

A Writer's Vision

Prints and Drawings by Günter Grass

Günter Grass is recognized internationally as the greatest living German writer. His first novel, *The Tin Drum*, published in 1959, broke ground in dealing with postwar German identity and ended the silence then surrounding Germany's recent past. In addition to fiction, Grass has written plays, poetry, ballets, essays, political pieces, and works that combine genres.

Less widely known is the fact that Günter Grass is also an accomplished and dedicated visual artist. Prior to the start of his writing career, he studied for four years at the Düsseldorf Academy of the Arts and for an additional year at the Berlin Academy of the Arts. His first exhibition of drawings took place in 1956. Since 1967, Grass has published numerous volumes of prints, drawings, and, most recently, watercolors, frequently accompanying poems and other texts.

This exhibition presents examples of Grass's prints and drawings dating from 1972 to 1996, from the collection of the Ludwig Forum in Aachen, Germany. The collection, acquired by the Forum from the artist in 1996, reveals various facets of Grass's visual art and of the relationship between his literary and pictorial themes.

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