

AVGUSTA ŠANTEL Jr.

The Old Harbour, 1932, colour woodcut, 29 x 23 cm

In her memoirs, Avgusta Šantel Jr. (1876, Gorizia–1968, Ljubljana) noted that, even as a child, she spent hours on end looking at pictures with interest, trying to remember the similarities and imagining how she would redraw them. She was taught the basics of drawing by her mother, Angela Šantel, herself a painter. Avgusta Šantel Jr. later broadened her painting skills in Vienna at the 'Für Frauen und Mädchen' art school, in Munich at the School of Applied and Liberal Arts (a nude course) and at Margarete Stall's private painting school (for floral still life paintings). She was a music aficionado and played in several musical ensembles. In 1896, she began her 40-year-long teaching career. She started teaching at the first Slovenian school in Gorizia, then moved to the Štajerska region for a few years, until 1904, when she went to the Croatian town of Pula, where she remained until 1918. She also taught at the Steinklamm internment camp (1916–1917), and was a drawing and singing teacher in Sušak for a year (1920). From 1922 onwards, she worked at the civic school (Bürgerschule) in Maribor, before moving to Ljubljana with her mother and sister, Henrika, following her retirement in 1933.

Avgusta Šantel Jr. mainly depicted the subjects and scenes from the places where she lived and floral still lifes. Her works of art also include some portraits and figural compositions. Her focus was on plein-air painting characterised by hard realism. She created more than 739 watercolours and oil paintings; i.e. this is the number of works she listed in the records she kept of sold and donated works up until 1966. Presumably, however, her oeuvre contains even more works, as her woodcuts and linocuts were not included in her records.