



## „Girls/Museum“ (2020)



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**Movie Review:** The documentary "Girls/Museum" (Germany, 2020) was one of twelve entries in the International Competition at the 63rd DOK Leipzig 2020, where it celebrated its world premiere. In this film, director Shelly Silver, together with a group of girls and the audience, takes a felicitous walk through the Museum of Fine Arts in Leipzig/MDBK capturing the mindset of these young people.

Together with a group of girls between the ages of 7 and 19, director Shelly Silver (\*1957), who presented her film "A Strange New Beauty" at DOK Leipzig in 2017, among others, visits the Museum of Fine Arts in the middle of Leipzig. Spread over three floors, the museum tells the story of art history from the Middle Ages to

modern times. Discovering these works, the girls not only interpret what was depicted, but also relate these paintings, which often capture women from a male perspective, to their present-day perspectives, thus evaluating the role of women in society, then and now. In doing so, they each find different approaches, concerns and points of connection, linking art to their current personal views and concerns.

"Girls/Museum" follows a simple idea, bringing girls and art together. Visual art, which has been dominated by male painters and viewers for centuries, is contrasted here with the modern female gaze. Combining an innocent approach with their own life realities, the young female interviewees see a lot in these images. Everything is included – from reflections, descriptions, classifications and comments. Since the girls were allowed to choose the images themselves and were asked very open-ended questions, spontaneous descriptions often emerge that capture the interviewees' way of thinking in a sympathetic way. Director Shelly Silver shot the film over an extended period, taking the time to tour

the museum with each girl. After this film, you feel like you want to (re)discover art for yourself, also with new companions and a fresh, even feminist view. With her light-footed film, Silver effortlessly evokes the joy of new perspectives and thoughts on old long established art and thus offers successful entertainment.



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**Conclusion:** The director Shelly Silver visits the MDBK/Museum of Fine Arts in Leipzig together with young female companions. In her documentary "Girls | Museum" she captures their undisguised reactions to art from the Middle Ages to the contemporary and convinces, with a refreshing, new look at art and, above all, the portrayal and role of women in art history.



- [63. DOK Leipzig 2020](#) – Katalog (Programm ,Internationaler Wettbewerb')
- Doreen Matthei, [„Elf Fragen an Shelly Silver“](#), testkammer.com, 2021
- Eintrag des Films [„Girls/Museum“](#) auf der Website der Regisseurin Shelly Silver
- Wiebke Drescher, [„GIRLS/MUSEUM: Virtueller Museumsbesuch“](#), radiomephisto.de, 2020
- Jonathan Romney, [„Girls/Museum“: DOK Leipzig Review | Reviews | Screen](#), screendaily.com, 2020