

# THOMAS PRESS RELEASE

## PAUL KLEE

MUSIK UND THEATER  
IN LEBEN UND  
WERK

MUSIC AND THEATRE IN LIFE AND WORK



### GALERIE THOMAS

Expressionism & Classic Modern

Tuerkenstrasse 16 · 80333 Munich · Germany · Tel +49-89-29 000 80  
Fax +49-89-29 000 888 · [info@galerie-thomas.de](mailto:info@galerie-thomas.de) · [www.galerie-thomas.de](http://www.galerie-thomas.de)

## PAUL KLEE

MUSIC AND THEATRE  
IN LIFE AND  
WORK

**February 23 - May 12, 2018**

**Opening: Thursday, February 22, 2018, 7 pm**

### **Klee - Spring in Munich:**

This spring, three exhibitions in and near Munich are devoted to Paul Klee's oeuvre, each to a different aspect. The Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the Franz Marc Museum in Kochel, and Galerie Thomas, together will present more than 210 works by Paul Klee.

### **Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich**

Paul Klee – Construct of Mystery, March 1 – June 10, 2018

### **Franz Marc Museum, Kochel am See**

Paul Klee – Landscapes, February 25 – June 10, 2018

### **Galerie Thomas, Munich**

Paul Klee – Music and Theatre in Life and Work, February 23 – May 12, 2018



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The exhibition "Paul Klee – Music and Theatre in Life and Work" at Galerie Thomas traces Paul Klee's musical tracks and his great interest in opera and the theatre.

Paul Klee (1879-1940) was not only a visual artist, but also a musician. In his youth, he had found it difficult to decide between the two professions, and although he eventually decided in favour of painting, his close affinity with music never waned: all his life he was an impassioned violinist and an enthusiastic and critical attendee of concerts and opera performances, especially in Munich.

However, music and visual art enjoyed a close relationship not only in Klee's life, but also in his work. Rhythms and melodies are reflected in landscapes, architectures and abstract compositions; the pathos and wit of the stage play form the basis of many of his figurative scenes.

With around 40 paintings, watercolours and drawings from 1914 to 1939, Galerie Thomas illustrates how Klee was preoccupied with music throughout all phases of his creative life. They include known works, as well as those that have only rarely been seen in exhibitions, if at all, until now. The exhibition has two main focuses: on the one hand, there are the stage characters and masks, i.e. works arising from his passion for opera, theatre and puppet shows, and on the other hand, symbolic abstract watercolours and paintings whose composition is modelled on musical structures.



*Leontine, 1933*

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*Die Sängerin L. als Fiordiligi (The Singer L. as Fiordiligi), (from Mozart's „Così fan tutte”), 1923*

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The highlight of the exhibition is the painting *The Singer L. as Fiordiligi*, 1923, a work, that Klee not only prepared very carefully, but also repeated several times. He recreated the figure no less than five times, more than any other motif in his oeuvre. Two versions can be seen in the exhibition: the first work from 1923 and the subsequent hand-coloured lithograph of 1923, which was derived from it and which Klee gave away only to selected collectors. Another version is owned by the Bavarian State Painting Collections, Munich, and will be simultaneously on display in the exhibition at the Pinakothek der Moderne.

Along with private lenders, we are also grateful to public museums for their support with loans: Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA; Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Germany; Franz Marc Museum, Kochel am See, Germany; Ulmer Museum, Ulm, Germany and others.

The exhibition "Paul Klee – Music and Theatre in Life and Work" is curated by Dr. Christine Hopfengart, the former head of the Paul Klee Foundation, Bern, Switzerland.

## DOCUMENTATION

The exhibited works are supported by extensive documentation on Klee's "musical-theatrical biography". His performances as a violinist are also dealt with, as are his activities as a music and theatre critic, as well as the influence of music on his lectures at the Bauhaus. Moreover, special attention is paid to his links to Munich's music and theatre scene. The performances at Munich's court theatre and the many concerts he attended had a formative influence on Klee, and it was in this city that he took the decisive steps towards developing his "musical visual language".

In parallel to the thematic exhibition, the gallery is offering a separate selection of works by Paul Klee for sale.

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## Accompanying Programme

Supporting the exhibition, Galerie Thomas is organizing five themed evenings which illustrate Klee's connection to music and the theatre. The Klee-Evenings at Galerie Thomas include concerts with performances of works by Bach and Mozart, as well as the 'Fiordiligi' aria from 'Così fan tutte', which were favourites of Klee's; on the other hand, there are also works by contemporary composers following motifs from Paul Klee's paintings; a performance with replicas of Klee's hand puppets, as well as a reading from his papers, letters and diaries.

