

20 years of Zentrum Paul Klee and Creaviva



20 years
Zentrum
Paul Klee
& Creaviva



Founded by
Maurice E. and Martha Müller
and the heirs of Paul Klee

Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern

creaviva



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In 2025 the Zentrum Paul Klee and Creaviva are celebrating their twenty-year existence. For the occasion, the cultural centre invites you to a varied Jubilee programme with high-calibre exhibitions and special highlights in the fields of music, literature, art education and the Fruchtländ agricultural project.

Over the past 20 years, over 3.1 million people have visited the Zentrum Paul Klee, Creaviva, the Klee collection and the special exhibitions, the concerts and readings as well as the many other events, conferences and activities on offer. Over the years the Zentrum Paul Klee has established itself as an important centre of culture, and is among the most renowned cultural institutions in Switzerland. Today it shapes the artistic and cultural landscape in Bern, and thanks to its global integration and numerous collaborations it resonates internationally across the borders of the canton and Switzerland. The initiative by the founders, the Klee family and the Müller family, in collaboration with the city and canton, created a multi-faceted cultural centre in a unique building by the star architect Renzo Piano.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

2025: The Jubilee year

In 2025 the Zentrum Paul Klee and Creaviva turn 20 years old. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate! Both institutions look back and forwards: from the unique foundational idea into a future as a diverse and inclusive cultural centre in which the engagement with and learning of art as well as autonomous creative work receive encouragement. With a varied annual programme filled with cultural highlights, art lovers, families, tourists, event customers, experts, friends of literature and gardens, neighbours and music aficionados will all find what they are looking for.

Exhibition highlights 2025

The programme begins with the major exhibition **Le Corbusier. The Order of Things**, which opened in February and will be on show until 22 June. Le Corbusier, like Paul Klee in his day, crossed genre boundaries and shaped the architecture, design and visual art of the 20th century more than any other.

With **Anni Albers. Constructing Textiles** (7.11.2025–22.2.2026) the big autumn exhibition is devoted to another artistic border-crosser between textile and architecture, between weaving and building. In the summer exhibition an impressive contemporary painter is presented, who proves that creativity is a principle: the works of ninety-year-old **Rose Wylie** (19.7.–5.10.2025) testify to a deep understanding of pop culture, literature and the zeitgeist, and are also full of subversive humour. In the constantly changing permanent exhibition **Kosmos Klee** we focus on Paul Klee's relationship with music, Klee as 'Cover Star', i.e. Klee being chosen by many 20th-century philosophical authors to appear on their book covers, as well as a small concentrated exhibition of the German-Venezuelan artist Gertrud Goldschmidt, known as Gego.

With the interactive exhibitions, the family morning on Sunday and the daily Open Studios, Creaviva is establishing creative hands-on access for all generations to the three big special exhibitions and the permanent Paul Klee exhibition. To coincide with the 20th anniversary, the courses for adults also focus on 20 artistic techniques. And in order to actively involve the voices of the future, from the Jubilee year onwards Creaviva is accompanied by a children's council.

Multidisciplinary highlights 2025

Many outstanding personalities have been engaged in the **fields of music** and literature: with Maestro Grigory Sokolov we welcome one of the most important contemporary pianists to Bern. The first concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, Daishin Kashimoto, plays in a trio with Claudio Bohórquez and Eric Le Sage, and the Canadian Bach specialist Angela Hewitt travels with Bach's musical monument *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. With Claude Eichenberger and Rolf Romei, who are presenting Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the BSO Chamber Ensemble, the Zentrum Paul Klee presents a particular highlight on Sunday, 15 June 2025.

In the **field of literature**, book enthusiasts can expect exciting biographers with Margrit Schriber, Martin R. Dean and Ulrike Draesner, and with Dörte Hansen a Spiegel bestselling author.

Community projects

Participation and cultural involvement are important corner-stones of the work of the Zentrum Paul Klee. Over the past few years many projects have been launched together with the neighbourhood, for example **paul&ich** and the **community garden**. Together we want this collaboration to go on growing. In the **public workshop Paul Klee & Neighbourhood**, the Zentrum Paul Klee has thought about previous developments and future collaborative work with the quarter. The programme of the Jubilee weekend in June is also assembled and put into operation together with the residents and associations of the quarter.

