

KARL BLOSSFELDT

Born 1865 in Schielo (Unterharz/ Germany).

Education

Attended high school in the nearby village of Harzgerode. Graduated with a secondary-school certificate.

1881 - 1883

Sculpturing and modelling apprenticeship in artistic forms of iron casting at the iron foundry in Magdesprung in the Selke valley of the Harz mountains.

1884 - 1980

Drawing class as an art student at the Institute of the Royal Arts and Crafts Museum in Berlin. Fellowship granted by the Prussian Government.

1980 - 1896

Participated in a project collecting plant material for drawing classes directed by Moritz Meurer in Rome. Excursions throughout Italy. Trips to Greece as well as North Africa. During this period Blossfeldt presumably started systematic photographic documenting of single plant samples as he was assisting Meurer who had established the photographic practice of recording plants for his training material project.

Exhibitions and Projects

1896 - 1909

Some of Blossfeldt's photographs paper in Moritz Meurer's publications

1898

Began teaching at the Institute of the Royal Arts and Crafts Museum in Berlin. At the same time he assisted Ernst Ewald the director of the museum. Married Maria Plank.

1899

Hired as teacher at the Institute of the Royal Arts and Crafts Museum in Berlin and stayed in the profession for 31 years. He was a professor of modelling based on plant samples and used his photographs as teaching material.

1910

Divorced Maria Plank

1912

Married opera singer Helen Wegener. In the following years they travelled to southern Europe and North Africa together.

1921

Professorship at the College of Fine Arts in Berlin, Former Institute of the Royal Arts and Crafts Museum.

1926

First exhibition at the Nierendorf Gallery in Berlin. Some botanical photographs, originally used as teaching material in Meurer's manual for drawing studies, published in several illustrated magazines and books on architecture and design theory.

1928

Urformen der Kunst published. Enthusiastic response in literary circles, as too from the general public.

1929

Exhibition at the Bauhaus in Dessau from June 11-16th

1932

Wundergarten der Nature, second series of Urformen der Kunst published. Died on December 9th in Berlin.