Paul Klee was not only among the visual artists of the 20th century who were most deeply involved with music, but was also the one whose paintings found the broadest echo with musicians and composers. Klee himself picked up stimuli from music, and also gave them in return. Over 450 compositions from the 1940s until the present day have made reference to Klee and one or other of his paintings. The inspiration by Klee extends to the present day. On the accompanying musical evenings, a wide variety of prominent compositions are interpreted in different line-ups, including a complete cycle by the French composer Francis Poulenc, consisting of seven songs.



*Comic Old Woman* 1923



*Untitled (Big-Eared Clown)* , 1925

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## **FIVE KLEE-EVENINGS AT GALERIE THOMAS**

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 7 pm

### **About Klee or The bone in my head.**

The allegorical-biographical play (children over 12) with hand puppets after Klee tells us about Klee's artist life in a cheerful and touching way.

Friday, March 2, 2018, 7 pm

### **Musical Landscapes after Paul Klee - Ensemble Sortisatio Leipzig.**

A shared concert evening with the Pinakothek der Moderne with modern compositions on paintings by Paul Klee, played by one of the most innovative quartets of Germany.

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7 pm

### **Classical music inspires Klee – Klee inspires modern composers.**

The concert evening is devoted to this connection with a performance of classical compositions by Bach and Mozart, who inspired Klee in his artistic creativity.

The evening is defined by a polychromatic array of compositions in different genres, including the soprano aria from Mozart's opera "Così fan tutte" for the principal painting of the exhibition "Die Sängerin L. als Fiordiligi" (piano and voice) or "Partita für Paul" by the

Norwegian composer Arne Nordheim (violin and electronics).

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7 pm

### **"Everything Faustian is alien to me"**

A literary evening with a "Singing Violinist", in which Klee's remark "everything Faustian is alien to me" and his painting "Mephisto als Pallas" (1939) form the starting point for a literary journey with texts by and about Paul Klee. A cooperation with the Franz Marc Museum.

The event is Galerie Thomas's contribution to the Faust Festival, Munich, an initiative by the Kunsthalle München and the Gasteig, which will take place from Feb. 23 to July 29, 2018, at various locations in Munich

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7 pm

### **Klee-Sheets**

– Musical Dialogue with Klee's pictures

Composition cycle for two sound enhanced (prepared) grand pianos after pictures by Paul Klee with 4 pianists and 2 drummers.

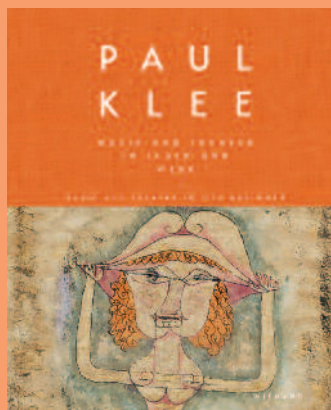
The five Klee evenings will take place at Galerie Thomas. Admission is free. Due to the limited number of participants, registration by e-mail, including a telephone number, is required under [info@galerie-thomas.de](mailto:info@galerie-thomas.de).

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## **Paul Klee**

### **Music and Theatre in Life and Work**

Paul Klee – Music and Theatre in Life and Work

Edited by Christine Hopfengart

Essays by Andrea Gottdang, Christine Hopfengart,

Beate Schlichenmaier, Raimund Thomas and

Lisa Maria Weber

288 pages, 154 images

ISBN 978-3-86832-423-5

German / English

Wienand Verlag

Catalogue price € 38,-

## **CATALOGUE**

To accompany the exhibition, the eponymous catalogue book edited by Christine Hopfengart will be published by Wienand Verlag. With several contributions, from the art historical as well as the musicological side, the richly illustrated catalogue provides an insight into Klee's 'Double Life' as an artist and musician – his particular existence as 'painter-violinist' – and the artistic stress field in which he moved.

Apart from numerous photographs from Klee's private life and the contemporary theatre and music scene, all exhibited works are illustrated in the catalogue in full page colour images.

For further press information and high resolution images  
please contact

**Ulrike Haardt at +49 89 29 000 820**

**[u.haardt@galerie-thomas.de](mailto:u.haardt@galerie-thomas.de)**

### **Opening hours:**

Mon - Fri 9 am - 6 pm, Sat 10 am - 6 pm

For the duration of the Klee exhibition, Galerie Thomas is additionally open  
on Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm

### **Public guided tours of the exhibition**

on Wednesdays at 1 pm and 5 pm in alternating weeks.

Every second Sunday at 11 a.m.

The dates can be found at [www.galerie-thomas.de](http://www.galerie-thomas.de)

## Follow us



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