With the **project paul & bitzius**, we have launched another participative and future-oriented project intended to establish the Zentrum Paul Klee as an out-of-school place of learning. In various subjects, the Bitzius School, an immediate neighbour of the Zentrum Paul Klee, will explore the Zentrum Paul Klee as an out-of-school place of learning.

In addition, the Zentrum Paul Klee will also exchange with experts with regard to its future role and development. In the specialist **workshop *Quo vadis, Klee?*** curators and museum directors from both home and abroad reflect on where the engagement with the work and reception of Paul Klee should develop in future, the role played by global perspectives, and ways in which research can be relevant for society in our programmes. On Sunday, 15 June at 11:00 the results will be presented at a public panel.

Free entrance for 20-year-olds to all exhibitions

We want to celebrate together, and hence offer all visitors who also turn 20 years old that year free entrance to our exhibitions.

Music Contest: Live at Klee

To coincide with the Jubilee year, the Zentrum Paul Klee is organising a music contest. The competition offers musical talents, whether solo or in a group, whether acoustic or semi-acoustic, the opportunity to be evaluated by a specialist jury. Prizes will be performances at the 2026 Museum Night in the Zentrum Paul Klee, in the Mühle Hunziken and in the Gustav im Bierhübeli Bern. Applications are open until 30 April 2025. **All information and registration at zpk.org/musiccontest.**

The jury consists of: Selina Gartmann (Music Promotion Bern / Swiss Music Export Office), Jasmina Serag (Musician / Sirens of Lesbos); Nina Zimmer (Director Zentrum Paul Klee – Kunstmuseum Bern), Pascal Rötheli (Seaside Festival) and Philippe Cornu (Gadget Entertainment Group AG).

Jubilee weekend, 21 and 22 June 2025

The **highlight of the Jubilee year** is the Jubilee weekend on Saturday and Sunday, 21 and 22 June 2025. The Zentrum Paul Klee and Creaviva invite you to two free days with a full programme:

Saturday starts with a slackline show above the Zentrum Paul Klee and various short guided tours of the exhibitions and continues into the evening with **live acts by the winners of the music context** and the **dj programme**, under the motto 'Me at 20.'

Sunday offers a **wide range of events for families**, with sketch crawls, chalk-spraying actions, fresh vegetable soup in the community garden, balloon trips over the Zentrum Paul Klee and guided tours.

On **Saturday and Sunday in Creaviva**, visitors can create their own art cards from pressed flowers and leaves in the blooming card workshop, and in the fabric art studio, geometric fabrics are artistically worked on to form a huge collective work.

Paul's festival beer – brewed with barley grown at the Zentrum Paul Klee

In 2024 we planted brewing barley in the big field in Fruchtländ around the Zentrum Paul Klee. To coincide with the Jubilee, the Zentrum Paul Klee, along with the Bern Lohnbrauerei, is brewing an aromatic beer that can be tasted and, from the summer, bought in the museum shop and the museum café as well as the Schöngrün restaurant.

All information on the Jubilee can be found at: zpk.org/20

With the support of

Kanton Bern, Bundesamt für Kultur (BAK)

Co-sponsors

Crozier Schweiz AG, GVB Kulturstiftung, Jordi AG

Supporters of the Jubilee weekend

AEK Bank 1826 Genossenschaft, Emch Aufzüge AG, Energie Wasser Bern, Frigo AG Bern, Michel Projektmanagement GmbH, Annamarie Schiffmann, Uldry AG, Vebego AG, Zwiggart Beat Malergeschäft

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Accreditation for media representatives



Admission to all exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee is free for media representatives with a valid press card. Please fill in the digital accreditation form which you can either access via zpk.org/en/ueber-uns/medien/akkreditierung or by screening the QR-Code before your visit.

