



A.R. PENCK

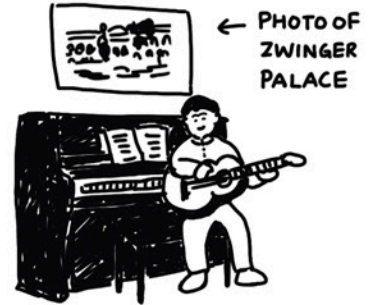
TRANSLATED BY NORMAN CHAN

MANPUKUYA MOGU MOGU

RALF WINKLER (A.R. PENCK) WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 5, 1939 IN DRESDEN, A CITY IN THE EASTERN PART OF GERMANY.



HIS MOTHER AND GRANDFATHER WERE TEACHERS. HE HAD A PIANO AND A GUITAR IN HIS HOUSE, BUT HARDLY ANY EXPOSURE TO ART.



WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HE READ HEGEL, KANT, LENIN AND STALIN, WHICH LED TO AN INTEREST IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AND THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS.

FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO 15, 1945, DURING WW II, DRESDEN WAS FIRE BOMBED BY THE ALLIED FORCES. WINKLER WATCHED THE CITY ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

THE ROOF OF HIS HOUSE BURNED UP.



5 YRS OLD

AT SEVEN, HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM ON A VISIT TO PILLNITZ PALACE WHERE HE WAS STRUCK BY ARNOLD BÖCKLIN'S PAINTING "WAR" (1896).



SO MUCH LIKE DRESDEN ON FIRE.



HE WAS ALSO STRUCK BY ALBRECHT DÜRER'S "KNIGHT, DEATH AND DEVIL" (1513-14).

FIRE DESTROYED MOST OF THE CITY, CREATING VAST EMPTY SPACES TO PLAY IN.



IN MAY 1945, GERMANY UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDERED AND DRESDEN BECAME PART OF THE SOVIET-OCCUPIED ZONE. IN 1949, IT BECAME A CITY WITHIN THE SOCIALIST GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (EAST GERMANY) FOUNDED THAT YEAR.

IT'S LIKE A SCENE IN A HORROR OR SF MOVIE.



AT 10, HE PAINTED HIS FIRST OIL PAINTINGS.



LANDSCAPES



PORTRAIT OF HIS GRANDFATHER

INCIDENTALLY, EAST GERMANY AT THE TIME FAVORED THE REALISTIC REPRESENTATION OF LABORERS AND OTHER THEMES IN A STYLE CALLED "SOCIALIST REALISM."