

Untitled, (Kassel, Germany)

1906

Charcoal, pastel and gouache

Collection of Cherie Humphreys

Untitled, (Kassel, Germany)

1948

Oil on board

Collection of Constance Spangemacher



This photograph of a street in Kassel, Germany was taken by Hans Meyer-Kassel.

Maria at Window, (New York City)

1932

Oil on canvas

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, (New York Harbor)

1926

Oil on board

Bob McFadden Collection

Battery Place, New York City

1930

Oil on canvas

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

This view of New York Harbor from the Battery was made across the water from Ellis Island where Meyer-Kassel arrived from Germany in 1922 on a ship named the Mount Clay. Meyer Kassel frequently returned to the New York harbor to paint.



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Amherst, Sunday Morning

1934

Oil on canvas

Collection of Constance Spangemacher

In 1932 Meyer-Kassel met Hugh Potter Baker, the recently-appointed president of Massachusetts State College (now University of Massachusetts Amherst). Like Meyer-Kassel, Baker had attended the University of Munich; he also spoke fluent German. The two became good colleagues and Baker invited Meyer-Kassel to teach at Amherst. Meyer-Kassel and his wife left New York and remained in Amherst until 1935 when they moved to Nevada.



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Grimm's Märchen (Grimm's Fairy Tale)

ca. 1951

Oil on canvas

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

Towards the end of his life, while living in Nevada, Meyer-Kassel sometimes turned from the portraits and impressionistic paintings for which he was best known.

Occasionally, he turned to allegorical and historical literature as the inspiration for his canvases.

That is the case for *Grimm's Märchen* that is set in an imaginary woodland landscape populated by mythical people and animals.



in Genoa,
deviated
landscape

themes and

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Pan, God of Shepherds, Enjoying Springtime

1951

Oil on canvas

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks



This allegorical painting depicts the Greek god Pan. In ancient Greek mythology, Pan resided in Arcadia and was the god of nature, the mountains, and the wilds. Like a faun or a satyr, he had the hind legs and horns of a goat, and played the panpipes. Pan is often associated with fertility and the season of spring.

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Spitzbergen, (Norway)

1934

Pastel on board

Nevada Historical Society

Gift of H. William Brooks

Coffee Hour at the Studio

1947

Oil on canvas

Collection of the Douglas County Historical Society

Meyer-Kassel's wife Maria was a steadfast supporter of her husband and did all she could to make his life comfortable. Not only did she keep the house clean, warm, and colorful with a fresh bouquet of flowers on the table every day, she was always baking. Hans especially enjoyed her butter cookies during his daily coffee break.

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Untitled (Maria Meyer-Kassel)

1928

Pastel on board

Collection of the Douglas County Historical Society

Meyer-Kassel first met his future wife Maria Magdalena Hesse while completing a portrait commission at a private home in 1922. She became a favorite subject for her husband who painted her likeness several times during their years together.

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Self-portrait

circa 1950

Pastel on board

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

Reno at Rodeo Time

1939

Oil on board

Private collection

Shortly after Hans and Maria Meyer-Kassel arrived in Nevada in 1935, they moved to a downtown apartment at 228 Virginia Street, on the second floor of the Nevada Club. This is the view from Meyer- Kassel's studio window showing the 1939 Reno Rodeo banners bisecting Virginia Street with Herz Jewelry in the background. The business was owned by brothers Richard Herz and Carl Otto who arrived in Nevada from Germany in 1885.

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Pyramid Lake, Nevada

not dated

Pastel on board

Collection of Craig Cunningham

Pyramid Lake, Nevada

1946

Pastel on board

Collection of Mary K and Mark Knobel

Pyramid Lake, Nevada

1950

Oil on canvas

Private collection

Virginia & Truckee Railroad Tracks in Carson City, Nevada

1947

Oil on canvas

Bob McFadden Collection

The Virginia & Truckee Railroad (V&T) was built in the nineteenth century to service the Comstock Mines in Virginia City. It ran from Reno to Carson City and then split into two branches—one that serviced Minden and one that serviced Virginia City. This painting depicts cattle grazing near the V&T tracks. Meyer-Kassel lived in Carson City from 1942-1945. The railroad was abandoned in 1950 and most of the rails were eventually removed.

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Conestoga Wagon

Not dated

Pastel and gouache on board

Collection of the Douglas County Historical Society

Genoa, Nevada

1950

Pastel on board

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

In 1945 Hans and Maria Meyer-Kassel settled in the small town of Genoa on the eastern slope of the Sierra, not far from Lake Tahoe. The population was only 100 people upon their arrival, and Meyer-Kassel would spend the final six years of his life in the quaint and tranquil town. Each year, Meyer-Kassel donated a painting to Genoa's famous Candy Dance as a door prize.

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Untitled

ca. 1950

Pastel on board

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, 1921

(Maria Magdalena Hesse, in nurse's uniform
caring for children in estate garden, Altenburg, Germany)

Bob McFadden Collection

In 1921, Meyer-Kassel was summoned to an estate in Altenburg, Germany to paint portraits of a military general's family. That is where he met Maria Magdalena Hesse, the family's nurse who was 26 years younger than him. She is seated at the table with the two children for whom she cared. They married and moved to America in 1922.

