadori in his plan to found a center for art, science, and technology. In fall, he accepts an invitation from Salvadori to take part in a conference of artists and writers in Rimini, Italy. Here, he meets theoreticians Frank Popper and Pierre Restany.

1964

Metzger travels to the Netherlands and Germany.

On July 30, he publishes his fifth manifesto, *On Random Activity in Material/Transforming Works of Art*.

1965

Metzger gives a lecture on Auto-Destructive Art at the Architectural Association (AA) in London.

In September, he takes part in a fundraising gala organized by Mark Boyle for the ICA at the Theatre Royal in Stratford, London. There, he presents London's first major "Light Show," subtitled "Notes on the Chemical Revolution in Art."

In October, he uses liquid crystals for the first time during the lecture demonstration "The Chemical Revolution in Art," at the Society of Arts at Cambridge University.

In November, *Auto-Destructive Art: Metzger at AA* is published.

1966

Metzger sets up the *Art of Liquid Crystals* exhibition in the window of the independent bookshop Better Books, a meeting place for London's counterculture scene. The work *Earth from Space* is presented to the public for the first time.

In March, Metzger publishes the first announcement of the "Destruction in Art Symposium" (DIAS).

One month later, the International Committee of DIAS is founded, and Metzger becomes its honorary president.

In December 30–31, Metzger's liquid crystal light projections feature at concerts by Cream, The Who, and The Move at London's Roundhouse.

1967

On July 19, a four-day trial begins against the organizers of DIAS on the charge of "carrying out an obscene display," referring to Hermann Nitsch's "action" on September 16, 1966. The court orders Metzger to pay a fine of 100 pounds. John Sharkey, another co-organizer, receives a suspended sentence.

At the "Festival of Art" in Exeter, Metzger gives a lecture entitled "Destruction in Art."

1968

Metzger spends six months researching an essay on automata.

He speaks to the Blackheath Art Society on "Theory and Practice."

1969

Metzger begins to work on *Five Screens with Computer*, creating a steel model and several computer graphics. On March 29 and 30, these works are shown at the Computer Arts Society's exhibition *Event One* at London's Royal College of Art. He was editor of the Computer Arts Society's magazine, *PAGE*, from 1969 to 1973.

His interest in the connection between technology and art is also reflected in his collaboration in the "Art & Science" working group under the direction of Maurice Wilkins at King's College London, as well as in his participation in another exhibition, *Computers and Visual Research*, in Zagreb.

With historian Jonathan Benthall and computer scientist Gordon Hyde, he discusses the future of computers, artificial intelligence, and their impact on art.

Metzger will give the lecture "The Social Relevance of Art" at Slade School of Fine Art, University College London. Another lecture at Portsmouth College of Education is titled "On the Possible."

1970

From April 14 to 16, Metzger participates in the "Computer Graphics '70" congress at Brunel University London in Uxbridge.

He translates a book by Herbert W. Franke titled *Computer Graphics, Computer Art* (Phaidon Press).

He shows the work *Mobbile* at the exhibition *Kinetics* (September 5–November 22) at London's Hayward Gallery, involving a prepared car, the exhaust fumes of which are channeled through a hose into an acrylic glass box mounted on the roof.

Metzger delivers the lecture "Do You Eat?" at Slade School of Fine Art in London.

In October, he organizes the "International Coalition for the Liquidation of Art" in London. Sixty people join the sit-ins in and around the Tate Gallery in Millbank (now Tate Britain).

Metzger works on designs for projects in the public space on the River Thames and South Bank and a slide projection of liquid crystals on the façade of the Royal Festival Hall. The projects are never realized.

1971

Metzger creates the installation *Mass Media Today* for the exhibition *Art Spectrum: London*. For this installation, he writes commentaries on articles from daily newspapers and changes them daily. This work ushered in a phase of political art.

1972

Metzger takes part in the first exhibition at Gallery House, London, which is affiliated with the Goethe-Institut.

He developed the work *KARBA 1970/72* for documenta 5 in Kassel, in which the exhaust fumes from four cars were to be channeled into a 3 × 3 × 3-meter plastic cube for the exhibition's entire duration. The planned location was a square in front of the Neue Galerie. The project will never be realized; instead, Metzger is represented in the documenta 5 catalogue with a similar work that he is planning for the first World Environment Conference in Stockholm—*Stockholm June*.

Metzger is elected deputy chairman of the Artists Union, London.

For the exhibition *British Things* at the Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter in Høvikodden, Norway, Metzger conceives

a massage project in which exhibition visitors can be massaged free of charge.

"The Growing Concern Over Environmental Issues" leaflet is distributed during his solo exhibition, *Executive Profile*, at London's ICA.

Metzger delivers the lecture "Ethics of the Art/Science/Technology Link" at Leicester and Kingston polytechnics.

1974

Metzger does not participate in the exhibition *Art into Society – Society into Art: Seven German Artists* at the ICA. Instead, he calls for "Years without Art, 1977–1980" in the exhibition catalogue. No art is to be produced, exhibited, or sold during these three years. Metzger replaces practice with theory; during this time, he begins several book projects, some in collaboration with the art historian Cordula Frowein.

1976

Metzger joins Dan Graham, Dave Rushton, and Paul Wood in the panel discussion "The Role of the Art Magazine" at the University of Sussex.

Together with Cordula Frowein, he organizes the symposium "Art in Germany under National Socialism" (AGUN) at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and at the Drill Hall. This symposium, with its eighteen invited scholars from Germany, Britain, and the USA, is the first conference on this topic.

1977

Metzger participates in the exhibition *Towards Another Picture* at the Midland Group Gallery in Nottingham. Here, his work, comprising newspapers, is renewed daily.

He takes part in the conference "Fascism—Art and Visual Media" at the Historisches Museum Frankfurt, organized by academics who had taken part in AGUN the previous year.

1980

Metzger attends lectures and seminars by Jürgen Habermas in Frankfurt am Main. He has conversations and correspondence with the art historian Kristine Stiles about her dissertation on DIAS at the University of California, Berkeley.

1981

Together with Cordula Frowein and Klaus Staeck, Metzger organizes a counter-exhibition to Kasper König's *West-*

*kunst* in Cologne. An element of this counter-exhibition is a critical campaign against a film about the *Westkunst* exhibition, which was broadcast on WDR television and shown in the exhibition. In the view of Metzger and others, this film trivialized National Socialist art policy. There is a public discussion with German art critic Bazon Brock in Cologne.

Metzger delivers the lecture "Auto-Destructive Art" at the University of Frankfurt's Faculty of Philosophy.

1983

Metzger is the initiator of Artists Support Peace.

He gives a lecture on his practice at the Visual Arts Society of the University of Sussex.

1984

Artists Support Peace demonstration at the Greenham Common missile base.

1985

Stewart Home publishes a leaflet announcing the "Art Strike 1990–1993."

1986

Metzger attends the opening of the Sohm Archive at the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart.

1989

Metzger has conversations with Justin Hoffmann in Darmstadt and later in London regarding his dissertation, which is later published as the volume *Destruktionskunst: Der Mythos der Zerstörung in der Kunst der frühen sechziger Jahre*.

1990

Metzger carries out research in art libraries in Zurich for a monograph on Johannes Vermeer. He meets the Swiss sculptor Jean Tinguely in Basel.

In November, he begins work on the *Historic Photographs* series. He does not participate in the "Art Strike 1990–1993."

1991

Metzger takes part in the International Design Seminar, organized biannually by students at the University of Delft. Here, he shows documentation of older works

alongside an installation of chairs, sofas, and bales of Delft daily newspapers.

1992

Metzger varied his concept for *Stockholm June (1972)* under the title *Earth Minus Environment* in order to show it at the UN Environment Conference in Rio de Janeiro in June. A model of this work is exhibited at Harry Ruhé's Gallery A in Amsterdam.

He writes the article "Nature Demised Resurrects as Environment."

1993

Metzger is involved in the planning of an Elements Centre, which will examine the relationship between the elements earth, water, and air and the visual arts. The plan is to house it in an industrial waterside building in Amsterdam.

1994

Metzger writes papers on Vermeer for art history conferences. At University College London, he then gives the lecture "Vermeer and Freud's Fetish Theory," and, at the University of Utrecht, he participates in a conference on the Italian iconographer Cesare Ripa with his lecture "Johannes Vermeer and Cesare Ripa."

