



Course details

Course title

Art Appreciation: Hilma af Klint: Swedish painter, spiritualist and pioneer of abstract art

Course code

Q00019199

Course date

Start: 07/04/25

End: 07/04/25

Number of classes

1 sessions

Timetable

Mon 7th Apr, 10:00 to 13:00

Tutor

Caroline Levisse

Fee range

Free to £11.10

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

The emergence of abstract art in the early 20th century was a revolution. When looking into its very beginnings the names of Kandinsky, Malevich, and Mondrian come to mind. But in the 1980s, the world discovered the abstract paintings made by a Swedish artist, as early as 1907. Should her many abstract paintings encourage us to rewrite the history of abstract art, or can her work and experiments be seen as marginal because of her intense spiritualism? Why did her works come to our attention so late? This is a thought-provoking case, and a great story!

Course description

In this session, you will discover and discuss the art and life of a Swedish painter, Hilma af Klint (1862-1944). As we study her career, we will come back on the roots of abstract art as well as the idea of being “the first”. Hilma af Klint trained to become a painter and became known, professionally, for her landscapes and portraits. What most did not know was that she was also a medium, and had embarked on realising a series of ambitious canvases, spiritual in content and abstract in aesthetic. In our session’s first part, you will learn about Hilma af Klint’s art and the different stages in her career. In a second part, we will compare and contrast her abstract paintings and watercolours, as well as her ideas with that of well-known abstract early painters: Kandinsky and Mondrian, but also Kupka and Dove. For all of them, spiritual ideas were crucial in developing an abstract style. We will discuss reasons why Hilma af Klint did not receive the same recognition as the others. Finally, as we seek to understand Hilma af Klint’s position within the history of modern art today, we will come back on the idea of “precedence” and “invention” with a critical eye. As we do so, we will discover the works of another woman and medium who was also an artist and who did abstract spiritualist drawings as early as 1870: Georgiana Houghton.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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