

Press release
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Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern

To the editors

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EXHIBITION

Paul Klee. Space Nature Architecture
01/07 — 16/10/14

This year's summer exhibition is devoted to three central themes: space, nature and architecture in Paul Klee's work. It reveals surprising parallels between architectural constructions and vegetable organisms.

Even in his youth Paul Klee sketched plants and landscapes, but also buildings and cities. In them, he tried to copy external appearances as precisely as possible. It was only after intense self-study and a cultural trip through Italy in the winter of 1901-02 that his gaze moved from the outer surface to the inner structure of plants and buildings. Klee recognised that the external forms of both architectural and plant forms on the basis of their inner construction. While he considered the natural organisms to be both more complicated and more interesting than architectural constructions, he recognised analogies with pictorial creation in both areas. Because his own artistic process also developed from within. «Art does not reproduce the visible; it makes visible.» is therefore Paul Klee's central credo.

In his encounter with Cubism Klee found a confirmation of his interest in making visible not the external appearance but the inner nature of an object. Both Paul Klee and the Cubists also abandoned the illusionistic three-dimensionality of the picture space and the system of central perspective.

Looking back at his cultural trip, Klee wrote: «In Italy I understood the architectonic element in the plastic arts – at which point I was grasping towards abstract art – today I would say the constructivist element. Now, my immediate and, at the same time, highest goal will be to bring architectonic and poetic painting into a fusion, or at least to establish a harmony between them.» So he was not concerned with a rigidly geometrical, rationally constructed pictorial composition, but with extending such constructions with «enlivening» narrative or irrational interventions.

During his time as a teacher at the Bauhaus, Paul Klee engaged intensively with architecture and urban construction. He often provided ironic comments on the precise, rational geometry prevalent at the late Bauhaus, in which he used it for the construction of the fantastical and developed illogical, irrational structures. In his late work, on the other hand, representations of buildings and lush-looking plants painted in a childlike style predominate.

The collection show demonstrates how Klee's depiction of space, nature and architecture developed out of his naturalistic early work, via the constructivist Bauhaus period to the late work with simple forms.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Fabienne Eggelhöfer.

INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

Far and wide

01/07 — 12/10/14

High, wide, deep: it's about the constructed world, which isn't as long as it's broad at all, not to Creaviva. Quite the contrary! With one eye on the collection presentation based on Klee's preoccupation with space and nature, the children's museum Creaviva invites you to engage with over 1,000 two-metre lengths of wood from 1 July until 12 October 2014 – as if for a few moments Creaviva were the measure of all things

The exhibition opening will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Futher Information

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