

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Max Bill  
**Title:** *Max Bill 1966*  
**Medium:** limited edition poster

b.1908, Winterthur, Switzerland d. 1994, Zurich

Born in Switzerland, Max Bill was an architect, sculptor, painter, industrial designer, graphic designer and writer. He attended silversmithing classes in Zurich from 1924 to 1927. Then, inspired by the works of Le Corbusier and by a competition entry for the Palace of the League of Nations, Geneva, by Hannes Meyer and Hans Wittwer, Bill decided to become an architect and enrolled in the Bauhaus, Dessau, in 1927. He studied there for two years as a pupil of Josef Albers, László Moholy-Nagy, Paul Klee and Vasily Kandinsky, mainly in the field of 'free art'. In 1929 he returned to Zurich, and after working on graphic designs for a few modern buildings being constructed, he built his first work, his own house and studio (1932–3) in Zurich-Höngg.

Bill considered himself an architect but is mainly known nowadays for his design and art, particularly his influence on 20<sup>th</sup> century Graphic Art. As a theorist and a painter he was an important exponent of Concrete Art, an art based on rational principles with reference to mathematics. From 1937 onwards he was a prime mover behind the Allianz group of Swiss artists and in 1944, he became a professor at the school of arts in Zurich. Several years later Bill became a founding member of the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm, Germany (HfG Ulm), a design school in the tradition of the Bauhaus.

While teaching at the school, Bill produced one of his most famous designs - the "Ulmer Hocker" of 1954, a stool that could also be used as a shelf element or a side table. Although the stool was a creation of Bill and Ulm school designer Hans Gugelot, it is often called "Bill Hocker" because the first sketch on a cocktail napkin was Bill's work.

Examples of Bill's work can be found in many prestigious collections worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Information contained in this article is from [www.oxfordartonline.com](http://www.oxfordartonline.com) and [http://www.abstract-art.com/abstraction/l2\\_grnffhrs\\_fldr/g073a\\_maxbill\\_dist.html](http://www.abstract-art.com/abstraction/l2_grnffhrs_fldr/g073a_maxbill_dist.html)

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This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers  
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