

LILO FROMM – an Obituary Freiburg

Lilo Fromm, known in Freiburg as a painter as well as illustrator and author of more than 250 fairy tale and children's books, died in Hamburg on 19 June at the age of 94. Some of her books, for which she was also famous abroad, have been translated into a total of 22 languages.

Even as a child, she drew and painted her way into her later profession and knew early on what she wanted to become. But before that, she learned her trade in a specialist class for graphic artists in Berlin before turning to painting as her true vocation.

She became familiar to a whole generation of schoolchildren through her illustrations of school books. Today, her books can be found in countless children's bedrooms and libraries. Lilo Fromm brought the world of fairy tales to children with great success, and she did so with fantastical illustrations that she drew from a rich imagination. This enabled her to immerse herself, together with children, in the world of fairy tales.

She also left behind a magnificent and extremely rich life's work as a freelance painter. Her studies at the art academies in Hamburg, Munich and Freiburg, which she took up after a less than satisfying career as a graphic artist, played a large part in this.

She was connected with Freiburg and the Markgräfler Land in many ways, living and working here for several years in an idyllic village setting. Then making many friends, such as Jürgen Brodwolf, Horst Antes and Karlheinz Scherer, as well as my brother Christoph Meckel, who became her partner in life.

With Christoph she discovered Provence and lived in its landscape, whose light and diversity she captured in her paintings for many years. At the end of the 70s, she separated from Christoph Meckel, who processed his cheating / breach of faith - albeit in reverse - in his story "Licht".

Lilo lived for almost four decades in the midst of a magnificent Provencal landscape in the shadow of Mont Ventoux in her "Blue House", "la Maison Bleue", which became a magical attraction for her many friends.

Here, in her various creative periods, she created pictures of exploding colourfulness, but also curious playfulness and restrained melancholy.

The versatility of her work also extended to designs for calendar pages, stationery and stamps, ceramics and much more.

Lilo Fromm received numerous prizes, honours and awards. Among them was the German Youth Book Prize in 1967 for her illustration of the Grimm fairy tale "The Golden Bird".

In Freiburg, she was once again brought to the public's attention by a large retrospective of her works from all creative periods, which was shown in February and March 2019 in the PEAC Museum, the former "Kunstraum Alexander Bürkle". I was able to open this exhibition "Vom goldenen Vogel und anderen Traumvisionen" together with Paul Ege. Lilo Fromm herself was not able to be present.

Andreas Meckel, Freiburg im Bresgau

(Translation DeepL)