



## **Biography**

Wilhelm Richard Heinrich "Willy" Wiedmann (born on 14 March 1929 in Ettlingen, Germany – died on 21 June 2013 in Bad Cannstatt, Stuttgart) was a German painter, church painter, sculptor, musician, composer, writer, author, publisher and gallerist. Prior to moving to Stuttgart, he grew up in Oehringen.

## **The Artist**

Wilhelm "Willy" Wiedmann worked in many fields of artistic endeavors, he created compositions, wrote poems, made paintings, and invented his own painting style: the so called Polycon Painting style. Wiedmann also attended and organized national and international exhibitions. Throughout his career Wiedmann engaged with several famous artists such as Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, and Salvador Dalí. He was Stuttgart's first art dealer who displayed Dalí's art in his own gallery, "Galerie am Jakobsbrunnen". Willy Wiedmann received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2002 for his work in the service of art and culture.

## **The Musician and Composer**

At the age of four Willy Wiedmann played the accordion; one year later, the violin and flute. In 1939 he made his first appearance at a chamber orchestra. At thirteen Wiedmann wrote his first minuet; one of many composition. Throughout his life he created 150 Opus works. Wiedmann studied music between 1950–1958 at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, as a student of Johann Nepomuk David. From 1954– 1964 he worked as a freelance musician and composer at the Württembergischen Staatstheater Stuttgart, and between 1964–1982 for several German television channels and radio stations such as SDR, SWF, ARD, and ZDF. For over ten years, Wiedmann played as a professional jazz musician, collaborating on-stage with many artists including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Stan Getz, Lionel Hampton and Oscar Peterson.

## **The Painter and Art-Dealer**

In addition to his musical career, Willy Wiedmann studied painting at the State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart (1960–1963); attending classes of Prof. Heinrich Wildemann (Willi-Baumeister-Class). On completion of his studies, he invented the art of "Polycon Painting" (Polykonmalerei) which he officially exhibited for the first time in 1965 at the



"Galerie am Jakobsbrunnen" in Bad Cannstatt, Stuttgart. Between 1975 and 1998 Wiedmann redesigned artwork in churches in Germany, Italy, Austria, etc. Examples include the Martinskirche in Wildberg – "Martinsfenster" in 1982, in cooperation with Volker Saile and Laleh Bastian, and the Pauluskirche in Zuffenhausen, Stuttgart in 1984. Under several aliases i.e. Emilio Graesli, Alan Doe, George Yugone, etc. he exhibited his artworks nationally and internationally.

In 1964, Wiedmann opened his first art gallery "Galerie am Jakobsbrunnen" in Bad Cannstatt, Stuttgart. He exhibited as one of the first gallerists of the "Wiener Schule", Neoclassicism and Salvador Dalí at his "Galerie am Jakobsbrunnen" in Stuttgart (1966). He was also the first gallerist in Europe to exhibit the works of Nkoane Harry Moyaga during the restrictive period of South African apartheid (1977). Wiedmann ran a total of six national and international galleries throughout his career among others: "Galerie am Jakobsbrunnen" in Stuttgart (1964–1985, director), Pictures for Business in New York (1967– 1977), TWS-Etagengalerie in Stuttgart (1972–1977, director), and Kunsthoehle in Bad Cannstatt, Stuttgart (1983–1985, director).

### **The Author and Publisher**

Despite his profession as a painter, art dealer, musician, and composer Wiedmann also pursued his passion for writing. He wrote seven books (author or illustrator), of which he published the majority himself. Other literary works include 500 poems, lyrics, and audio plays. Wiedmann often wrote using several pen-names. An example of which is "Alkibiades Zickle;" inspired by a favorite restaurant of his, "Zickle" in Bad Cannstatt.

### **The Wiedmann Bible**

The convergence between art and church inspired Wiedmann and culminated in the idea for his main work: The Wiedmann Bible. He labored for sixteen years (1984–2000), painting the 3,333 pictures, folded into an accordion-pleat style book (Leporello) in his Polycon Painting style. The Wiedmann Bible is not only Willy Wiedmann's life's work it is also the only Bible that depicts the complete Old and New Testament in images for everyone to experience the Bible visually.