1995

Metzger exhibits the first two works in his *Historic Photographs* series. *Historic Photographs: No. 1: Hitler addressing the Reichstag after the fall of France, July 1940*; and *Historic Photographs: No. 1: Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, April 19–28 days, 1943*.

He speaks at the Art History Society, Middlesex University, on "Auto-Destructive Art and the Twentieth Century."

1996

"From DIAS to Dunblane" is the title of Metzger's lecture in the context of the exhibition *In Memory of DIAS* at the Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow.

Metzger publishes *damaged nature, auto-destructive art* on the occasion of his exhibition *The Exclusion of the Spectator in Art*, at Hanbury Street Hall, London.

1997

He delivers the lecture "breath in(g) culture" at Neal's Yard, Covent Garden. At the conference "Speaking the

Unspeakable: Representing the Holocaust in the Verbal, Visual, and Plastic Arts," Metzger talks about his works from the series *Historic Photographs*.

Solo exhibition at Kunstraum München curated by Justin Hoffmann.

1998

On the occasion of his exhibition *Gustav Metzger* at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, Metzger speaks on "Earth to Galaxies: On Destruction and Destructivity."

1999

Metzger produces the outdoor installation *Travertin/Judenpech* for the Haus der Kunst, Munich. The Haus der Kunst was opened by Hitler in 1937 with the *Great German Art Exhibition*.

2002

Metzger delivers a lecture titled "On Extinction" at the Art and Ecology Pavilions in Mile End Park, London.

2003

Metzger takes his first trip to New York City to participate in the "Ground Zero" conference. He also delivers the lecture "Hurry up, it's time! – The Waste(d) Land," at Tate Britain, London.

2004

He participates in the symposium "Resistencia. Resistance" at the Teatro de los Insurgentes in Mexico City, delivering a lecture there titled "Ethics, Aesthetics, and Biotechnology." He is also involved in the survey exhibition *Art and the 60s: This Was Tomorrow* at Tate Britain.

2005

Metzger's solo exhibition, *History History*, opens at the Generali Foundation, Vienna. He delivers a lecture as part of the Glasgow International: Festival of Contemporary Visual Art.

2007

Metzger participates in Skulptur Projekte Münster with the work *Aequivalenz – Shattered Stones*. On the occasion of this exhibition he also publishes, as part of his poster campaign, "RAF/Reduce Art Flights."

2008

Responding to the *Rhodri Davies: Self-Cancellation* exhibition, Metzger delivers the lecture “Art and Compromise (I).”

2009

The Serpentine Gallery hosts the retrospective exhibition *Gustav Metzger: Decades 1959–2009*.

2010

Metzger produces two large outdoor installations for the Haus der Kunst, Munich: *Strampelnde Bäume* and *Travertin/Judenpech*.

In the same year, the “Mass Extinction Conference: A Call to Act” takes place at London’s Royal Society as part of the *Decades* exhibition program.

2014

Metzger speaks about ecology and species extinction in his lecture “Facing Extinction” at the University for the Creative Arts, in the South of England.

2015

He publishes his appeal, *Remember Nature*, and organizes a day of action—“A worldwide call by Gustav Metzger for a day of action to remember nature.”

2017

Gustav Metzger died in London on March 1, 2017.

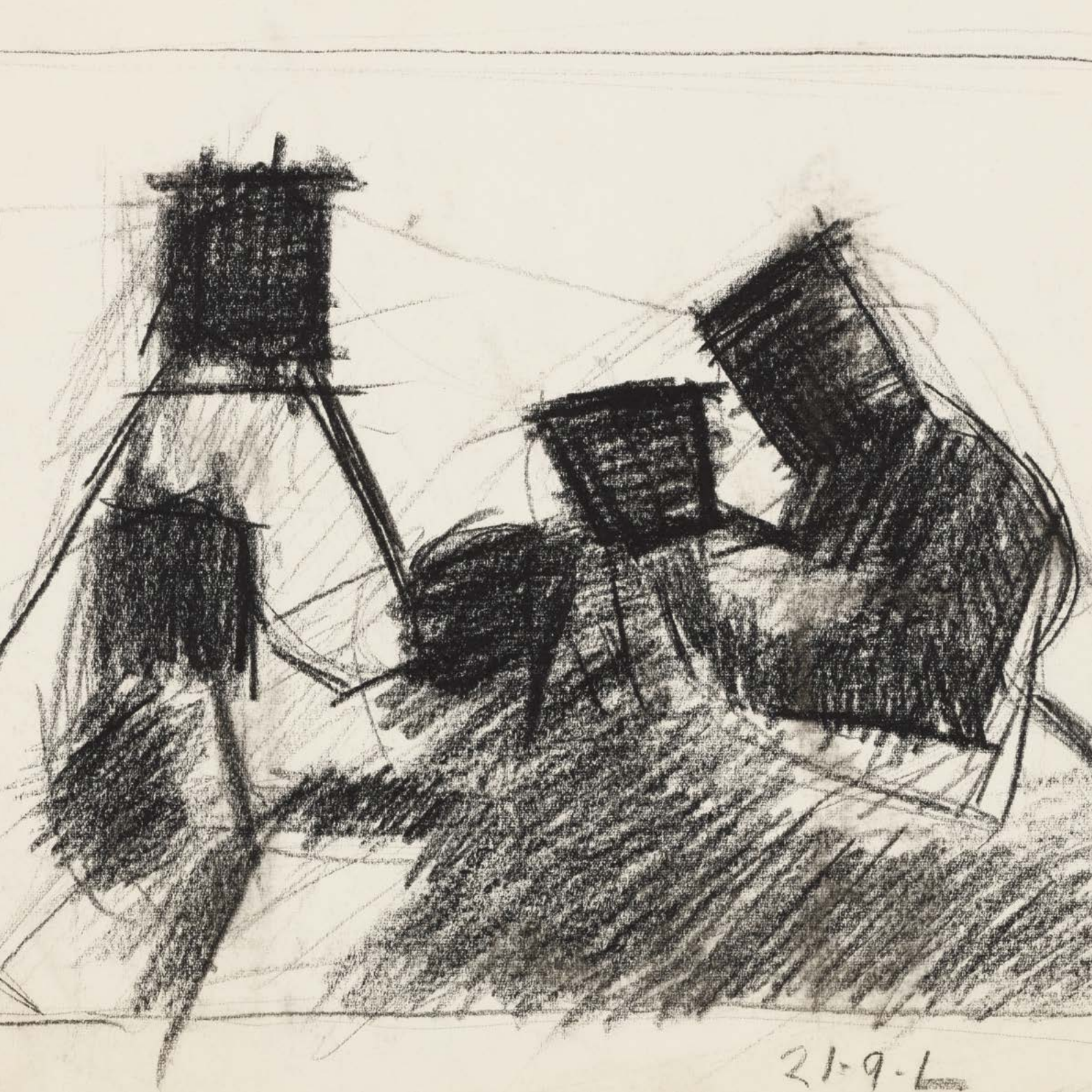
Edited and amended biography based on Clive Phillpot’s “Gustav Metzger Chronology,” in Gustav Metzger, *damaged nature, auto-destructive art*, Nottingham: Russel Press, 1996.

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A. Appendix to  
**Gustav Metzger**  
*Vor dem Abbruch* (Before the Demolition),  
1981/2024

To become legally existent, all German Reich laws required formal promulgation. From 1871 to 1945, the *Reichsgesetzblatt* served as the government gazette of the German Reich in the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, and Nazi Germany.

In 1981, Gustav Metzger exhibited a selection of anti-Jewish laws from the *Reichsgesetzblatt* for the first time in the exhibition *Vor dem Abbruch* (Before the Demolition) at the Kunstmuseum Bern. This installation is reproduced here.

