

Unpainted Pictures

By

Ahmad Sadeghi

Narrative Support and Storyboard Illustration

By

Yoni Keynan

3102837881

ahmadmmsadeghi@gmail.com

Preface

Emil Nolde was one of the first expressionist painters famous for his unique style and exploration of color. In Nazi Germany, he was discriminated against because his art was considered impure by Nazi cultural standards and his current paintings were showcased in the Degenerate Art exhibition. He was also subsequently banned from painting, so he had to create his art in secret. However, in a twist of irony, Emil Nolde was also a staunch supporter of Hitler and Nazis, and he was a member of the Nazi party. This short-film screenplay is a proof of concept for a biographical movie about Nolde and how fascism spares no one.

Logline

A famous and revolutionary modern art painter learns the hard way about the unforgiving and indiscriminate nature of fascism when the Nazis ban him from painting, forcing one of Hitler's most loyal supporters to continue his passion in secret.

Treatment

Baldur Von Schirach visits Emil Nolde late at night to give him painting supplies in exchange for one of his paintings. Emil shows him a painting he is working on secretly, Schirach says praise. He then begs Schirach to submit another appeal so they would take away his ban on painting, espouses anti-semitic conspiracy theories about Jews infiltrating the government to shut him down and talks about his loyal history to the nazi party. Schirach has enough and tells Nolde that he is paranoid and that the party has no tolerance for any modern art style of paintings, no matter loyalty. He continues saying that he can no longer give him any secret supplies as he is taking a major risk, and that he heard there is going to be a new random search soon. As he is finishing his sentence about the random search possibility, banging is heard on the door. They are both startled, and Schirach says that he will hold them for a while. Emil knows he doesn't have much time to hide it, so he starts modifying the painting to make it look like propaganda art for the state. The guards search the apartment and scold him, and threaten him. After the guards don't find anything and leave, Emil stares at his destroyed painting and tears up.

SCRIPT

FADE IN:

[int] apartment - [4:00 AM]

WE OPEN in front of a 1930s style apartment door. The shadow of an army officer appears on the door and he begins quietly knocking on the door in a pattern. EMIL (74) opens the door in a fearful state, and silently invites the officer in. They are both wearing Nazi armbands. SCHIRACH (42) walks inside.

EMIL

Thank you for coming, Herr Schirach. I am honored by your visi...

SCHIRACH

We don't have much time. Do you have my piece?

EMIL

Yes sir! Here it is.

EMIL takes out a small canvas piece with a radiant and colorful painting, and hands it to SCHIRACH. The color reflects off of them.

SCHIRACH

I have no words... It's like nothing I've ever seen...

EMIL

My apologies if I ask, but were you able to get the supplies?

SCHIRACH

(his eyes still on the painting)

Here, that's all I could get.

SCHIRACH takes out a small bag of painting supplies out of his vest and takes the small canvas and hides it instead. EMIL tries to hide his disappointment with the small supplies.

EMIL

Herr Schirach, I beg you, can you please send another appeal? How could they do this to me? Do you know how many visions and dreams I've lost? The new painting opportunities are slipping away forever, I can't remember them at my age. Why are they treating my children like that? Desecrating them in the degenerate museum with other true degenerate art? I've been loyal to the party and to Germany, more than anyone, I have proof!

EMIL grabs his unique Nazi armband and his genealogy to show Schirach.

SCHIRACH

I have sent two appeals already.

EMIL

This must be a conspiracy! The Jews have infiltrated the government! There needs to be an investigation! They are trying to hold back true German art!

SCHIRACH

Enough! I have already done an investigation, there is no conspiracy. This decision comes from the Fuhrer and the top brass. They have decided that your art is degenerate, what you and I say doesn't matter. Additionally, I cannot risk being seen with you again. The situation is very unstable. There are going to be random searches sometime soon to see if you're continuing your style or have acquired supplies.

EMIL is panicking and pulls his hair.

EMIL

What can I do? What can I do? You have to help me!

SCHIRACH

I am already helping..

Sudden banging on the door interrupts their conversation. There are Nazi guards yelling outside to open the door. Both Emil and Schirach are panicking.

SCHIRACH

I'll hold them off. Get rid of what you have.

EMIL

Please! No!

SCHIRACH

Do as I say if you want to live! No evidence, paint over it.

SCHIRACH walks towards the door and greets the nazi guards. They are surprised to see him. Meanwhile, Emil paints on his painting we previously saw. The colors, which we see reflecting off of him, slowly stop reflecting off of him.

NAZI GUARD #1

Herr SCHIRACH! I was not expecting to see you here at this hour! I bet you are teaching that degenerate swine a lesson.

SCHIRACH

Of course! What else?

NAZI GUARD #2

We have orders to search the premises.

SCHIRACH

And you will do your order. First tell me who gave you that order?

As they are conversing, EMIL is painting over his masterpiece with haste. The NAZI GUARDS start to come in.

EMIL

HEIL HITLER!

NAZI GUARD #1

WHY DIDN'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR YOU SWINE!

EMIL

Please forgive me sir, I am very old and tired.

NAZI GUARD #2

BACK OFF!

The guards start searching the apartment. They notice the canvas with a cover on it. Emil approaches them.

EMIL

I have been doing some work to repair my reputation for the Reich ministry sir. I am learning and practicing true German art. I wouldn't do anything illegal since I respect the law very much. I was a part of the Nazi movement from the beginning, here are the papers for it.

NAZI GUARD #1

Shut up!

The guards take off the covering off the canvas to see the painting now modified with drab colors and a giant swastika sign with motivational letters, looking like a cheap propaganda poster.

NAZI GUARD #1

What do you think?

NAZI GUARD #2

'Scoffs' It looks like shit.

NAZI GUARD #1

Mr. Nolde, you do remember about your ban on paint supplies, correct?
Or do I have to remind your senior brain again.

EMIL

Yes sir, these are my old supplies. I cannot buy new ones even if I
wanted to. Not that I would ever dare to.

NAZI GUARD #1

You are walking on thin ice, you degenerate scum. You better be
careful.

The guards storm out of the apartment. Schirach quickly glances at
Emil as he steps out. Emil sits in front of his now dim and destroyed
painting, and slowly tears up.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END