



Embassy of the Federal Republic of  
Germany  
London

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## The Inspiration of Decadence - Dodo Burgner Rediscovered

*22 June - 9 September 2012*

| Ben Uri Gallery, London

The Inspiration of Decadence. Dodo Burgner Rediscovered: From Berlin to London 1907-1998, featuring recently re-discovered German émigré graphic artist, Dodo Burgner (1907-1998) in the broader context of her émigré peers. The Olympic exhibition at Ben Uri Museum provides a fascinating glimpse into Berlin's bohemian society of the 1920s and 1930s, set against the contrasting reality of a struggling émigré existence in post-War London.

Born in Berlin in 1907 as Dörte Clara Wolff, and brought up in a comfortable upper middle-class Jewish environment, Dodo drew constantly from a young age, prior to enrolling in the prestigious Reimann Schule for artists/designers. The early works on display derive from her burgeoning career in Weimar Berlin, first as a student and subsequently as a freelance fashion designer and illustrator. Her exotic and playful student costume designs from the mid 1920s often echo the spirit of "negrophilie", which flourished simultaneously in Berlin and Paris, inspired by Josephine Baker's scandalous cabaret.

The exhibition includes subtly-toned fashion designs in which mannequins in flapper dresses and cloche hats evoke the carefree gaiety of the 1920s. These are juxtaposed against caustic and often menacing illustrations for the German satirical magazine ULK, whose complex and atmospheric compositions are drawn in the New Objectivity (Neue Sachlichkeit) style, characterised by intense colour. They narrate the sophisticated life of the modern urbanite, as much as the increasing estrangement of the sexes, and expose the superficiality of the cosmopolitan lifestyle of the period, with which Dodo was only too familiar.

More information:

[benuri.org.uk](http://benuri.org.uk)

### Event Calendar

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## Dodo Burgner Exhibition