

GEGO

GERTRUD
GOLDSCHMIDT

PRESS KIT

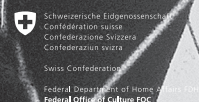
20.9.2025–18.1.2026

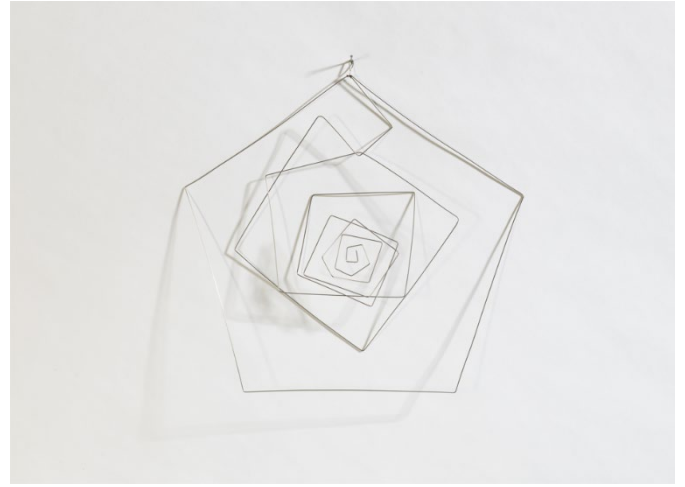
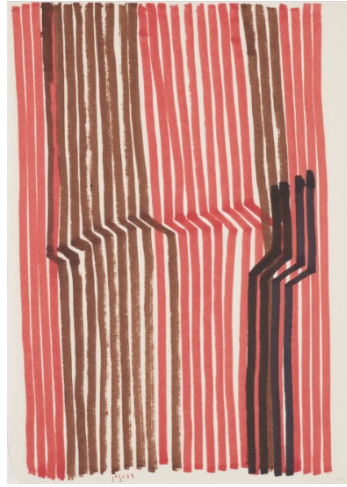
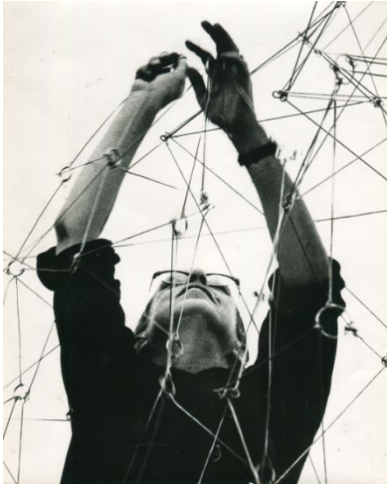

Zentrum
Paul Klee

Founded by:

Maurice E. & Martha Müller
and the heirs of Paul Klee

With the support of:





Fokus. Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt)

20.9.2025–18.1.2026

The German-Venezuelan artist Gego (1912 in Hamburg – 1994 in Caracas) – birth name Gertrud Goldschmidt – was one of the pioneers of modern art in Latin America. She is known for her filigree, net-like drawings, sculptures and installations. From 20 September 2025 until 18 January 2026, in the context of the presentation of works from the collection *Kosmos Klee*, the Zentrum Paul Klee is holding the artist's first solo exhibition in Switzerland, featuring drawings, watercolours, prints and selected sculptures.

Gertrud Goldschmidt, who as an artist always called herself 'Gego', was born in 1912 into a German-Jewish banking family, and first studied engineering and architecture in Stuttgart. She was one of the last Jewish university graduates to receive a degree in Nazi Germany. In 1939 the rapid intensification of anti-Semitic discrimination and violence forced her to flee Germany shortly after graduation. Gego emigrated to Venezuela, where she first began to work as an artist in the 1950s. She won fame particularly with her spatial installations, the *Reticuláreas*. In recent years, noteworthy museum exhibitions have been devoted to Gego abroad, including one at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2023. The Fokus exhibition in the Zentrum Paul Klee brings together different groups of works by the artist and presents her extraordinary work to a Swiss audience.

Gego's work is based on drawing and an engagement with space. During her training as an engineer and architect, drawing served primarily as a sketching technique. Under the influence of artists such as Paul Klee, Anni Albers, Josef Albers and Naum Gabo, however, in the 1950s she abandoned the rules of technical and architectural sketches, and discovered drawing as a form of free artistic experiment and invention.

In the spirit of the abstract artistic trends of the 1960s, Gego's artistic activity developed into a playful engagement with geometry, with structures and networks, space and movement, transparency and perception. Like other important representatives of abstract art in Latin America, such as the Brazilian Lygia Clark, the Venezuelan artist Jesús Rafael Soto and Alejandro Otero, Gego pursued the goal of expanding the traditional boundaries of art and giving form to the spirit of new departures and progress of the time. With her work, Gego made a crucial contribution to the development of geometric abstraction and kinetic art in Latin America, which became the dominant artistic trend in the 1960s from Venezuela via Brazil to Uruguay and Argentina.

