

Paul Klee is one of the best-loved artists of the 20th century. He was born near Bern, Switzerland in 1879. He spent most of his career in Germany. He died in 1940.

Whenever you are in Bern, take a number 12 bus to the Paul-Klee-Museum. It's a modern building. You can see there a part of Klee's work (oil, water-colours, drawings, prints).



Klee had a vivid imagination. He never repeated himself. Some of his paintings are purely abstract, but most of them are based on the things that he saw around him. They are full of radiant colours and a joyous love of life.

Paul Klee's mother was Swiss. His father came from Germany and was a music teacher at a Swiss teacher training college. Paul was interested in music. He was also interested in art. He studied art in Munich. In 1914 he visited Tunisia with some friends. He was impressed by the colours. Then he worked at the famous Bauhaus art school in Germany.



Hitler came to power in 1933. The Nazis were against modern art and considered Paul Klee's work as „the work of a sick mind“. Klee had to leave his teaching post. He returned to Switzerland.

In the last five years of his life he suffered from a painful illness and was depressed by political events as Europe went to war. Klee continued to paint superb pictures. But in them a grim humour often replaced the playful wit of his earlier work.

vivid: vivant
radiant: rayonnant
joyous: joyeux
consider: considérer
mind: esprit
suffer: souffrir
painful: douloureux
event: événement
superb: superbe
grim: sombre
wit: esprit, humour

Translate:

Le musée est un bâtiment moderne.

Peux-tu voir les choses autour de toi?

T'intéresses-tu à la musique?

Je suis impressionné par les couleurs.

Il dut quitter l'Allemagne.

Klee est un des plus célèbres artistes du vingtième siècle.