



BAYRLE, ALF (*1900; †1982)

Alf Bayrle studied fine arts at several academies in Stuttgart and Munich. In 1926 he went to Paris as a painter and became a student at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière. Among his friends were Colette, André Derain, Rene Jurdain, Paul Poiret and Maurice Ravel, and he also had contact with Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Cocteau, Le Corbusier, Raoul Dufy, Aristide Maillol, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. In 1927 he exhibited alongside Arno Breker. In 1934 Leo Frobenius asked him to join the Frobenius Institute's research expeditions as a scientific and artistic team member. That same year he travelled with Adolf Ellegard Jensen, Helmut von den Steinen und Hellmut Wohlen-

berg to Ethiopia to act as the expedition's illustrator. The resulting publication, *Im Lande des Gada – Wanderungen zwischen Volkstrümmern Südabessiniens* [*In the land of Gada – Walking*

between ethnic ruins of southern Abyssinia], contains forty plates of rotogravure by Bayrle. He moved with his wife, Elisabeth Weiss, to Berlin in 1937. Two years later he was drafted into military service and was soon a prisoner of war. During bombing raids by the Allied forces in 1943 and 1944, the majority of his artistic work was destroyed. After the war he moved to Frankfurt and became a member of the union for visual artists there. In 1968 he co-founded the artistic group *Semikolon*. Even in his later life, he continued to be influenced by the expedition to Ethiopia. He died in 1982 and retrospective exhibitions of his work in Frankfurt and Bonn showed some of his works that had survived the war.