

The Duldig Family Album

A photo journey for families @ Duldig Studio - an artists' house museum

Most families keep photo albums. If you look into this album you will see the Duldig family story, told through their family photos, some over 100 years old! If you walk through this house you will also see the life they lived in Vienna, Singapore and finally in Australia. Take the 'album' as you go through the house. Talk about the questions together as you go.....

Polish sculptor Karl Duldig and his artist wife Slawa came to live at 92 Burke Road with their daughter Eva in 1955. They had been forced to leave their home in Vienna in 1938, when Eva was a baby, because of the anti-Semitic policies and actions of the Austrian Government. Jewish people in Austria were being persecuted and killed because of their religion.

This house museum and sculpture garden is special as it contains the original furniture saved from their home in Vienna, their art and many of their possessions still in place, just as it was when Slawa and Karl lived here and worked creating art in their Studio in the Sculpture Garden.

Family

The photos on the next page are of Karl Duldig and Slawa Horowitz when they were young, and their families. Both families moved to Vienna before the First World War. They came from the area which is now Poland. Karl had two brothers, Ignaz and Leo and Slawa had a brother Marek and a sister, Aurelie who was known as Rella.

- *How old is the oldest family photo you have?*
- *Look carefully at the faces and see if you can spot images of Karl and Slawa and their family members as you move around the house!*



1. The Duldig family from left to right: Leo, mother Adela (née Nebenzahl) Karl, Ignaz, father Markus, c.1912.
2. Karl Duldig (centre) with friends in football jersey, c. 1918.
3. Slawa with her sister and brother, left to right: Rella, Slawa and Marek Horowitz c. 1913
4. Slawa Horowitz, passport photo c. 1917.

The House

Look at the photo of this house - it was built in 1922. When you come here you enter through a Gallery which was added in 1996 when the house became a Museum and the original front door is now the entry doors to the 'family rooms'.

This photo of students was taken in 1924, when this house was just 2 years old! It shows Karl and Slawa with other students at their art school, in Vienna, Austria. They were both training to be artists at this time.

- *Can you find Karl and Slawa in this photograph?*
- *This is a house that belonged to artists – how can you tell? How is it different to other houses you know?*

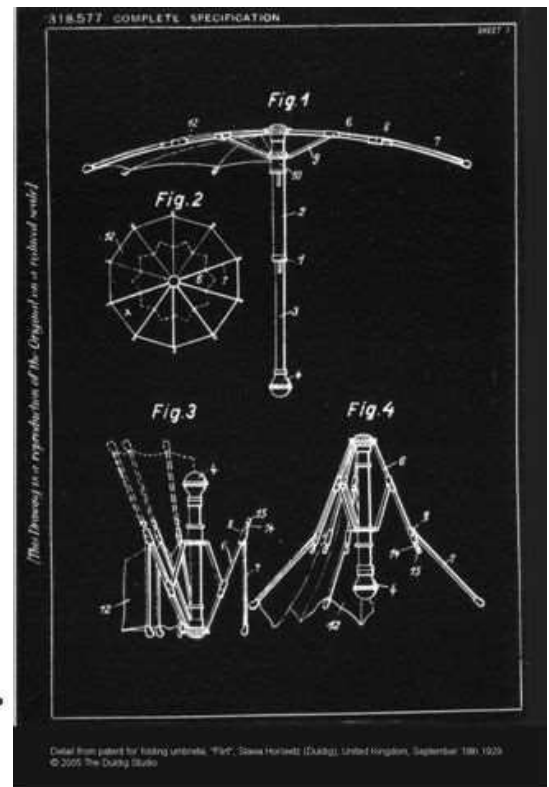


5. 92 Burke Road, East Malvern c. 1992.
6. Karl and Slawa with fellow students in the Studio of their teacher, Anton Hanak, 1924.
7. Anton Hanak's class- 'a coffee break'- including Slawa (second row, far right), Karl (back row, left) and Rella (front row left), c.1924.

The Hallway

In the Hallway you can see the design for a folding umbrella that Slawa invented in 1929. She invented it because she thought big umbrellas were impractical and she knew she could improve them. It was very unusual for a woman to be an inventor at that time – it was called ‘the magic umbrella of the sculptress!’

- *Where is the patented design for the umbrella?*
- *What would you invent if you could?*



8. Karl and Slawa in Vienna before the war, c. 1935. Slawa is holding the special folding umbrella she designed.
9. Design for the umbrella in Patent application, c. 1929.
10. Prototype umbrella, parts and cover, 1928.

