Paul Klee

1879-1940

German, Swiss

1

"A drawing is simply a line going for a walk."

Paul Klee

Educator, Painter

2

Golden Fish, 1925

As a Boy…

- Born in Switzerland
- Dad was a music teacher
- Mom was trained to be a singer
- By 11, Paul Klee was so good at violin he was invited to play with the Bern Music Association

3

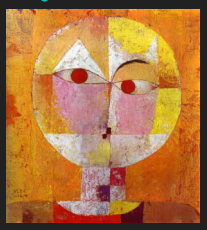
In his youth…

- As a teen, Klee wanted to focus on visual art, but his parents pushed music
- He went to the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, Germany
- In school he was talented in drawing but struggled with color

Cat and Bird, 1928

4

The Road as an Artist



Senecio, 1922

- **1906** Klee married a pianist Lily Stumpf. She worked to make money for the family while Klee tried to make it as an artist.
- **1911** Made Artistic Connections – he befriended Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc and together they created a publication called "Der Blaue Reiter," (The Blue Rider).
- **1911** His group founded the expressionism movement

5

What's Expressionism?

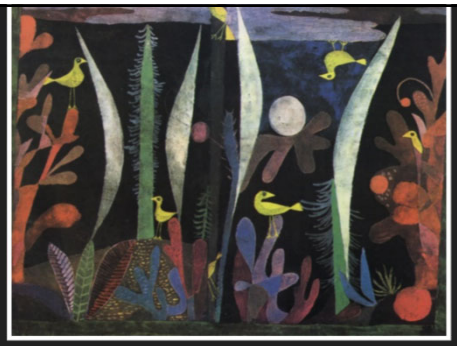
- A Modern Movement starting in Germany in the early 1900's
- The artists wanted to show their emotion in their paintings, and poetry
- They didn't make things look perfect and real
- The artists were sad with how the world was changing and becoming angry and violent
- They used bold colors to express how they were feeling

Flower Myth, 1918

6

Interesting facts

He eventually fell in love with color, **"Color has taken possession of me; no longer do I have to chase after it, I know that it has hold of me forever ...color and I are one. I am a painter."**



Landscape with Yellow Birds, 1923

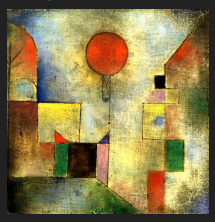
7

In World War I, Klee joined the German army and painted camouflage on war planes and worked as an office clerk

Blühendes, 1934

8

The road of an artist



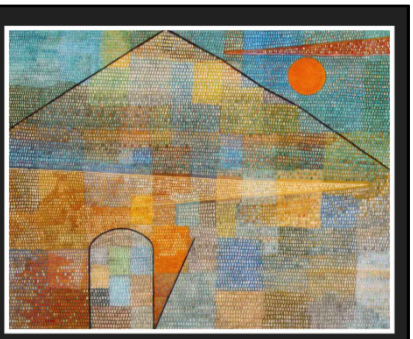
- **1917** Critics classified him as one of the best young German artists
- **1921-1931** he taught Art at the Bauhaus and then the Dusseldorf Academy from **1931-1933**
- **1933** he was fired and kicked out of Germany during WWII for his philosophies and teachings

Red Balloon, 1922

9

- In 1933, he produced nearly 500 pieces in a single year.

Twittering Machine, 1922



Ad Parnassus, 1932

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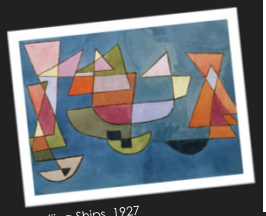
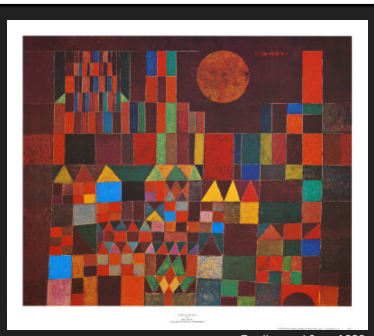
Klee used practicing violin to warm-up for painting



Sailing Ships, 1927



Castle and Sun, 1928

11

One of Paul Klee's last paintings

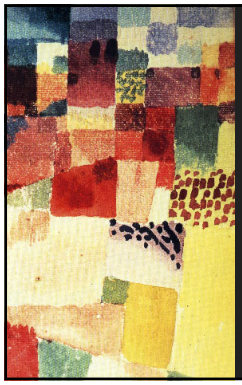
Death and Fire

Year: 1940

Death and Fire was painted in the year of Klee's death. In this painting, he paints his own grimacing death mask without compassion with a skull in the center and the German word for death, 'Tod', appearing in the face.

Showing a great deal of his emotion and expression.

12



PAUSE TO GRAB YOUR SUPPLIES

1) Black Card Stock 5.5" x 8.5"
2) Pencil
3) Eraser
4) Colored Pencils

RachelDillon.com

13

Our Project Examples

Art Fundamentals Covered:

- Geometric shapes
- Variations in sizes and heights
- Bleeding lines off the page

14

Step One

- Draw with pencil the outline of a Cityscape using a variety of rectangles and triangles
- Then trace over the lines with crayon

15

Step Two

Break the inside of the buildings into shapes like:

- Triangles
- Checkers
- Squares
- Rectangles

TIP Vary the sizes, layer, go vertical and horizontal, repeat simple patterns.

16

Step Three

- Fill in the shapes with colored pencils
- Give each shape time and energy
- Remember to use bold colors that are different from each other

17

RESOURCES

- https://www.biography.com/artist/paul-klee
- https://paulklee.net/flower-myth.jsp
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Klee

18