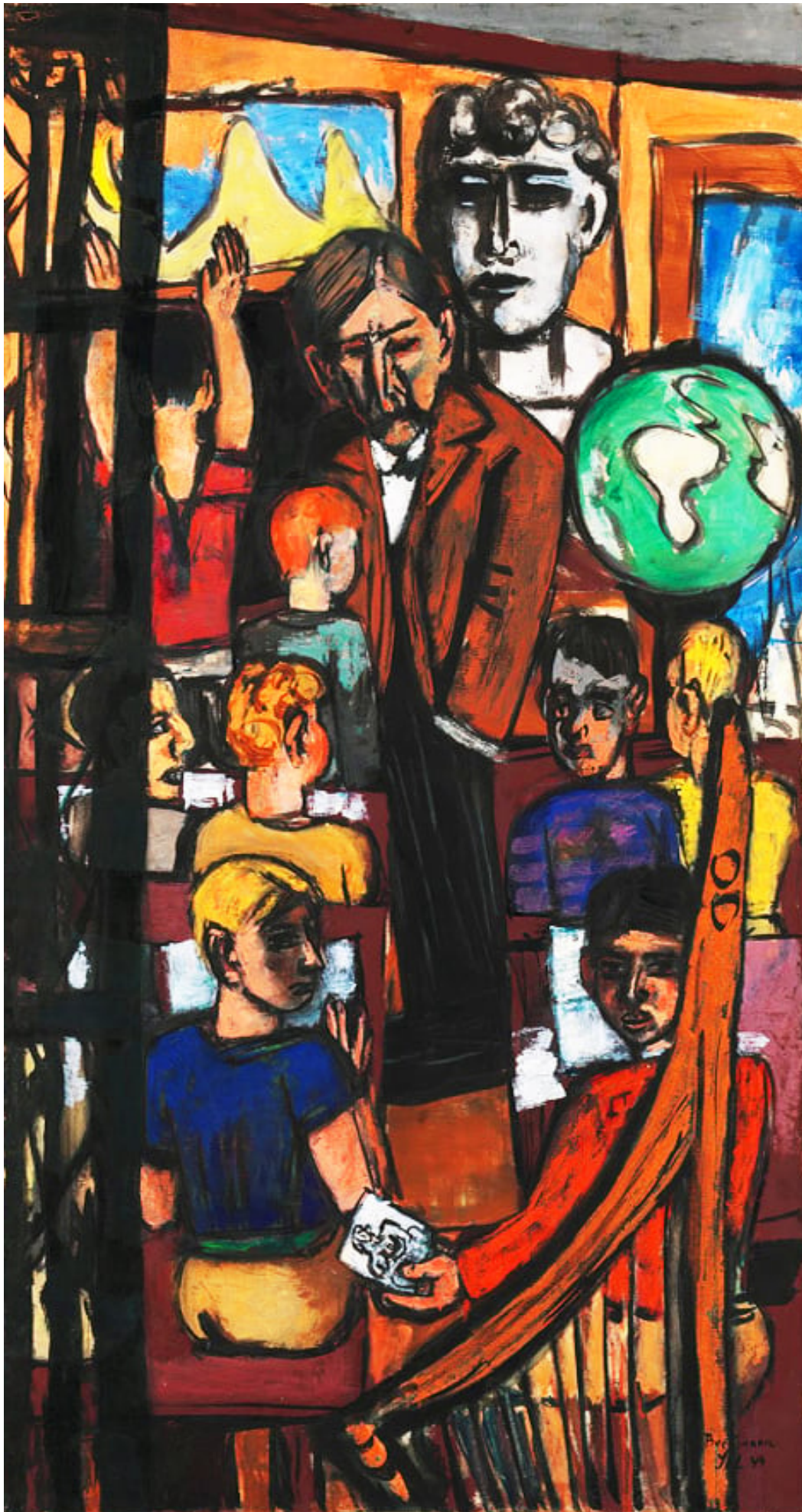


# A School Exercise

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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