Attachment

LOOKING BACK ZENTRUM PAUL KLEE

Who we are

Since it opened, the Zentrum Paul Klee has been **the world's leading centre of expertise for research into and engagement with the work and life of Paul Klee**. The striking, wave-shaped building was built to plans by **Renzo Piano** and opened on 20 June 2005. It contains the world's most significant collection of works by the artist, with around 4000 paintings, watercolours and drawings, as well as archival and biographical materials. The Zentrum Paul Klee also organises both monographic and thematic exhibitions on Paul Klee, special exhibitions as well as those based around the collection, as well as on particular artistic positions from the 20th and 21st centuries. The **multidisciplinary cultural centre** brings together in a single venue visual art with music, literature and even agriculture in the surrounding Fruchtländ. More than a museum, it is a cultural meeting-place, offering inspiring and creative experiences, not least in the Creaviva studios. It has also made a name for itself as a conference and event centre.

20 years in figures

In the 20 years **since its opening, a total of 3,1 million visitors** have come to the Zentrum Paul Klee, where they have been able to visit **over 100 exhibitions**. The contents of the collection and the temporary exhibitions are elucidated in **over 20'000 guided tours**. The Zentrum Paul Klee also looks back at around 760 high-calibre concerts and almost 700 readings with internationally ranking authors, theatre and dance performances and more than 3000 meetings, conferences and events.

The Zentrum Paul Klee is the world's leading centre of expertise for the work and life of Paul Klee, and over the past 20 years its team of experts have textured no fewer than 744 works for their authenticity. New information about Paul Klee's work and life has been published in **16 editions of the Twittering Machine [Zwitscher-Maschine]**. This open access online journal for international Klee studies was launched in 2015. **A total of 58 catalogues and separate publications** have also been brought out.

A short look back to the roots of success: two major donations and a unique public-private partnership

The creation of the Zentrum Paul Klee is an outstanding example of a unique public-private partnership. The idea of devoting a museum of his own to Paul Klee in Bern goes back to his descendants. In 1997 Livia Klee-Meyer, the daughter of the Bauhaus director Hannes Meyer and since 1980 the wife of Felix Klee, Paul Klee's son, gave the public purse some 700 works by the artist on the condition that a museum be set up. This was followed in 1998 by another 850 loans and documents from Alexander Klee, the artist's grandson, as well as the holdings (some 2600 works and a large amount of archive material) of the Paul Klee Foundation.

The second large round of donation came in the spring of 1998. The internationally recognised Biel doctor and pioneer of orthopaedic surgery, Prof. Dr. med. Maurice E. Müller and his wife Martha Müller-Lüthi were prepared to give the public purse building land as well as a financial contribution of at least 30 million francs. This was set aside for the creation of a centre of visual art, music, literature and theatre, and the Italian architect Renzo Piano was commissioned to plan and build it. The project was supported by the people of Bern and the cantonal parliament, and opened in 2005. The building costs came to a total of around 110

million francs. The founding Müller family had doubled their investment contribution to 60 million, the lottery fund of the Canton Bern added 18 million, and over 30 million was generated from business partnerships.

In 2015 the sponsorship was turned into the ‘umbrella foundation Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee’, to bring the two largest art institutions in the Canton Bern under joint management. The two institutions are run by a five-member executive board, consisting of the director Nina Zimmer, the business director Thomas Soraperra, the Facility Management director Bernhard Spycher, the chief curator of the Zentrum Paul Klee Fabienne Eggelhöfer and the chief curator of the Kunstmuseum Bern, Kathleen Bühler. Since 2019, the president of the umbrella foundation has been Jonathan Gimmel, and the vice president Alex Wassmer.

Strong partners for a strong culture

We thank all our partners, sponsors, patrons and supporters. Their commitment and funds have made them the guarantors of a strong culture for 20 years.

As in its foundation, the running of the Zentrum Paul Klee is assured only by the collaboration of the public purse and private sponsors, patrons and foundations. Large exhibitions, new education and art education programmes as well as digital offerings are only made possible by such partnerships. Long-term partners such as the **Bürgergemeinde Museum Foundation for Art, Swiss Mobiliar** and the **Migros Pioneer Fund** have made major contributions to exhibitions and innovative cultural projects. The **Berner Kantonalbank (BEKB)** supported the Paul Klee Summer Academy for 9 years, as well as individual projects such as a ‘hackathon’ for the development of digital museum experiences. The **Canton of Bern** and the **Federal Office of Culture** secure the basic financing and the running of the museum, and have created the possibility of a fundamental cultural offering and the development of participatory projects as well as new digital programmes. Not least, the Zentrum Paul Klee is supported by an **interested and committed circle of friends**.