**Pages from the Reichsgesetzblatt**

1. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 45:  
Law on the Legal Relationships of Jewish Cultural Institutions
2. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 60:  
Ordinance against Supporting the Camouflage of Jewish Businesses
3. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 63:  
Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews;  
Order based on the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews
4. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 159:  
Ordinance on the Passports of Jews
5. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 163:  
Ordinance on the Participation of Jews in Health Insurance Fund Medical Care
6. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 188:  
Ordinance against the Possession of Weapons by Jews
7. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 189:  
Decree on an Atonement Payment by Jews of German Nationality; Decree on the Elimination of Jews from German Economic Life; Ordinance on the Restoration of the Streetscape of Jewish Commercial Enterprises
8. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 196:  
Implementing Ordinance on the Atonement of the Jews
9. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 197:  
Decree on the Implementation of the Ordinance on the Elimination of Jews from German Economic Life
10. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 199:  
Second Order on the basis of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Assets of Jews
11. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 201:  
Police Ordinance on the Appearance of Jews in Public
12. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1938, No. 206:  
Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Assets
13. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1941, No. 45:  
Fifth Ordinance on the Implementation of the Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Property; Decree on the Reorganization of the Reich Capital in Berlin and the Capital of the Movement in Munich
14. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1941, No. 133:  
Eleventh Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act
15. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, 1942, No. 33:  
Third Ordinance on the Implementation of the Law on the Legal Relationships of Jewish Religious Associations

## 1. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, No. 45 (March 30, 1938)

### Page 338: Law on the Legal Relationships of Jewish Cultural Institutions

The Reich Government has passed the following law, which is hereby incorporated:

#### § 1

- (1) The Jewish cultural institutions and their associations shall acquire legal capacity through entry in the register of associations.
- (2) As of March 31, 1938, the Jewish cultural institutions and their associations' status as corporations under public law, insofar as they previously possessed this status, shall expire. From this date onwards, they shall be associations with legal capacity under civil law. The entry in the register of associations must be made subsequently.

#### § 2

The status of civil servants in the associations and federations named in § 1 para. 2 shall expire on March 31, 1938. On the same date, they shall enter into a civil-law employment relationship with the associations and federations, to which the previous regulation of their rights and duties shall apply accordingly.

#### § 3

- (1) Approval by the higher administrative authority shall be required:  
Resolutions of the bodies of the Jewish cultural institutions and their associations
  - a) for the formation, modification, and dissolution of the associations and federations,
  - b) for the sale or substantial alteration of objects of historical, scientific, or artistic value, in particular archives or parts thereof.
- (2) The higher administrative authority may object to the appointment of members of the bodies of the Jewish cultural institutions and their associations.

#### § 4

The Reich Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs may, in agreement with the Reich Minister of the Interior, issue legal

and administrative regulations to implement and supplement this Act.

#### § 5

- (1) The Act shall enter into force with effect from January 1, 1938.
- (2) Conflicting provisions shall cease to have effect on this date.
- (3) The enactment of this Act for the country of Austria remains reserved.

Berlin, March 28, 1938

The Führer and Reich Chancellor  
Adolf Hitler  
The Reich Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs  
Kerrl  
The Reich Minister of the Interior  
Frick

## 2. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, No. 60 (April 23, 1938)

### Page 404: Ordinance against Supporting the Camouflage of Jewish Businesses

On the basis of the Ordinance on the Implementation of the Four-Year Plan of October 18, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 887), I decree the following:

#### § 1

A German citizen who, for self-serving motives, helps to deliberately conceal the Jewish character of a commercial enterprise in order to mislead the population or the authorities shall be punished with imprisonment; in less serious cases, with imprisonment of not less than one year and with a fine.

#### § 2

Likewise, anyone who enters into a legal transaction on behalf of a Jew and conceals the fact that he is working for a Jew, thereby misleading the other party, shall be punished.

### § 3

This Ordinance shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation.

Berlin, April 22, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

### 3. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 63 (April 26, 1938)

#### Pages 414–15: Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews

On the basis of the Ordinance on the Implementation of the Four-Year Plan of October 18, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 887):

#### § 1

- (1) Every Jew (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) must declare and value all of his domestic and foreign assets in accordance with the following provisions as of the date on which this Ordinance comes into force. Jews of foreign nationality must only declare and value their domestic assets. The obligation to declare and value also applies to the non-Jewish spouse of a Jew.
- (2) The assets of each person subject to the obligation to register must be declared separately.

#### § 2

- (1) The assets within the meaning of this Ordinance shall include all the assets of the person subject to the obligation to declare, irrespective of whether or not they are exempt from any tax.
- (2) The assets do not include movable property intended exclusively for the personal use of the declarant and household effects, unless they are luxury items.

#### § 3

- (1) Each item of property shall be stated in the non-declaration at its fair market value as of the date on which this Ordinance comes into force.

- (2) The obligation to not declare does not apply if the total value of the assets subject to declaration does not exceed 5,000 Reichsmarks without taking liabilities into account.

#### § 4

The non-declaration must be submitted to the higher administrative authority responsible for the domicile of the non-declarant by June 30, 1938, using an official form. If in individual cases, for special reasons, it is not possible to submit a complete non-declaration and valuation of the assets by the same date, the higher administrative authority shall extend the deadline for non-declaration; in this case, however, the assets must be declared and valued by June 30, stating the reasons for the impediment.

#### § 5

- (1) The person subject to the duty of non-notification must notify the higher administrative authority, without delay, of any change (increase or decrease) in his assets that occurs after the entry into force of the Ordinance, provided that the change in assets goes beyond the scope of a reasonable standard of living or regular business transactions.
- (2) The obligation to notify also applies to those Jews who are not obliged to register and value their assets when the Ordinance comes into force but who acquire assets worth more than 5,000 Reichsmarks after this date. § 1 para. 1, sentence 2, and paras 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly.

#### § 6

- (1) The higher administrative authority within the meaning of this Ordinance is, in Prussia, the District President (in Berlin, the Chief of Police); in Bavaria, the District President; in Saxony, the District Governor; in Württemberg, the Minister of the Interior; in Baden, the Minister of the Interior; in Thuringia, the Reich Governor, Ministry of the Interior; in Hesse, the Reich Governor (State Government); in Hamburg, the Reich Governor; in Mecklenburg, the State Ministry, Department of the Interior; in Oldenburg, the Minister of the Interior; in Brunswick, the Ministry of the Interior; in Bremen, the Senator for Internal Administration; in Anhalt, the State Ministry, Department of the Interior; in Lippe, the Reich Governor (State Government); in Schaumburg-

Lippe, the State Government; in Saarland, the Reich Commissioner for Saarland.

- (2) In Austria, the Reich Governor (Provincial Government) shall take the place of the higher administrative authority. He may transfer his powers under this Ordinance to other authorities.

#### § 7

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan may take such measures as are necessary to ensure that the notifiable assets are used in accordance with the interests of the German economy.

#### § 8

- (1) Any person who intentionally or negligently fails to comply with the obligation to declare, value, or report in accordance with the above provisions, or fails to do so correctly or in good time, or violates an order issued on the basis of § 7, shall be punished with imprisonment and a fine or a severe penalty; in particularly serious cases of intentional violation, imprisonment for up to ten years may be imposed. The offender is also liable to prosecution if he has committed the offense abroad.
- (2) The offense is punishable.
- (3) In addition to the penalty under paras 1 and 2, confiscation of the property may be ordered if it is the object of the offense. If no specific offense can be prosecuted or convicted, confiscation may also be ordered independently if the conditions for confiscation are otherwise met.

Berlin, April 26, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General  
The Reich Minister of the Interior  
Frick

#### Pages 415-16: Order based on the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews

On the basis of § 7 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414), I hereby order:

#### Article I

##### § 1

- (1) The sale or lease of a commercial, agricultural, or forestry business, as well as the establishment of a right of use in such a business, shall require approval in order to be effective if a Jew is a party to the legal transaction. The same shall apply to the obligation to carry out such a legal transaction.
- (2) If the obligatory transaction is approved, approval shall also be deemed to have been granted for the fulfillment transaction corresponding to this obligatory transaction.

##### § 2

The obligation to obtain approval cannot be circumvented by misusing the forms and structuring options under civil law.

##### § 3

If the legal transaction requires the approval of the inheritance court, the commissioner's approval, or approval in accordance with the property transaction notice of January 26, 1937, approval in accordance with § 1 is not required.

##### § 4

When notarizing one of the legal transactions specified in § 1, the notary or other notarial office shall refer to this order and ask whether a Jew is involved in the legal transaction as a party to the contract. The notarial deed must confirm this action and provide the response to the question.

