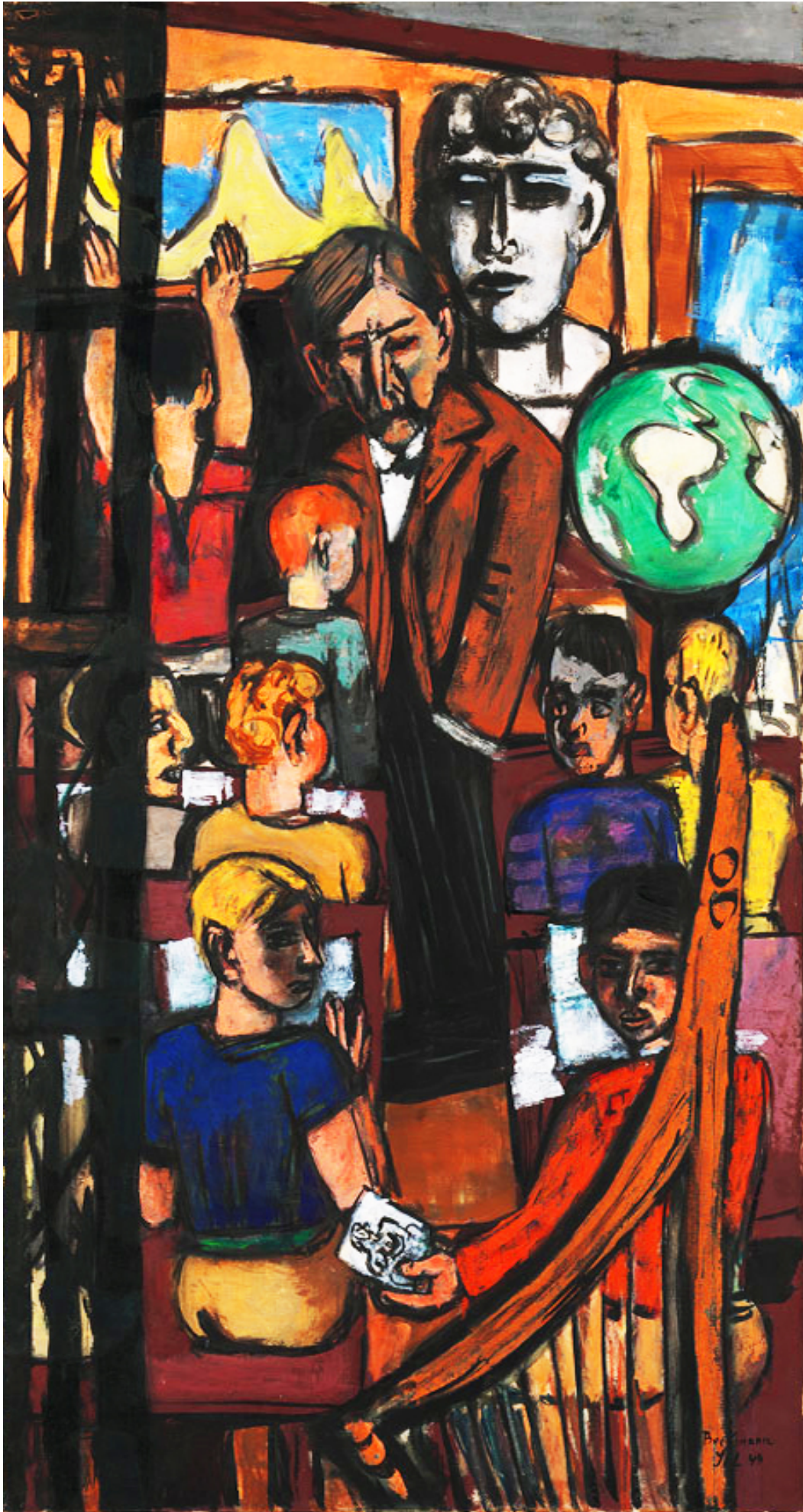


A School Exercise

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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