

Paul Klee (Clay)
b1879 d 1940

Born in Switzerland, his mother was a singer and his father was a music teacher. He was a gifted violinist. He also had a gift for art, painting and drawing. He had to make a choice...he choose to be an artist.

He went to Munich, Germany to study art. His early works (those he created when he was 24) were mostly pen and ink drawings. He married a German woman and settled there.

A turning point in his career was his visit to Tunisia in North Africa. (roughly 1914) He was overwhelmed by the intense light there. He wrote..."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." As a result his artwork was built up of colored squares which he probably saw in mosaics during his trip to Tunisia. He called this method of color construction "magic squares."

His artwork also includes random symbols and numbers; they are completely abstract and have no meaning to anyone...but him.

His artwork is hard to classify into a style. He is part modernist, expressionist, surrealist, and even a bit of impressionist. He loved to create and was greatly influenced by light, music and poetry.

Later in life he became a teacher at the Dusseldorf Academy, Germany. However, when WW 2 broke out the Nazis declared his artwork of no value...so he fled Germany for his homeland of Switzerland. (roughly 1933) Interestingly, he valued the artwork of children; he loved their freedom to create.

Klee (clay) ranks among the most original masters of modern painting. He created thousands of paintings, drawings and prints. He is best known for his masterpieces of fantasy, wit and invention.

Let's look at this painting...
Questions