##### § 5

The land register authority shall demand proof that approval is not required in accordance with this order if, at its discretion, there are reasonable grounds to assume that the requirements for the application of this order are met.

##### § 6

- (1) If a legal change has been entered in the land register without approval, the land register authority shall, at the request of the approval authority, enter an objection if the latter assumes that approval is required pursuant to § 1 or § 2; the provisions on the independent entry of an objection by the land register authority

(§ 53 para. 1 of the Land Register Code) shall remain unaffected.

- (2) An objection entered in accordance with para. 1 shall be deleted if the approval authority requests it or if the approval has been granted.
- (3) This shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Province of Austria.

## Article II

### § 7

The opening of a new Jewish commercial enterprise or a branch of a Jewish commercial enterprise shall require authorization.

### § 8

The permit shall be applied for by the person intending to open the business or branch.

## Article III

### § 9

- (1) The higher administrative authority shall decide on the application for approval.
- (2) The higher administrative authority whose district is responsible is
  1. in the case of § 1, where the establishment is located,
  2. in the case of § 7, where the establishment or branch is to be opened.
- (3) In cases of doubt, the competent higher administrative authority shall be determined by the Reich Minister of Economics.

### § 10

If approval is denied, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Reich Minister of Economics within two weeks of notification of the decision. The decision of the Reich Minister of Economics cannot be appealed.

### § 11

Anyone who intentionally or negligently without the required authorization

1. takes over or retains a commercial, agricultural, or forestry business or transfers or leaves it to another person, or
2. opens a Jewish business or a branch of such a business

is punished in accordance with § 8 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414).

### § 12

This Order shall enter into force on the day following its promulgation.

Berlin, April 26, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

## 4. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 159 (October 7, 1938)

Page 1342: **Ordinance on the Passports of Jews**

On the basis of the Law on Passports, Immigration Police, Registration, and Identity Cards of May 11, 1937 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 589), the following Ordinance is issued in agreement with the Reich Minister of Justice:

### § 1

- (1) All German passports of Jews (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) who remain in the territory of the Reich shall become invalid.
- (2) Holders of the passports referred to in para. 1 are obliged to submit these passports to the passport authority in the district in which the passport holder has his residence or, in the absence of a residence, his domicile, within two weeks of this ordinance coming into force. For Jews who are abroad when this Ordinance comes into force, the two-week period shall begin on the day of entry into the territory of the Reich.
- (3) Passports issued with validity for foreign countries shall again become valid if they are provided by the passport authority with a mark determined by the Reich Minister of the Interior that identifies the holder as a Jew.

### § 2

Anyone who intentionally or negligently fails to comply with the obligation described in § 1 para. 2 shall be

punished with imprisonment and a fine of up to 150 Reichsmarks or one of these penalties.

### § 3

This Ordinance shall enter into force upon promulgation.

Berlin, October 5, 1938

The Reich Minister of the Interior  
By order of  
Dr. Best

### 5. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 163 (October 11, 1938)

#### Page 1391: **Ordinance on the Participation of Jews in Health Insurance Fund Medical Care**

On the basis of § 368i para. 1, no. 2, and para. 3 of the Reich Insurance Code, it is decreed:

#### § 1

With the expiry of the appointment (license to practice) of Jewish physicians in accordance with § 1 of the Fourth Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of July 25, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 969), their entry in the medical register and their license shall also expire.

#### § 2

- (1) Jews, whose permission to practice in the medical profession in accordance with § 2 of the Fourth Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act is revocable, may only be involved in the statutory health insurance medical prescription of Jewish insurers and their Jewish family members with the approval of the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians of Germany. This authorization may be revoked at any time.
- (2) As long as Jews provide treatment on the basis of an authorization pursuant to para. 1, they shall be subject to the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians of Germany in the same way as physicians. The Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Germany may regulate their rights and obligations in deviation from the general provisions, insofar as the special circumstances so require.

### § 3

The Ordinance shall enter into force on October 1, 1938.

Berlin, October 6, 1938

The Reich Minister of Labor  
By proxy  
Dr. Krohn

### 6. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 188 (November 12, 1938)

#### Page 1573: **Ordinance against the Possession of Weapons by Jews**

On the basis of § 31 of the Weapons Act of March 18, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 265), Article III of the Act on the Reunification of Austria with the German Reich of March 13, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 237), and § 9 of the Decree of the Führer and Reich Chancellor on the Administration of the Sudeten German Territories of October 1, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1331), the following is decreed:

#### § 1

Jews (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Law of November 14, 1935, Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) are prohibited from acquiring, possessing, or carrying weapons and ammunition for self-defense, as well as sieve or large weapons. They must immediately surrender any weapons and ammunition in their possession to the local police authorities.

#### § 2

Weapons and ammunition in the possession of a Jew shall be forfeited to the Reich without compensation.

#### § 3

For Jews of foreign nationality, the Reich Minister of the Interior may allow exceptions to the prohibition pronounced in § 1. He may transfer this power to other authorities.

#### § 4

Anyone who intentionally or negligently violates the provisions of § 1 shall be punished with a fine. In particular

serious cases of willful violation, the penalty is imprisonment for up to five years.

#### § 5

The Reich Minister of the Interior shall declare the legal and administrative provisions necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance.

#### § 6

This Ordinance shall also apply in Austria and in the subethnic German territories.

Berlin, November 11, 1938

The Reich Minister of the Interior  
Frick

### 7. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 189 (November 14, 1938)

#### Page 1579: Decree on an Atonement Payment by Jews of German Nationality

The hostile attitude of Jewry towards the German people and the Reich, which does not even refrain from committing cowardly acts of murder, requires resolute defense and a tough stance.

In order, therefore, by virtue of the decree concerning the execution of the Four-Year Plan of October 18, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 887) as follows:

#### § 1

The Jews of German nationality in their entirety are ordered to pay a contribution of 1,000,000,000 Reichsmarks to the German Reich.

#### § 2

The Reich Minister of Finance shall issue the implementing regulations in consultation with the Reich Ministers involved.

Berlin, November 12, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

#### Page 1580: Decree on the Elimination of Jews from German Economic Life

On the basis of the Ordinance on the Implementation of the Four-Year Plan of October 18, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 887), the following is decreed:

#### § 1

- (1) From January 1, 1939, Jews (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) shall be prohibited from operating retail outlets, mail-order businesses, or order offices, as well as from independently operating a craft.
- (2) Furthermore, with effect from the same date, they shall be prohibited from offering goods or commercial services at markets of any kind, trade fairs, or exhibitions, from advertising them, or from accepting orders for them.
- (3) Jewish businesses (Third Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of June 14, 1938 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 627) that operate contrary to this prohibition shall be closed down by the police.

#### § 2

- (1) As of January 1, 1939, a Jew may no longer be a manager within the meaning of the Law on the Order of National Labor of January 20, 1934 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 45).
- (2) If a Jew is employed as a manager in a commercial enterprise, he may be dismissed with six weeks' notice. Upon expiry of the notice period, all claims of the employee arising from the terminated contract shall lapse, in particular claims to pension and severance payments.

#### § 3

- (1) A Jew may not be a member of a cooperative.
- (2) Jewish members of cooperatives shall resign as of December 31, 1938. No special notice of termination is required.

#### § 4

The Reich Minister of Economics is authorized, in agreement with the Reich Ministers involved, to issue the necessary provisions for the implementation of this Ordinance. He may permit exceptions insofar as these are necessary as a result of the transfer of a Jewish commercial

enterprise into non-Jewish ownership, for the liquidation of Jewish commercial enterprises, or in special cases in order to secure requirements.

Berlin, November 12, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

Page 1581: **Ordinance on the Restoration of the Streetscape of Jewish Commercial Enterprises**

On the basis of the Ordinance for the Implementation of the Four-Year Plan of October 18, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 887), I decree the following:

§ 1

All damage caused to Jewish businesses and residences on November 8, 9, and 10, 1938, by outraged people over international Jewry's agitation against National Socialist Germany is to be repaired immediately by the Jewish owner or Jewish business operator.

§ 2

- (1) The costs of restoration shall be borne by the owner of the affected Jewish businesses and residences.
- (2) Insurance claims of Jews of German nationality shall be confiscated in favor of the Reich.

