

Biography of Maria Austria

March 19, 1915: Marie Karoline Oestreicher was born as the youngest of four children of the doctor Karl Oestreicher (1864–1915) and his wife Clara, née Kisch (1871–1945), in Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary) in Bohemia, then Austria-Hungary, now Czech Republic.

1933: Graduates from Grammar School in Karlovy Vary

1933–1936: Trained as a photographer at the Federal Institution for Graphic Education and Research in Vienna

1934–1935: Unpaid internship at the Willinger Photo Studio in Vienna

1935–1937: First photo publications in Viennese pictorial magazines

1937: Move from Vienna to Amsterdam; founding of the *Model en Foto Austria* studio together with her sister Lisbeth Oestreicher, who designs knitwear

1939: Adoption of the artist's name Maria Austria

1942: Abandonment of the studio; Lisbeth is interned at the Westerbork transit camp. Marriage to the German businessman Hans Bial, who also has to report to Westerbork. Maria Austria does not comply with this request from the National Socialists.

1943: From the end of September Maria Austria lives in hiding and is active in the resistance: she carries messages and provides photos for false identity cards. She meets the Dutchman Henk Jonker, who becomes her life partner.

1945: Maria Austria's mother is murdered in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp; her brother and sister-in-law die shortly after the liberation as a result of the concentration camp imprisonment. Her sister and her brother's three daughters survive. Shortly after the end of the war the photo agency Particam was founded together with Jonker and other colleagues. Divorce from Hans Bial.

1945–1975: Works as a press photographer and photojournalist with a focus on music performances, dance, and theater

1950: Marries Henk Jonker

1954: Photo documentation *Het Achterhuis*

1955: Attends the Salzburg Festival

1960: Only visit to Vienna after emigration

1963: Separation from Henk Jonker

1965: First trip to Israel for the opening of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem
Pays a visit to Josephine Baker in France

1967: Second trip to Israel

1965–1975: In-house photographer at the avant-garde Mickery Theater

January 10, 1975: Maria Austria dies unexpectedly, barely recovered from a severe flu.