

Albert Anker – popular painter and observer of contemporary life

Albert Anker is regarded as one of the most important painters Switzerland ever produced and to this day, his oeuvre attracts international attention. However, a look at his life reveals interests that went far beyond painting. To commemorate the centenary of his death, Swiss Post is issuing a special stamp.



Albert Anker spent most of his life in Ins, in the Lakes Region of Canton Berne. And most of his world-famous paintings were created in his studio there.
Photo: www.memoriav.ch

Anker Year 2010

Various exhibitions and events are scheduled for 2010 to commemorate the centenary of Albert Anker's death. A highlight of this Anker Year will be the major exhibition of his work in Berne's Museum of Fine Arts, from 7 May to 5 September 2010. In Ins, where Anker was born and lived, various events are being held throughout the year. His house will host regular exhibitions, not only of paintings but also of photographs taken by and relating to Albert Anker. For further information, see: www.albert-anker.ch.

Albert Anker is a prominent figure on Switzerland's cultural landscape. Even 100 years after his death, he is arguably Switzerland's best-known and most popular painter, and his style – as seen in familiar works like his "Erdbeermarelli" (The Strawberry Girl), "Kartoffelschälendes Mädchen" (Girl Peeling Potatoes) and the picture of a girl dreamily braiding her hair – is still unmistakable. Albert Anker, who died on 16 July 1910 in his house in Ins in the Lakes Region of Canton Berne after an eventful, industrious life, is still very much to the fore

in the 21st century. His paintings sell for record prices at auction, there was even a major Anker exhibition in Japan in 2008, and his studio in Ins (which has been left virtually unchanged over the years, complete with personal items) is visited by thousands of people every year.

Talented linguist with many interests

Anker was born in 1831 in Ins, the son of a well-known veterinarian. Throughout his life, he remained very modest and had a thirst for knowledge. Painting was not his sole focus. Under his father's guidance,

