

Paul Klee (1879-1940)

Biography



Paul Klee, considered both a Swiss and German artist, was born on December 18, 1879 in a Münchenbuchsee, Switzerland.

He graduated from the “Gymnasium” of Bern in 1897, where he qualified in the Humanities. Then, in 1898 he began studying art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, where he excelled at drawing.

In 1906, Klee married the pianist Lily Stumpf and they settled in Munich.

In 1911 Klee joined the Munich Association “Blue Rider”, which included Russian artists. This year he also had his first major exhibitions in three cities of Switzerland.

During the First World War, he was called up for infantry training and in 1918 he returned to Munich.

In November 1920, Klee was invited to teach at the Bauhaus at Weimar. Then Klee also taught at the Düsseldorf Academy from 1931 to 1933. He held the post for only two years before the Nazi campaign against modern artists brought about his dismissal. In 1933, Klee left Germany and returned to Switzerland. He died on June 29, 1940.

Creative Works

Paul Klee’s highly individual style was influenced by movements in art that included expressionism, cubism, and surrealism. He has left more than 3000 drawings, oil paintings and watercolors.

Klee was a natural draftsman who experimented with and eventually mastered color theory. His lectures “Writings on Form and Design Theory” (Schriften zur Form und Gestaltungslehre), published in English as Paul Klee’s Notebooks, are considered to be important for a modern art. They are compared to the importance that Leonardo da Vinci’s “A Treatise on Painting” had for Renaissance. (Herbert Read (1959) A concise history of modern painting, London, p.186).

Florentine Influence

Paul Klee’s first visit to Italy took place in 1901-1902, after he had left the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. He and his friend Hermann Haller stayed in Rome, Florence and Naples, and studied masters’ paintings of the past centuries.

Inspired by the places he had seen, in 1926 he visited Italy for the second time and during this trip Klee created a picture “Florentine villas”, masterfully combining scenic and graphic elements associated with common color harmonies.

Learn More

Paul Klee: Selected by Genius, 1917-33 by Roland Doschka, Ernst-Gerhard Guse, Christian Rumelin, Victoria Salley, Stadthalle Balingen. Prestel Publishing, 2001.

The Paul Klee Catalogue Raisonné, Volume 9 (1940) by The Paul Klee Foundation. Thames & Hudson, 2004.

The Diaries of Paul Klee, 1898-1918 by Paul Klee, Felix Klee (editor). University of California Press, 1964.

Paul Klee: 1879-1940 (Basic Art) by Susanna Partsch. Taschen, 2000.

Paul Klee: Painting Music (Pegasus Library) by Hajo Duchting. Prestel, 1997.

Paul Klee: The Nature of Creation/Works 1914-1940 by Robert Kudielka, Bridget Riley. Lund Humphries Publishers, 2002.

Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern – http://www.zpk.org/ww/en/pub/web_root.cfm.

The Gallery of Paul Klee’s Works – <http://www.famousartistsgallery.com/gallery/klee.html>.

The Ultimate Guide to Great Art Online. Paul Klee. -

http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/klee_paul.html.

WebMuseum, Paris. Paul Klee – <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/klee/>.

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. Paul Klee –

http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/klee/hd_klee.htm.

Associations

The picture which Paul Klee drew being inspired by Florence is “Florentine villas” (1926). Due to the fact that P. Klee was an expressionist, he represented the landscape of Florence with the help of geometric figures and lines. However, the color harmony of this picture is very soft and warm.

Having the feelings and emotions which arise when admiring the Florentine nature and scenery, I’ve chosen the view of Florentine villas which is presented in picture 2. In my opinion, this view gives an opportunity to observe the traditional Florence villas and greenery, and could be compared with Paul Klee’s picture.



Picture 1 is made by P. Klee

Picture 2 is taken by J. Titaeva

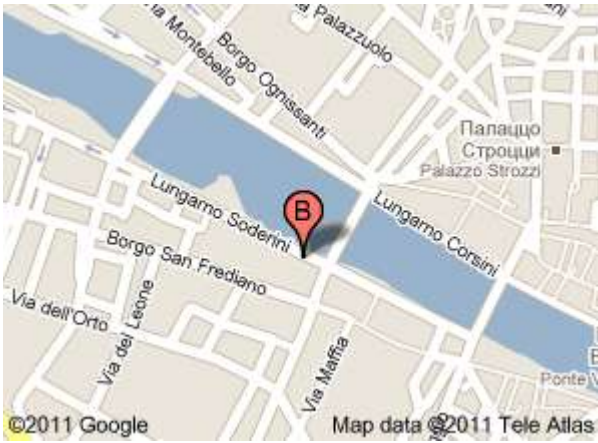
Touristic Hints



Museo Uffizi Firenze
Galleria degli Uffizi,
Piazzale degli Uffizi 6 - Firenze
uffizi.firenze.it



Strozzi Palace
Palazzo Strozzi,
Piazza Strozzi 1 – Firenze
www.palazzostrozzi.org



Salvatore Ferragamo Museum
Palazzo Spini Feroni,
Via Tornabuoni 2 - Firenze
www.salvatoreferragamo.com



Source of information: <http://maps.google.ru/maps/>

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