The Sitting room

Slawa designed many pieces of furniture in this room! They were saved from the Duldigs' apartment in Vienna in 1938 by her and her sister Rella who packed them up, with artworks, and sent them to Paris, France where Rella lived. She hid them in the cellar of her apartment building. Unfortunately the sisters lost contact during the war.

After the war ended Slawa heard with relief that Rella was safe! The furniture was sent to Australia and in 1955 Slawa placed them in this room to look like their apartment in Vienna. All around are Karl and Slawa's works of art from Vienna when they were students.

- *How many pieces of furniture in this room can you see in the photo?*
- *Find a pencil self-portrait by Slawa, drawn when she was only a young girl. Does it look like the passport photo of her?*



11. Slawa and her sister Rella (Aurelie) in Vienna c. 1938.
12. Rella and Marcel Laisné, c. 1939.
13. A photo taken of Slawa in the apartment at Enzingergasse 2, Vienna, with the furniture you see here now. c.1931.

The Sitting room

In the 1950s Timmy, the family's dog, sat on the carpet cushion on the floor near the window, and a sculpture of him now sits on the window seat! This photo shows Timmy with Eva who became a Wimbledon tennis champion.

Here also is a photo of Eva and Karl in this room taken in 1985 – they are having afternoon tea, seated at the Viennese coffee table.

- *Find the cushion Timmy slept on and his sculpture - Is it a good likeness of Timmy?*
- *Which sculptures and paintings are still here?*



14. Bedroom furniture in Vienna apartment c. 1931.
15. Eva in Maccabiah Games uniform with Timmy, 1957.
16. Eva and Karl in the Sitting room, 1985.

The Dining room

Look again at another photo from Vienna.

The bookcase here now was also designed by Slawa! In the cupboards are more precious possessions. With some treasured photos and letters these are the only things remaining from Karl's family. Members of both families died in the Holocaust. Many sculptures by Karl and Slawa are in this room – one is called 'Mask' and was carved when Karl was only 19 years old!

Another is a bust of Eva Karl modelled when she was only one year old!

In this room are mementos and art from the time the family lived in Singapore, a very successful time. While there Karl met a Chinese monk and drew portraits of him.

The family was later sent to Australia by the British Government as 'enemy aliens' and put into a camp at Tatura, in country Victoria.

- *Do you think the drawings of the monk look like him?*
- *Karl did a drawing of the children at Tatura - can you see it in this room? How can you tell they are in a camp?*



17. View of apartment with bookcase, Vienna c.1931.

18. Eva approximately one year old.

19. Monk Guangqia with Yu Ta-Fu, Karl and Eva, outside their house, Singapore c.1940.

20. Photo taken by Nurse Burns of children at Tatura Internment Camp near Shepparton, Victoria – Eva at front (centre), c. 1941.

The Sunroom

After he retired in 1967, Karl was asked to create a large monument, called 'Dawn' to all the Jewish sportsmen who had died in the Holocaust during World War 2, particularly the sportsmen of Hakoah, the Jewish football team. This is now in Israel. A small bronze version of this figure of a sportsman holding the Israeli flag is now in the Sunroom.

Some of Slawa's sculptures are also in this room. She sometimes worked at a desk in the Sunroom looking after their ceramics business.

- *Do you think the small bronze of 'Dawn' looks like the photo of the monument in Israel?*
- *Can you find the self-portrait 'Mask' by Slawa on the wall? (you know what she looks like!)*
- *Find Eva's shoes!*



21. Slawa at St Catherine's School with Timmy, c.1950.

22. Slawa in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1968 at the opening of the Hakoah monument.

23. Eva and friend eating an ice cream, c. 1944.

The Studio and Sculpture Garden

Karl worked in the Studio, and here you can still see his tools, his kiln and many sculptures. It was built by him in 1962. Here there is artwork from Vienna, Singapore and Melbourne. Also in the Studio are Karl's stone carving tools and finishing materials and some of Slawa's sculptures.

Karl saw the Sculpture Garden as part of his exhibition space, to walk around and enjoy. He believed that art should be everywhere and carefully arranged his work in relation to each other. Eva was married from this house in 1962, before she went to live with her husband in Holland.

- *Look at the photo of Karl's sculptures in Vienna – how many sculptures are now here in this Studio?*
- *And finally, walk around the Garden – which sculpture do you like the most?*
- *Why don't you draw it?*



24. Photo of a room in his family apartment where Karl displayed his work, Vienna, c. 1925.
25. Karl in his Studio with 'Dawn', c.1967.
26. Karl's assistants with a bronze mural in the Garden in 1970.
27. Eva and Karl outside this house, at the time of her marriage in 1962.

We hope you enjoyed discovering the Duldig Studio and that by looking at the 'Duldig Family Album' you now know why this is such a very special artists' house and garden!