LOOKING BACK CREAVIVA

The establishment of the **Fondation du Musée des Enfants auprès du Centre Paul Klee (FME)** was as much a part of the vision of Maurice E. Müller as the realisation of the multidisciplinary Zentrum Paul Klee. He wanted to create a pedagogically and didactically valuable venue for the transfer of knowledge and the reinforcement of cultural education, in which a **new dimension of art education** can unfold. To this end, on 10 June 2002 Maurice E. Müller, along with his daughter Janine Aebi-Müller, founded the FME, which Creaviva has run for 20 years as an autonomous organisational unit within the Zentrum Paul Klee, to allow children, young people and adults a sustainable access to art and culture via their own creative activity. **Since its opening in 2005, some 442'800 guests have visited the 59 interactive exhibitions and the approximately 29'400 workshops.**

From the very beginning Creaviva saw itself as a **pioneering, transregional centre of expertise for practical, experience-oriented and interactive art and cultural education**, starting with the life and work of Paul Klee and other artists featured in exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee. In line with the founders' ideas, particular stress is placed upon art education to school students: in the years of its existence, some 138'700 students have taken part in workshops in Creaviva's studios, and created art. 20 years bring development and changes, and the vision persists: in Creaviva, more than art is communicated. **Here what is communicated is joy in the shaping of our world.**

OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS

Zentrum Paul Klee and Creaviva 2005–2024

Approx. numbers	
Zentrum Paul Klee	
Visitors whole institution since 2005	Around 3,1 million.
Number of exhibitions	100
Number of guided tours	21'175
Number of concerts (including master concerts)	765
Number of readings as well as theatre and dance performances	687
Meetings, conferences, events	Over 3000
Work appraisals	744
Number of catalogues and separate publications	58
Editions of Zwitscher-Maschine (online, open access)	16
Creaviva	
Interactive exhibitions	59
Workshops	Around 29'400

Press images

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01

Paul Klee

Park bei Lu [Park Near Lu], 1938, 129
Oil and coloured paste on paper on burlap; original frame
100 x 70 cm
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



02

Paul Klee

Uebermut [High Spirits], 1939, 1251
Oil and coloured paste on paper on burlap; original frame
101 x 130 cm
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



03

Exterior view of the Zentrum Paul Klee, architecture by Renzo Piano

Photo: Erwin Schenk
© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



04

View of the collection exhibition
'Kosmos Klee'

Photo: Hans Schürmann
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05

Creative workshop at Creaviva

Photo: David Niederhauser
© Creaviva / Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

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06

Master concert by Martynas Levickis, Accordion & Friends (Mikroorkéstra) on 15.9.2024 in the Auditorium of the Zentrum Paul Klee

Photo: Hans Schürmann
© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



07

Museums Night Bern 2025 at the Zentrum Paul Klee, 'Order is essential!', insight into the packaging and storage of objects in the archive

Photo: Christine Strub
© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



08

Preparation of a soup with pumpkins from the Zentrum Paul Klee community garden at the 2024 autumn festival

Photo: Doris Peter
© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



09

FRUCHTLAND [Fertile land] behind the Zentrum Paul Klee in early summer

Photo: David Oester
© Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

Current and upcoming exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee

Le Corbusier. The Order of Things

until 22.6.2025

Rose Wylie. Flick and Float

19.7.–5.10.2025

Anni Albers. Constructing Textiles

7.11.2025–22.2.2026

Kosmos Klee. The Collection

Fokus. The Musical Klee

until 1.6.2025

Fokus. Cover Star Klee

7.6.–14.9.2025

Fokus. Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt)

19.9.2025–18.1.2026

Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday

10:00–27:00

Monday closed

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