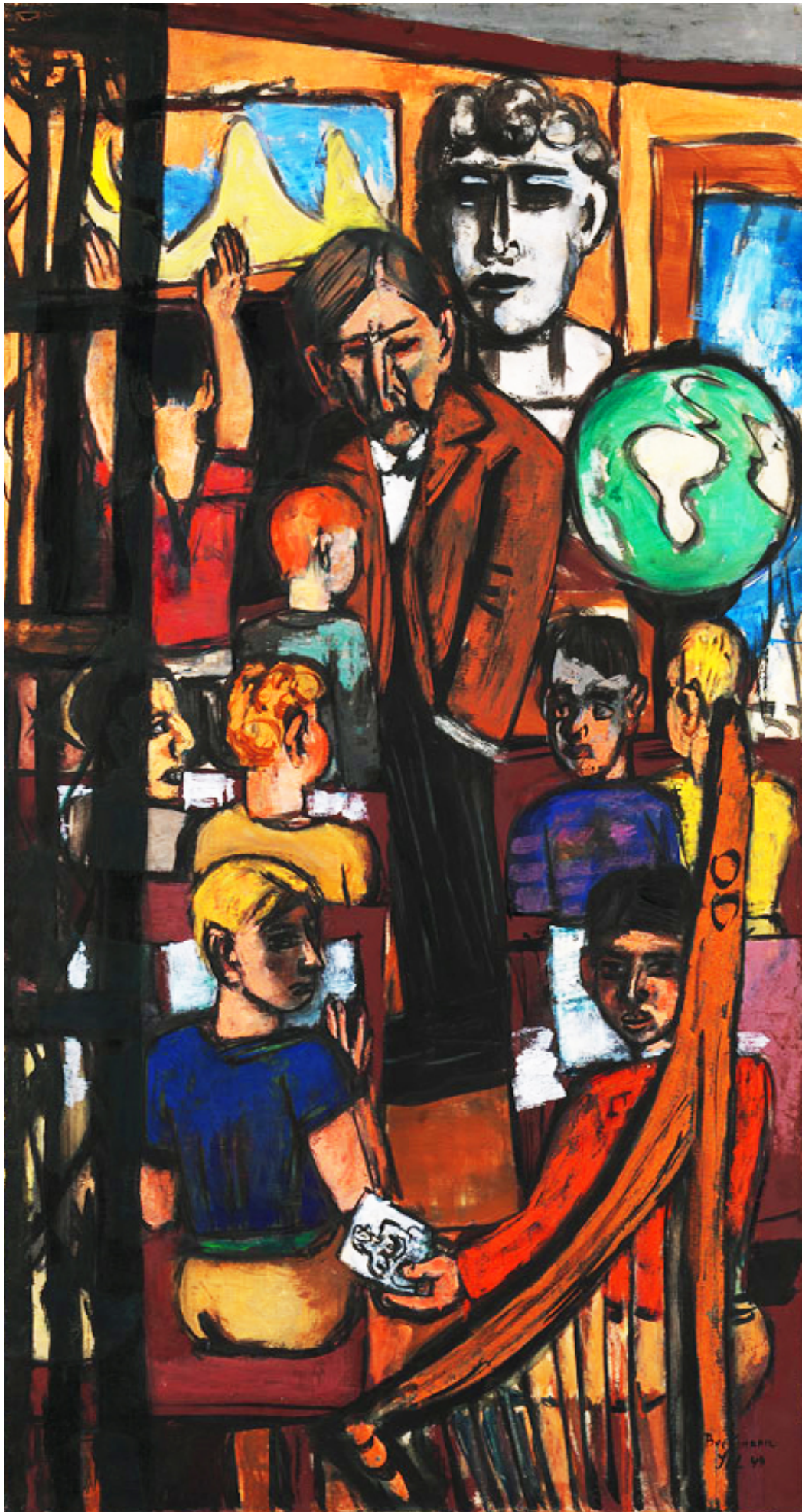


# A School Exercise

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (July 2019)



Teaching is an act of rage  
Focused on the *You* you were  
Back when you were of that age—  
Focused also on the *Sir*  
Who was fine allowing you to stay that way.

*Teaching is an act of rage.*

What's a teacher then to do  
When he learns a student who  
(One believes) was taught the True  
Has become a teacher, too?  
Thusly, son, ancestral sin doth ricochet.

*What's a teacher then to do?*

I cannot transmit a truth  
Cleansed of all the residue  
That (when I was but a youth)  
Clung with such possession to  
Gilded edges of the truth that I received.

*I cannot transmit a truth.*

"This is how you clean a gun."

"This is how you edit prose."

"Damn it, pay attention, son."

"This is how *HaTikvah* goes."

"This is how a precious baby is conceived."

*This is how you clean a gun.*

Tell me what it's like to die,

All your weathered strings unwound.

*How* torments me more than *Why*.

Should more rain assault the ground,

All the soil's mouths will sigh. Let's see the skull.

*Tell me what it's like to die.*

Zweig describes a childhood

During which the label "Jew"

Moldered undeployed. Oh, would

That Experience were true

As substantial Innocence is beautiful!

*Zweig describes a childhood.*

You will meet the World Below

As one meets a swiveling

Office chair abandoned so

Recently you find the thing

At the end of its decelerating spin.

*You will meet the World Below.*

Teaching is an act of rage.

Man must be a hiltless knife.

Man must by a certain age

Learn to play upon a life

Just as Paganini played the violin.

*Teaching is an act of rage.*

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