Clockwise from left:

German Forest, circa 1890s

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, (Kassel, Germany), Not dated

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled (Dolomites, Italy), Not dated

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

**Children's storybook cover and
illustration by Hans Meyer-Kassel,
*From the Life and Times of the Kind
Mariechen and the Naughty Emil a
Story Book by Uncle Georg and
Aunt Isa*, Nuremberg, 1897**

Private collection

**Cover illustration for
Jugend magazine, August 1896**

Private collection

The Literary Digest magazine cover of November 21, 1931 featuring Meyer-Kassel's painting of Svolvær, Lofoten Islands, Norway.

Private collection

Between 1926 and 1932, Meyer-Kassel made three month-long trips to Iceland and Norway. What he described as an adventure started with departures from Hamburg or Bremen, across the North Sea to the Atlantic, to the shores of Iceland, and then north to the arctic. His paintings from these trips brought him much recognition.

Meyer-Kassel was ordered to join the ranks of the German army as an artist in 1915 during World War I. These are some of the illustrations he produced while on the front line.

Published by Velhagen & Klasings, Leipzig, 1915

Private collection

Friends of Hans Meyer-Kassel say that he was a very focused and devoted artist who did not spend much time outside his studio. He had a daily routine and when he did go out in public it was always with sketchbook in hand. Always dignified, a necktie was customary attire for breakfast, as was a clean white smock when headed to his studio to work.

Even though many artists began to paint in an abstract style after World War II, Meyer-Kassel never veered far from representational painting and was committed to promoting and fostering traditional, academic principles in art. Meyer-Kassel's sardonic self-portrait sketch, *The Abstractionist*, removes any doubt about how he *really* felt about the new movements in art.

Clockwise from left:

Menu from Wigwam Coffee Shop, Reno, Nevada featuring Meyer-Kassel's painting, *Dance of the Paiute Indians in Moonlight*.

Private collection

Pyramid Lake, Nevada, 1947

Collection of Craig Cunningham

Paiute dancer photographs, Nixon, Nevada, circa 1940

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Illustrated envelopes with first-day issue Centennial stamps, 1951

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Pyramid Lake, Nevada, Not dated

Collection of Craig Cunningham

Clockwise from upper left:

Untitled, (front yard of artist's home in Genoa, Nevada), 1948

Collection of James R. Herz

Untitled, 1946

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, (cowboy on horse), not dated

Collection of James R. Herz

Illustrated stationery, 1949

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Desert Poppies, 1944

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, (choke cherries and landscape), 1944

Nevada Historical Society, Gift of H. William Brooks

In September 1950, the Reno Stamp Club announced it was seeking the public's support to urge the U.S. Postmaster General to issue a Nevada stamp to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the state's first settlement in Genoa in 1851. The Postal Department agreed, and Nevada Governor Charles Russell appointed a selection committee to choose the design. At least three artists submitted proposals, including Meyer-Kassel, who composed a pioneer scene with a log cabin set in Genoa, Nevada. Meyer-Kassel won the competition. To honor the occasion, Nevada Governor Charles Russell issued a proclamation designating July 14, 1951 as Nevada First Settlement Centennial Day.

Illustrated Stationary

Nevada Historical Society

Gift of H. William Brooks

Road to Pyramid Lake

1939

Oil on board

Collection of the Nevada Museum of Art,
Promised Gift of Edgar F. and Ella C. Kleiner

Clockwise from upper left:

**Untitled, (front yard of artist's
home in Genoa, Nevada), 1948**

Collection of James R. Herz

Untitled, 1946

Nevada Historical Society

Gift of H. William Brooks

Untitled, (cowboy on horse)

Not dated

Collection of James R. Herz

Illustrated stationery, 1949

Nevada Historical Society

Gift of H. William Brooks

Desert Poppies, 1944

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

**Untitled, (choke cherries
and landscape), 1944**

Nevada Historical Society
Gift of H. William Brooks

**Fred Balzar,
Nevada Governor, 1927-1934**

1936

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the Nevada State Capitol

In Arte Voluptas

Hand-painted sign

Private collection

This hand-painted crest hung above the door of the Meyer-Kassel home in Genoa, Nevada, indicating it was an artist's house. It reads: *In Arte Voluptas* or "In Art...Pleasure"



Meyer-Kassel's home in Genoa.

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Neddenriep Ranch, Carson Valley, Alpine County, California

1952

Oil on canvas

Collection of Marlena N. Hellwinkel

This painting depicts the Neddenriep Ranch near the Nevada California border at the south end of the Carson Valley. The property was settled in 1872 by German immigrant and Carson Valley pioneer Frederick Neddenriep. The back of the painting is inscribed with a note from William F. and Lena H. Neddenriep indicating that “Professor Meyer-Kassel completed this landscape three days before his death, August 27, 1952.”

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Bremerhaven, Germany

Not dated

Oil on board

Private collection

