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Eccentric German-Israeli artist Max Weinberg dies aged 90

April 19, 2018

BERLIN (AP) — German-Israeli artist Max Weinberg, best known for his large, colorful paintings and distinctive personal appearance, has died. He was 90.

The ministry of culture for Hesse state says Weinberg died Wednesday in Frankfurt.

In a statement Thursday, Hesse's Culture Minister Boris Rhein said Weinberg's "work was an unusual as his personality."

Born 1928 in the central German city of Kassel, Weinberg's family left Nazi Germany in 1935 and emigrated to what is now Israel.

In 1959, he returned to Germany where he worked as an artist and frequently hosted school groups, especially from Israel.

Rhein said Weinberg — with his long hair, bushy beard and kohl-lined eyes — "opened new worlds for us with his pictures and made us question what we are used to."