

IN 1953, HE STUDIED ART HISTORY AND THE BASICS OF PAINTING UNDER JÜRGEN BÖTTCHER AT AN ADULT EDUCATION CENTER.



IN THE EVENINGS, BÖTTCHER INVITED HIM AND OTHER STUDENTS TO HIS HOME WHERE THEY LISTENED TO JAZZ, SHARED THEIR ART AND FLIPPED THROUGH CONTRABAND ART BOOKS, BECOMING FRIENDS.

* LATER, BECOMING A FILM DIRECTOR, BÖTTCHER MADE A FILM THAT CHRONICLED THE LIVES OF HIS STUDENTS, "THREE OF MANY" ("DREI VON VIELEN") (1961), THE SCREENING OF WHICH WAS BANNED.

IN 1954, HE MADE HIS FIRST WOODBLOCK PRINTS. HE BEGAN PAINTING AND SELLING PORTRAITS.

10 MARKS A PIECE.



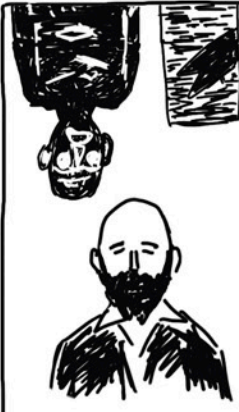
IN 1955, HE STARTED VOCATIONAL TRAINING AS A DRAFTSMAN'S APPRENTICE AT VEB DEWAG (THE EAST GERMAN STATE-OWNED ADVERTISING AGENCY).



HIS FIRST EXHIBITION WAS IN 1956, A COMPETITION FOR BEGINNERS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING STUDENTS IN DRESDEN. HIS WOODCUT, WHICH DEPICTED FAMILIES AND THE CITY, WON A PRIZE, BUT WHEN THE EXHIBITION WENT TO EAST BERLIN, IT WAS DEEMED BOURGEOIS AND DECADENT AND WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE SHOW. HIS DAWNING AWARENESS OF POLITICAL AGENDAS AND MACHINATIONS LED TO HIS ANTI-PATHY TOWARDS THE STATE.



HE QUIT HIS APPRENTICESHIP AND APPLIED REPEATEDLY TO ART ACADEMIES IN DRESDEN AND EAST BERLIN, TO NO AVAIL. SO HE SET OUT TO TEACH HIMSELF.



IN 1956, HE MET GEORG KERN (BASELITZ) WHO MOVED TO WEST BERLIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE WITH KERN, HE LEARNED ABOUT THE CULTURE OF THE WEST AND ARTISTS AND WRITERS LIKE JACKSON POLLOCK, ANTONIN ARTAUD AND WOLS.

SO "POLLOCK" IS THE NAME OF A PERSON...

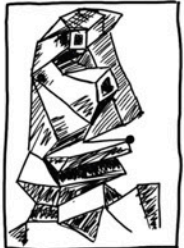


IN THE LATE 1950S, HE MADE PAINTINGS IN THE STYLE OF PICASSO AND REMBRANDT. IN EAST GERMANY, PICASSO WAS CONSIDERED A DUBIOUS ARTIST.



Self-portrait with hat, 1958

WHAT AN INDESCRIBABLE EXPRESSION!



Cubistic drawing, 1960



Man and woman at a table, 1959

SHOWS INFLUENCE FROM VAN GOGH'S "POTATO EATERS."

HE ALSO DID FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS DEPICTING LONELINESS AND VIOLENCE.



Tribunal, 1955

IS THIS A TRIAL? OR TORTURE?



Woman near window at night, 1957

CONTRAST BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK.