

JOSIP PETELN

The Maribor Synagogue, 1928, woodcut, 21.7 x 19.3 cm

Lent by the Drava, 1939, woodcut, 26.3 x 30 cm

Lent with the Judicial Tower, 1939, woodcut, 26.3 x 30 cm

Josip Pipo Peteln (1892, Maribor–1973, Graz) attended secondary school (Realschule) and cadet school in Maribor, where he also worked as a garrison officer. During World War I, he served as a front-line officer and airman. He then continued his education at the Regional Art School in Graz (1919–1921), followed by goldsmithing studies in Maribor for two years. Between 1923 and 1945, Peteln lived in Maribor as a freelance artist and following the 1941 occupation, he was director of the Study Library. After the war, he retreated to the Austrian town of Graz, where he continued his artistic work.

Much like Viktor Cotič and Fran Stiplovšek, during the interwar period, Pipo Peteln depicted Maribor in his printmaking works. He created three print collections featuring scenes and subjects of medieval Maribor. The first two series depicting the old town of Maribor – dating back to 1922 and 1939 – were made using the woodcut technique, while the third, which proved particularly popular with local inhabitants, was created in 1944 using the lithography technique. A total of 100 impressions of each print were issued, whereof fifty signed sets were issued in print series. During a later period, when he lived in Graz, Peteln created numerous oil paintings, and in his last decade, also abstract compositions full of vivid colours.