



Klee and America

Published on the occasion of the exhibition
"Klee and America"

Organized by The Menil Collection
Curated by Josef Helfenstein

Neue Galerie New York
March 10–May 22, 2006

The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
June 16–September 10, 2006

The Menil Collection, Houston
October 6, 2006–January 14, 2007

"Klee and America" is sponsored nationally by Altria Group, Inc.

The exhibition is also generously supported by Mary Lawrence Porter; National Endowment for the Arts; The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston; Marion Barthelme and Jeff Fort; Nancy B. Negley; The Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation; Karol Kreymmer and Robert J. Card, M.D., in memory of Edward B. Mayo; Sotheby's; Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc.; and Clare F. Sprunt; with additional support from Faye Sarofim & Co.; The Wortham Foundation; and the City of Houston.



Front cover: *Jugendlicher Schauspieler=Maske [Youth Actor's Mask]* (detail), 1924.252. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection, 616.67 (see pl. 28).

Back cover (trade edition): Paul Klee in Bern, Switzerland, 1911 (see fig. 1).

Frontispiece: View of Louise and Walter Arensbergs' residence, Los Angeles, 1945 (see fig. 55).

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Sponsor's Statement

Intimate yet daring, abstract yet masterful, Paul Klee's reach and output were vast. His paintings and works on paper have great appeal and depict subjects ripe with symbolism and objects rendered in simple yet complex ways. Klee looked to the spontaneity of children, whose fertile imaginations guided him to create works with mysterious, dreamlike references that strip away the artifice from recognizable forms and objects.

Klee's first exhibition in America took place in 1921 at the Société Anonyme in New York City. It was an event that introduced Americans to the work of an artist who would become one of the most recognizable and admired twentieth-century modernist painters. Eighty-five years after that inaugural exhibition, Klee's work will be seen again in "Klee and America," an exhibition that brings to light Klee's influential relationship with the American art community of the mid-twentieth century.

Altria Group, Inc. is proud to sponsor "Klee and America." This exhibition is one of many projects that we have supported over fifty years that highlight the artistic achievements of the innovative, pioneering artists of the last century. Our program was founded on a belief in the value that creativity plays in defining our culture, ourselves, and our histories. With his unique vision and style, Klee symbolizes the important role of the visionary artist in society and the durability of that work over generations.

Jennifer P. Goodale
Vice President, Contributions
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
Altria Group, Inc.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FILM IN THE PARK

Films on Paul Klee or Related to Klee and His Work

Mulberry at Sul Ross Street
Saturday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your blankets to Menil Park (just east of the museum) for an outdoor screening of a series of films on Paul Klee. *Co-sponsored with Aurora Picture Show.*

PERFORMANCE

Hope Stone Dance
Klee Under Foot

Richmond Hall, 1500 Richmond Avenue
Thursday & Friday
November 2 & 3, 7:30 p.m.

The Hope Stone troupe, under the choreographic direction of Jane Weiner will respond to the work of Paul Klee through a dance/performance piece. Talk back to follow performance. *Co-sponsored with Hope Stone, Inc.*

LECTURE

Marcel Franciscono
"Paul Klee and the Bauhaus"

Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 p.m.

Marcel Franciscono is the author of *Paul Klee: His Work and Thought*, a historical and critical study published in 1991. He teaches art history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. *Co-sponsored with the Rice Design Alliance.*

MENIL MEMBERS PROGRAM

CONVERSATION AND PERFORMANCE

Sarah Rothenberg, Josef Helfenstein,
and Eric Halen

"Paul Klee: Meaning and Music"

Tuesday, October 17, 8:00 p.m.

Da Camera Artistic Director and pianist Sarah Rothenberg and Menil Collection Director Josef Helfenstein explore the artist's profound relationship with music. In performance, Rothenberg is joined by Houston Symphony Acting Concertmaster, violinist Eric Halen.

"Klee and America" galleries will be open for viewing at 7:00 p.m., prior to event.

THE MENIL COLLECTION

invites you to a preview

of the exhibition

Klee and America

Thursday, October 5, 2006

6:30–8:30 p.m.

The Menil Collection

1515 Sul Ross

Houston

Exhibition dates:

October 6, 2006–January 28, 2007

PAUL KLEE

The Twittering Machine, 1922.151

Oil transfer and watercolor on paper, bordered with watercolor
and pen, and mounted on cardboard

16 1/4 x 12 inches

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Jr. Fund, 564.1939

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