§ 3

The Reich Minister of Economics is authorized to issue implementing regulations in consultation with the other Reich Ministers.

Berlin, November 12, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

**8. Reichsgesetzblatt, Part 1, No. 196 (November 22, 1938)**

Pages 1638-40: **Implementing Ordinance on the Atonement of the Jews**

On the basis of § 2 of the Ordinance on Jewish Atonement of November 12, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1579) and on the basis of § 3 of the Ordinance on the Restoration of the Streetscape of Jewish Commercial Enterprises of November 12, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1581), it is hereby decreed in agreement with the Reich Minister of Economics and the other Reich Ministers involved:

§ 1

**Obligation to pay contributions**

- (1) The contribution of one billion Reichsmarks shall be collected as a property levy from Jews of German nationality and stateless Jews (Jewish Capital Levy).
- (2) Every Jew (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Law of November 14, 1935, Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) who had to declare and value his entire domestic and foreign assets in accordance with the Ordinance on the Declaration of Jewish Assets of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414) is liable to pay the levy.
- (3) Jews of foreign nationality are not subject to the levy obligation.

§ 2

**Mixed marriages**

In the case of mixed marriages, only the Jewish spouse is liable to pay the tax on his or her assets.

§ 3

**Basis of assessment**

- (1) The levy shall be assessed according to the total value of the assets as of November 12, 1938.
- (2) The basis shall be the assets declared by the person liable to pay the levy based on the Ordinance on the Declaration of Jewish Assets of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414). The liabilities and the disposals that have occurred (§ 5 of the aforementioned ordinance) are to be accounted for.
- (3) If the information in the declaration of assets gives rise to objections, the tax office shall be authorized to prescribe the levy to the person liable to pay it, the



calculation of which accords with the total justified value of the assets.

- (4) The levy shall not be charged if the total value of the assets after deduction of liabilities, but before rounding, does not exceed 5,000 Reichsmarks.
- (5) The total value of the assets is to be rounded down to the nearest 1,000 Reichsmarks.

#### § 4

##### **Amount and payment of the levy**

- (1) The levy amounts to a total of 20 percent of the assets (§ 3). It is divided into four installments of 5 percent of the assets each.
- (2) The first installment is due on December 15, 1938. The other installments are due on February 15, May 15, and August 15.
- (3) The payments are to be made without special request.

#### § 5

##### **Liability of spouses**

Spouses are jointly and severally liable for the levy of the other spouse. This does not apply to mixed marriages.

#### § 6

##### **Jurisdiction**

The tax is to be paid to the tax office in whose district the taxpayer has domicile or habitual residence. The tax office in Berlin-Moabit-West is responsible for taxpayers who have neither their domicile nor habitual residence in Germany.

#### § 7

##### **Collection and offsetting of insurance claims**

- (1) Payments from insurance claims of Jews of German nationality and stateless Jews (Ordinance on the Restoration of the Streetscape of Jewish Commercial Enterprises of November 12, 1938 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1581) are to be forwarded immediately to the responsible tax office (§ 6).
- (2) These payments shall be credited against the levy of the Jews entitled to the insurance. Any amounts in excess shall remain with the Reich.

#### § 8

##### **Trade-in of material goods**

The Reich Minister of Finance shall make administrative provisions on the extent to which the tax offices may

accept securities and real estate in payment, where appropriate.

#### § 9

##### **Applicability of the Reich Tax Code**

- (1) The levy shall accrue to the Reich.
- (2) The provisions of the Reich Tax Ordinance, the Tax Adjustment Act, and the Tax Default Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- (3) The tax office is only obliged to issue a notice of levy if the person liable to pay the levy so requests. The provision of Section § 4 para. 3 remains unaffected.
- (4) The tax office may demand security deposits at its discretion, as necessary. The security notice is enforceable in the same way as a tax assessment notice (which is also provisionally enforceable).
- (5) Only an appeal (§ 237 of the Reich Tax Ordinance) is admissible against decisions of the tax offices.
- (6) § 326 para. 5 of the Reich Tax Ordinance does not apply.

#### § 10

##### **Provisional nature of the rules**

The right is reserved

- a) to limit the payment obligation as soon as the amount of one billion Reichsmarks is reached, or
- b) to extend the payment obligation insofar as this is necessary to reach the amount of one billion Reichsmarks.

Berlin, November 21, 1938

The Reich Minister of Finance  
Count Schwerin von Krosigk

#### **9. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 197 (November 24, 1938)**

##### **Page 1642: Decree on the Implementation of the Ordinance on the Elimination of Jews from German Economic Life**

On the basis of § 4 of the Ordinance on the Elimination of Jews from German Economic Life of November 12, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1580), the following is decreed:

Article I  
**Retail trade**

§ 1

- (1) As a matter of principle, retail outlets, stock stores, or order accounts of Jews are to be closed and wound up.
- (2) Insofar as, in special cases, the continuation of a previously Jewish business of the type mentioned in para. 1 is necessary to ensure the supply of the population, it may be transferred to non-Jewish ownership. The transfer requires the approval of the authorities responsible for the decision in accordance with the Law for the Protection of Retail Trade of May 12, 1933 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 262). This approval replaces the approval required under the order based on the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 415). In all other respects, the provisions of this ordinance and the implementing regulations issued or to be issued in connection therewith shall apply.

§ 2

- (1) The liquidation shall be carried out in accordance with the following principles:
  1. The sale or auction of goods to final consumers shall not be permitted.
  2. All goods shall first be offered to the responsible specialist group, special-purpose association, or its district or specialist subdivision, which shall be responsible for the storage of the goods. The goods shall be accepted on the basis of an assessment by experts appointed by the President of the competent Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
  3. The creditors shall be satisfied with the proceeds of the overall liquidation in the order provided for in the Bankruptcy Code.
- (2) If necessary, the Reich Minister of Economics, in agreement with the Reich Minister of Justice, shall issue further guidelines for the liquidation, which shall be published in the Ministerial Gazette for the Economy.
- (3) The principles and guidelines for liquidation shall also apply to the liquidator in the event of bankruptcy.

§ 3

- (1) The body appointed to make the decision pursuant to § 1 para. 2 may appoint a liquidator for the liquidation,

if proper liquidation cannot otherwise be guaranteed. The liquidator must exercise the care of a prudent businessman and is under the supervision of the appointed body. This body shall determine the liquidator's remuneration and the amount of expenses to be reimbursed to him after the liquidation has been completed.

- (2) The costs of the liquidation shall be borne by the company being liquidated.

§ 4

- (1) The liquidator shall be authorized to carry out all judicial and extrajudicial legal transactions and legal acts necessary for the liquidation of the company. In this context, their authorization shall replace any necessary power of attorney.
- (2) In particular, the liquidator is authorized to file an application for the opening of bankruptcy proceedings against the company in the name of the bankrupt company if the legal requirements are met. The liquidator may be appointed as liquidator.

Article II

**Craft**

§ 5

- (1) Jewish owners of handicraft businesses shall be deleted from the register of handicraft businesses as of December 31, 1938, and their handicraft cards shall be confiscated.
- (2) The previous regulations shall apply to the transfer of Jewish handicraft businesses to non-Jewish purchasers.

Berlin, November 23, 1938

The Reich Minister of Economics  
By proxy  
Brinkmann  
The Reich Minister of Justice  
Dr. Gürtner

## 10. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 199 (November 26, 1938)

### Page 1668: **Second Order on the basis of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Assets of Jews**

On the basis of § 7 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414), I hereby order:

#### § 1

The measures necessary to ensure harmony with the interests of the German economy shall be taken by the Reich Minister of Economics in agreement with the Reich Minister of the Interior and the other Reich Ministers involved.

#### § 2

This order comes into force today.

Berlin, November 24, 1938

The Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan  
Göring  
Field Marshal General

## 11. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 201 (November 29, 1938)

### Page 1676: **Police Ordinance on the Appearance of Jews in Public**

On the basis of the Ordinance on the Police Regulations of the Reich Ministers of November 14, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1582), the following is decreed:

#### § 1

The Presidents of the Governments of Prussia, Bavaria, and the Sudeten German Territories, the equivalent authorities in the other Länder of the old Reich, the Governors (the Mayor in Vienna) in Austria, and the Reich Commissioner for the Saarland may authorize Jews of German nationality and stateless Jews (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) to be deported to Germany and may impose spatial and temporal restrictions to the effect that they may not enter certain districts or show themselves in public at certain times.

#### § 2

Anyone who intentionally or negligently violates the provisions of § 1 shall be punished with a fine of up to 150 Reichsmarks or imprisonment of up to six weeks.

#### § 3

This Ordinance on the Police shall enter into force on the day following its promulgation.

Berlin, November 28, 1938

The Reich Minister of the Interior  
By order of  
Hendrich

## 12. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 206 (December 5, 1938)

### Pages 1709–12: **Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Assets**

On the basis of § 1 of the Second Decree of the Commissioner for the Four-Year Plan based on the Decree on the Registration of Jewish Property of November 24, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1668), the following decree is issued in agreement with the Reich Ministers involved:

#### Article I

#### **Commercial enterprises**

#### § 1

The owner of a Jewish commercial enterprise (Third Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of June 14, 1938 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 627) may be ordered to sell or liquidate the enterprise within a certain period of time. Conditions may be attached to the order.

#### § 2

- (1) In Jewish commercial enterprises whose owners have been ordered to sell or wind up the business pursuant to § 1, a trustee may be appointed for the temporary continuation of the business and to bring about the sale or winding up, in particular if the owner of the business has not complied with the order within the time period set for him and has been refused an order to extend the period.
- (2) The trustee shall be authorized to carry out all judicial and extrajudicial transactions and legal acts required

by the business of the entrepreneur concerned, including its liquidation or sale. In this context, his authorization replaces any legally required power of attorney.

- (3) The trustee shall exercise prudent businessman's diligence in his activities and shall be subject to state supervision.
- (4) The costs of the fiduciary administration shall be borne by the proprietor.

### § 3

- (1) The orders pursuant to §§ 1 and 2 shall be served on the owner of the Jewish business enterprise.
- (2) If the person concerned is absent, service may be effected by publication in the German Reich Gazette and the Prussian State Gazette. In such cases, the day of publication shall be deemed the day of service.

### § 4

Upon service of the order appointing a trustee pursuant to § 2, the owner of the business enterprise shall lose the right to dispose of the assets that the trustee has been appointed to manage. He only regains this right when the appointment of the trustee is revoked.

### § 5

Approval of the sale in accordance with § 1 of the Ordinance on the Registration of Jewish Assets of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 415) is also required in cases where the sale is carried out by a trustee.

## Article II

### **Agricultural and forestry holdings, real estate, and other assets**

#### § 6

A Jew (§ 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333) may be ordered to sell his agricultural or forestry business, his other agricultural or forestry property, his other real estate, or other parts of his property in whole or in part within a certain period of time. Conditions may be attached to the order. The provisions of §§ 2 to 4 shall apply accordingly.

#### § 7

- (1) Jews may not acquire real estate, rights equivalent to real estate, or rights to real estate by means of a legal transaction.
- (2) The provisions of §§ 2 and 4–6 of the order, based on the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 415) shall apply accordingly.
- (3) In the case of forced auctions of real estate, the court of execution shall reject bids if there is reason to assume that the bidder is Jewish.
- (4) The rejection pursuant to para. 3 shall lose its effect if the bidder objects to it immediately (§ 72 para. 2 of the Compulsory Auction Act) and proves that he is not Jewish.
- (5) If the rejection of a bid pursuant to para. 4 is objected to, the decision on the acceptance of the bid shall not be made until two weeks after the end of the auction.

#### § 8

- (1) The disposal of real estate and rights equivalent to real estate by Jews shall require authorization in order to be effective. The disposal of other parts of property shall require approval in order to be effective if the sale is ordered in accordance with § 6 of this ordinance. This shall also apply to the disposal by a trustee.
- (2) The provisions of para. 1 shall also apply to the commitment transaction.
- (3) Accordingly, the provisions of § 1 para. 2 and § 2 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 415) shall apply. The provisions of §§ 4–6 of the aforementioned order shall also apply accordingly to disposals of immovable property.
- (4) In the case of the sale of a property by way of a forced sale, the bid shall require approval; a bid for which the required approval is not immediately forthcoming shall be rejected. Within the scope of application of the Reich Law on Forced Sale and Forced Administration, in the cases of § 81 paras 2 and 3 of this law, the bid may only be awarded to someone other than the highest bidder if this other person has provided the authorization.

## § 9

- (1) The approval pursuant to § 8 shall replace the approvals required pursuant to the Property Transactions Announcement of January 26, 1937 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 35), the Act on the Exclusion of Residential Areas of September 22, 1933 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 659), the First Implementing Ordinance to the Act on the Securing of the Reich Border, and on Retaliatory Measures of August 17, 1937 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 905), as well as the approvals required pursuant to price regulations.
- (2) In the case of the sale of agricultural or forestry enterprises or the establishment of a right of usufruct over such enterprises, the approval pursuant to § 8 shall take the place of the approval pursuant to § 1 of the order, based on the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 415).

## § 10

- (1) If a Jew sells a property located in the territory of the capital of the Reich, Berlin, the *Reichshauptstadt* Berlin shall have a right of first refusal to implement the urban planning measures of the General Building Inspector.
- (2) The provisions of §§ 12 and 13 of the Ordinance on the Redesign of the Reich Capital Berlin of November 5, 1937 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1162) shall apply accordingly.
- (3) The right of first refusal shall not exist if the Reich, Länder, or the National Socialist German Workers' Party are involved in the legal transaction as purchasers.

## Article III

### **Compulsory deposit for securities**

#### § 11

- (1) Within one week of the entry into force of this Ordinance, Jews shall deposit all their shares, stocks, fixed-interest securities, and similar securities in a securities account at a foreign exchange bank. Newly acquired securities shall be deposited in such a securities account within one week of acquisition. The owner of such securities belonging to a Jew may only deliver the securities to a foreign exchange bank for the account of the Jew.
- (2) Insofar as securities in favor of Jews are already deposited with a foreign exchange bank or debt register claims are registered, or lottery tickets are deposited

with an administrative office on the basis of which preferential pensions are granted, Jews must immediately notify the bank, the debt administration, or the administrative office of their status as Jews by means of a written declaration. In the case of para. 1 sentence 3, this declaration must be made to the owner.

- (3) Deposits and debt register accounts shall be marked as Jewish.

## § 12

Disposals of securities held in a Jewish custody account as well as deliveries of securities from such custody accounts require the approval of the Reich Minister of Economics or the office authorized by him.

## § 13

The provisions of §§ 11 and 12 do not apply to Jews of foreign nationality.

## Article IV

### **Jewels, jewelry, and works of art**

#### § 14

- (1) Jews are prohibited from acquiring, pledging, or selling by private treaty objects made of gold, platinum, or silver, as well as precious stones and pearls. Apart from the valuation of a lien already existing in favor of a non-Jewish pledgee at the time of entry into force of this ordinance, such objects may only be acquired from the public contact points established by the Reich. The same applies to other jewelry and works of art, insofar as the price of the individual object exceeds 1,000 Reichsmarks.
- (2) The provision of para. 1 shall not apply to Jews of foreign nationality.

## Article V

### **General provisions**

#### § 15

- (1) Permission to sell Jewish commercial enterprises, Jewish real estate, or other Jewish assets may be granted subject to conditions, which may also consist of monetary payments by the purchaser in favor of the Reich.
- (2) The authorizations of the type referred to in para. 1 may also be granted subject to the condition that the Jewish seller is allocated bonds of the German Reich or that debt register claims are entered in the Reich

Debt Register in lieu of all or part of the consideration provided for in the sale agreement.

#### § 16

The provisions made for Jews in Article II also apply to commercial enterprises, as well as to associations, foundations, institutions, and other enterprises that are not commercial enterprises, insofar as they are considered Jewish in accordance with the Third Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of June 14, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 627).

#### § 17

- (1) Subject to the special provisions in paras 3 and 4, the higher administrative authorities shall be responsible for the decrees pursuant to the provisions of Articles I and II. The higher administrative authorities shall also supervise the trustees appointed.
- (2) Which authorities are higher administrative authorities within the meaning of this ordinance shall be determined in accordance with § 6 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414) with the proviso that in Anhalt, the Anhalt State Ministry, Department of Economics; in Baden, the Baden Minister of Finance and Economics; in Württemberg, the Württemberg Minister of Economic Affairs; in Austria, the Reich Minister for the Reunification of Austria with the German Reich or the authorities authorized by him; in the Sudeten German Territories the district presidents are responsible.
- (3) Insofar as agricultural property is concerned, the higher administrative authority in Prussia shall be replaced by the Chief President (State Culture Department), and in the non-Prussian lands by the higher settlement authority. Insofar as forestry property is concerned, the higher forestry authority shall take the place of the higher administrative authority.

#### § 18

- (1) The following shall have local jurisdiction:
  1. if the disposal concerns a business, a plot of land, or an equivalent right to a plot of land, the authority in whose district the business or the plot of land is located,
  2. if the disposition concerns other parts of property, the authority in whose district the Jewish owner or

person entitled to dispose of the property is domiciled or has a habitual residence.

- (2) In cases of doubt, the competent authority shall be determined by the Reich Minister of Economics.

#### § 19

The person concerned has the right to appeal to the Reich Minister of Economics against a decision based on this ordinance within two weeks of receiving notification of the decision. The decision of the Reich Minister of Economics cannot be appealed.

#### § 20

- (1) Insofar as agricultural property is concerned, the Reich Minister of Food and Agriculture shall take the place of the Reich Minister of Economics in the cases of § 18 para. 2 and § 19; insofar as forestry property is concerned, the Reich Forestry Commissioner shall take the place of the Reich Minister of Agriculture.
- (2) Insofar as it concerns enterprises of agricultural trade and the processing of agricultural products (Reichsnährstand trade, Reichsnährstand industry, Reichsnährstand handicrafts within the meaning of § 1 of the Third Reichsnährstand of February 16, 1934 – Reichsgesetz. I, p. 100, and the supplements issued thereto), the Reich Minister of Economics shall make the decisions pursuant to § 18 para. 2 and § 19 in agreement with the Reich Minister for Food and Agriculture; insofar as it concerns processing and distribution companies of the forestry and timber industry within the meaning of the Ordinance on the Establishment, Takeover, and Expansion of Forestry and Timber Processing and Distribution Companies of February 28, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 231), in agreement with the Reich Forestry Master.

#### § 21

- (1) Decisions by the higher administrative authority affecting a Jew of foreign nationality shall only be made with the consent of the Reich Minister of Economics.
- (2) The same applies to the decrees of the authorities named in § 17 para. 3, by which a Jew of foreign nationality is affected. In such cases, the Reich Minister for Food and Agriculture or the Reich Forestry Commissioner shall give the necessary consent in agreement with the Reich Minister of Economics.

## § 22

Insofar as the provisions of this ordinance cannot be applied directly in the Sudeten German Territories, they shall be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

## § 23

- (1) Anyone who violates the provisions of §§ 4, 6, sentence 3, §§ 8, 11 paras 1 and 2, § 12 and 14 shall be punished in accordance with § 8 of the Ordinance on the Registration of the Property of Jews of April 26, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 414).
- (2) Anyone who intentionally acquires assets that are disposed of contrary to the provisions of §§ 4 or 6, sentence 3, shall also be punished in accordance with this provision.

## § 24

This Ordinance shall enter into force on the day of promulgation.

Berlin, December 3, 1938

The Reich Minister of Economics  
Walther Funk  
The Reich Minister of the Interior  
Frick

### 13. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 45 (April 28, 1941)

#### Page 218: Fifth Ordinance on the Implementation of the Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Property

Pursuant to §1 of the Second Decree based on the Decree on the Registration of Jewish Property of November 24, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1668), the following decree is issued in agreement with the Reich Ministers involved to implement and amend the Ordinance on the Use of Jewish Assets of December 3, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1709) and the First Decree on the Implementation of the Decree on the Use of Jewish Property of January 16, 1939 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 37):

## § 1

The Reich Chamber of Fine Arts is the purchasing office for cultural property (§ 14 of the Ordinance of December 3, 1938; § 3 and 4 of the Ordinance of January 16, 1939).

## § 2

The purchasing office alone is tasked with determining whether jewelry and works of art from Jewish property can be sold by private treaty.

## § 3

Jewelry and works of art within the meaning of these provisions are, in deviation from § 14 para. 1 sentence 3 of the Decree on the Use of Jewish Property, without regard to their value, the objects specified in § 4 para. 1 no. 2 of the Ordinance on the Implementation of the Law on the Auctioneering Trade (Auctioneer Regulations – VV of October 30, 1934, Reichsgesetz. I, pp. 1091, 1111), which updates the First Ordinance of the VV of February 4, 1936 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 59), with the exception of objects made of gold, platinum, and silver as well as precious stones and pearls.

## § 4

The Reich Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda shall determine the procedure for the purchasing office for cultural property.

## § 5

The person concerned has the right to appeal against the decision of the Acquisition Office for Cultural Property to the Reich Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda within two weeks of notification of the decision.

Berlin, April 25, 1941

The Reich Minister of Economics  
By proxy  
Dr. Landfried  
The Reich Minister of the Interior  
By proxy  
Pfundtner  
The Reich Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda  
Representing the State Secretary  
Dr. Greiner

Pages 219–20: **Decree on the Reorganization of the Reich Capital in Berlin and the Capital of the Movement in Munich**

On the basis of the Law on the Reorganization of German Cities of October 4, 1937 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1054), the following decree is issued for the Reich Capital in Berlin and the Capital of the Movement in Munich to implement and supplement this law in agreement with the Reich ministers involved:

§ 1

- (1) The landlord must immediately report any rooms that have become or will become vacant from a tenancy with a Jewish tenant.
- (2) The notification shall be submitted to the General Chief Inspector for the Reich Capital in Berlin and to the Lord Mayor of the Capital of the Movement in Munich. It shall be made separately for residential, commercial, and office premises on special forms to be requested from the municipal authority (housing office).

§ 2

- (1) First-time reletting of rooms that have become or will become vacant requires the approval of the authority specified in § 1. If this approval has been granted, approval pursuant to § 5 of the Law on Tenancy Relationships with Jews of April 30, 1939 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 864) is not required.
- (2) Approval is also required if the new occupant changes the previous type of use.
- (3) Permission may also be granted generally for certain areas or groups of people.
- (4) Permission is deemed to have been granted for the first-time reletting of vacated or to be vacated rooms to a tenant who has to vacate their apartment in the course of the reorganization of the *Reichshauptstadt* and who is in possession of a tenant's authorization certificate. The completed section of the tenant authorization certificate must be sent to the responsible office (§ 1) immediately after the tenancy agreement has concluded. The Lord Mayor of the Capital of the Movement in Munich is authorized to issue a corresponding order.

§ 3

Notification (§ 1) and approval (§ 2) are not required for rooms that

1. have already been re-let by the time this Ordinance comes into force,
2. were previously let out on the basis of a subletting relationship.

§ 4

- (1) The landlord is free to choose from the holders of a tenant authorization certificate (§ 2 para. 4).
- (2) If a tenancy agreement is not concluded with the holder of a tenant's entitlement certificate by the time the rooms become vacant at the latest, the landlord must immediately notify the competent authority in accordance with § 1. The latter may nominate three holders of tenant entitlement certificates to the landlord as tenants and, if the landlord does not conclude a tenancy agreement with any of them within two weeks of the nomination, instruct the competent housing authority to conclude a tenancy agreement. The content of the contract shall be deemed to have been agreed upon between the parties.
- (3) If the body responsible under § 1 does not exercise its right of designation within two weeks of receipt of the notification (para. 2), the rooms shall no longer be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

§ 5

- (1) Who is a Jew is determined in accordance with § 5 of the First Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of November 14, 1935 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1333). In the case of mixed marriages, § 7 of the Law on Tenancy Relationships with Jews of April 30, 1939 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 864) shall apply accordingly.
- (2) A Jewish business, according to Article I of the Third Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of June 14, 1938 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 627), is equivalent to a Jew.

§ 6

Anyone who intentionally or negligently fails to submit the prescribed report (§ 1) or fails to do so immediately shall be punished with a fine of up to 150 Reichsmarks or imprisonment.



### § 7

- (1) If a landlord lets out rooms that are subject to the provisions of this ordinance without the required permission, the authority responsible under § 1 may impose a fine of up to 5,000 Reichsmarks on them.
- (2) The amount shall be used primarily to support the holders of tenant entitlement certificates (§ 2 para. 4); it shall be collected by administrative enforcement proceedings.
- (3) At the request of the authority responsible under § 1, the police authority may bring about the eviction of rooms occupied without the required permission by direct coercion.

### § 8

The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to leases or other space-rental agreements.

### § 9

The orders necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be issued in Berlin by the General Building Inspector for the Reich Capital and in Munich by the Lord Mayor of the Capital of the Movement.

### § 10

- (1) The Ordinance shall enter into force on May 1, 1941.
- (2) On this date, the Ordinance on the Reorganization of the Reich Capital in Berlin and the Capital of the Movement in Munich of February 8, 1939 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 159) shall cease to be in force.

Berlin, April 25, 1941

The Reich Minister of Labor  
By proxy  
Dr. Syrup

## 14. Reichsgesetzblatt Part I, No. 133 (November 26, 1941)

### Pages 722-24: Eleventh Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act

On the basis of § 3 of the Reich Citizenship Act of September 15, 1935 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 1146), the following is decreed:

### § 1

A Jew who habitually resides abroad cannot be a German citizen. When a Jew resides abroad under circumstances that indicate that he is not temporarily residing there, habitual residence abroad is a given.

### § 2

A Jew loses German citizenship

- a) if he has his habitual residence abroad when this Ordinance enters into force, upon the entry into force of the Ordinance,
- b) if he later takes up his habitual residence abroad, when he transfers his habitual residence abroad.

### § 3

- (1) The property of a Jew shall be forfeited to the Reich upon their loss of German citizenship on the basis of this Ordinance. The property of Jews who are stateless at the time of the entry into force of this Ordinance and who last possessed German citizenship shall also be forfeited to the Reich if they have or take up their habitual residence abroad.
- (2) The forfeited property shall serve to promote all purposes connected with the solution of the Jewish question.

### § 4

- (1) Persons whose assets have been forfeited to the Reich pursuant to § 3 may not acquire anything from a German citizen by reason of death.
- (2) Gifts by German nationals to persons whose property has been forfeited to the Reich pursuant to § 3 are prohibited. Anyone who makes or promises to make a gift in violation of this prohibition shall be punished by imprisonment for up to two years and a fine or one or other of these penalties.

### § 5

- (1) The German Reich shall be liable for the debts of a Jew whose property is forfeited to the Reich only up to the amount of the sales value of the property and rights of that Jew that have come under the control of the Reich. Liability shall not exist for debts whose fulfillment by the Reich would be contrary to popular sentiment.
- (2) Rights to the objects transferred to the German Reich shall continue to exist.

- (3) In the event of over-indebtedness, bankruptcy proceedings shall be instituted in accordance with the Bankruptcy Ordinance at the request of the Reich Minister of Finance or a creditor in respect of the assets transferred to the German Reich. The bankruptcy administrator (receiver) shall be appointed with the approval of the Chief Finance President of Berlin and dismissed at his request.

#### § 6

- (1) If a Jew whose assets are forfeited to the Reich in accordance with § 3 is obliged by law or by agreement to provide maintenance to a third party, the Reich shall not be liable for any maintenance claims that become due after the forfeiture of the assets. The Reich may, however, grant compensation to non-Jewish persons entitled to maintenance who have their habitual residence in Germany.
- (2) Compensation may be granted in the form of a lump sum. It may not exceed the sales value of the property transferred to the control of the German Reich.
- (3) Compensation may be granted by the transfer of property and rights from the transferred assets. The legal acts required for this purpose shall not incur court fees.

#### § 7

- (1) All persons who are in possession of an object belonging to the forfeited assets or who owe a debt to the estate must notify the Chief Finance President of Berlin of their possession of the object or the existence of the debt within six months of the occurrence of the forfeiture of assets (§ 3). Anyone who intentionally or negligently violates this duty of notification shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three months or a fine.
- (2) Claims against the forfeited assets shall be filed with the Chief Finance President of Berlin within six months of the occurrence of the forfeiture of assets (§ 3). The satisfaction of claims asserted after the expiry of this period may be refused without stating reasons.

#### § 8

- (1) The Chief of the Security Police and the SD\*) shall determine whether the conditions for the forfeiture of assets have been met.

- (2) The administration and realization of the forfeited assets are the responsibility of the Chief Finance President of Berlin.

\* SD = Security Service of the Reichsführer SS.

#### § 9

- (1) Insofar as land registers have become incorrect due to forfeiture, they shall be corrected free of charge at the request of the Chief Finance President of Berlin.
- (2) The letter need not be presented for the entry of the forfeiture of a mortgage for which a letter has been issued or for the entry of the exclusion of the issue of the mortgage certificate. If the letter is presented, the Land Registry shall hand it over to the Chief Finance President of Berlin, unless it remains with the mortgagee in accordance with the general provisions.
- (3) If a mortgage in respect of which a letter has been issued has lapsed to the Reich, the Chief Finance President of Berlin may apply for the issue of a new letter in place of the previous letter if he declares that the previous letter cannot be obtained. Before issuing the new letter, the Land Registry must make suitable inquiries about the previous letter. When the new letter is issued, the old letter becomes invalid. The invalidation of the old letter and the issue of the new letter must be announced once in the *Reichsgesetzblatt*. The issue of the new letter is free of charge.
- (4) The Land Registry may require the holder of the old letter to produce it.
- (5) In the case of mortgages by letter that have been forfeited to the Reich, the provisions relating to the letter shall only be applied in favor of those who derive rights from a person entitled to the letter if a legal transaction is carried out in the territory of the Greater German Reich and the letter is located in the territory of the Greater German Reich.
- (6) The Reich may, at its equitable discretion, grant compensation if a person suffers loss or damage by relying, without gross negligence, on the unauthorized letter still in circulation after forfeiture has been registered (para. 2). Claims based on general provisions shall not be affected thereby.
- (7) The provisions of paras 2 to 6 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to land and annuity debts for which a letter has been issued.

## §10

- (1) Pension entitlements of Jews who lose their German citizenship in accordance with § 2 shall expire at the end of the month in which the loss of citizenship occurs.
- (2) Insofar as the pension laws provide for relatives to be granted a widow's pension, orphan's pension, maintenance allowance, or similar benefits in the event of the death of the person entitled to benefits, these relatives may be granted a maintenance allowance from the date on which the pension benefits cease pursuant to para. 1 for as long as they remain in Germany. Child allowances are only granted to non-Jewish pension recipients.

## §11

In order to avoid hardship resulting from the loss of assets, the Reich Minister of Finance can make a regulation that deviates from the provisions of §§ 3-7, § 9. This also applies to cases in which the assets have been declared forfeited or will be declared forfeited in the future on the basis of § 2 of the Law on the Revocation of Naturalization and the Withdrawal of German Citizenship of July 14, 1933 (Reichsgesetz. I, p. 480).

## §12

The Ordinance also applies in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and in the incorporated eastern territories.

## §13

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in agreement with the Head of the Party Chancellery and the other Reich Ministers involved, shall issue the provisions necessary to supplement and implement the Ordinance.

Berlin, November 25, 1941

The Reich Minister of the Interior  
Frick  
The Head of the Party Chancellery  
M. Bormann  
The Reich Minister of Finance  
By proxy  
Reinhardt  
The Reich Minister of Justice  
Entrusted with the conduct of business  
Dr. Schlegelberger

## 15. Reichsgesetzblatt Part 1, No. 33 (April 8, 1942)

### Page 161: **Third Ordinance on the Implementation of the Law on the Legal Relationships of Jewish Religious Associations**

On the basis of § 4 of the Law on the Legal Relationships of Jewish Religious Associations of March 28, 1938 (Reichsgesetz, I, p. 338), the following is decreed:

#### §1

Resignation from Jewish religious associations and their federations requires the approval of the Reich Minister of the Interior or the authorities designated by him.

#### §2

The decree came into force with effect from September 1, 1941.

Berlin, March 25, 1942

The Reich Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs  
In charge of the business:  
Dr. Muhs  
The Reich Minister of the Interior  
By proxy  
Pfundtner

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*Gustav Metzger*

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