From the 1950s Gego concentrated on making different groups of works, on each of which she worked for several years. In the 1960s, for example, she made numerous drawings and prints showing lines and network and grid structures, which create the impression of three-dimensional forms. But she became known above all for the sculptural application of her pictorial ideas in the form of space-filling, often walk-through wire installations that she called *Reticuláreas* [Reticulars]. Gego made her first *Reticulárea* in June 1969 in the Museo de Bellas Artes in Caracas (press image 01). With these spatial drawings, Gego challenged the traditional idea of sculpture: rather than creating fixed, static forms, the *Reticuláreas* are conceived as flexible, modular net structures that penetrate the space and can be experienced from different perspectives.

The drawings, watercolours, prints and small sculptures shown in the Fokus exhibition are both autonomous works and experiments with a view to the large spatial installations that Gego made in various places. They provide an insight into Gego's artistic working progress, and sketch out her varied engagement with drawing and space, which remains fascinating today.

In collaboration with Kunstmuseum Stuttgart and the Fundación Gego, Caracas.

Opening

The opening of the exhibition will take place on

Friday, 19 September 2025 from 18:00.

Admission to the exhibition is free on this evening.

Curator

Martin Waldmeier

Exhibition tour *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*

Sunday, 21 September / 21 December 2025, 15:00

With the support of

Kanton Bern, Bundesamt für Kultur BAK, Museumsstiftung der Burgergemeinde Bern

Media preview

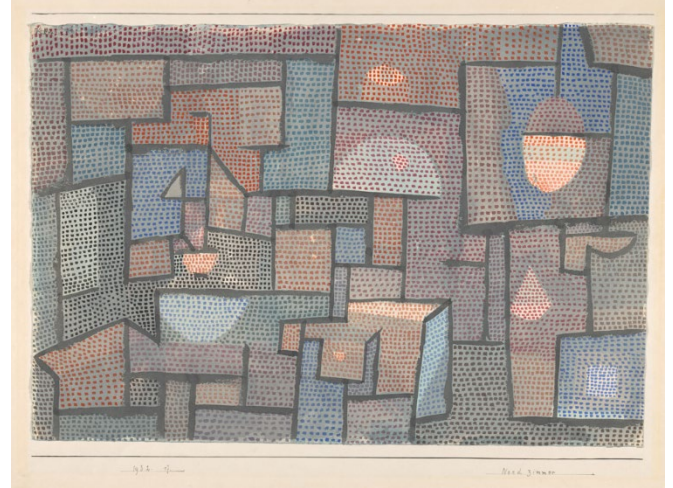
We cordially invite you to the media preview with curator Dr. Martin Waldmeier on **Friday, 19 September 2025 at 10:00 at the Zentrum Paul Klee**.

Please register via press@zpk.org.

Digital Guide

There is a freely accessible Digital Guide to accompany the Fokus exhibition *Gego* (*Gertrud Goldschmidt*). It can be accessed via QR code or guide.zpk.org/en/fokus-gego





Welcome to Kosmos Klee!

The dynamic permanent exhibition devoted to Paul Klee invites visitors to immerse themselves in the life and work of this important modern artist. With some 80 changing works from the collection, *Kosmos Klee* offers a chronological survey of Klee's artistic career. Biographical and archival material provide an insight into his life and time. In addition, the 'focus room' offers a space for smaller exhibitions devoted to individual aspects of Klee's work, or contributions to the artist's global reception.

The collection

The Zentrum Paul Klee is the world's most important centre for research into Paul Klee's life and work, and has one of the most significant collections of the artist's drawings, watercolours and paintings. Paul Klee was primarily a draughtsman, which is why 80% of the collection of the Zentrum Paul Klee consists of works on paper, matching the collected works. Because of the fragility of the works as well as the large size and diversity of the collection, only parts of it can be displayed at once. Klee enjoyed experimenting, not only in terms of content and form but also technically, using light-sensitive paints, inks and papers. For that reason the works need periods of rest between periods on display.

Kosmos Klee

With *Kosmos Klee. The Collection* the Zentrum Paul Klee offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in Paul Klee's life and work, as well as in the unique collection of the institution. Some 80 rotating and chronologically organised works provide an overview of Klee's artistic development, from the highly detailed early works via tendencies towards abstraction and the discovery of colour, to the reduced pictorial language of the later work.

Each decade of Klee's artistic career is identified by a colour in the exhibition, allowing visitors to find their way intuitively around the space. Brief introductory texts, biographical photographs and films give deeper insights into the different phases of the work and Paul Klee's engagement with the people around him.

Aside from his works, the Zentrum Klee also preserves the artist's archive. In the dynamic permanent exhibition, different treasures from the archive are presented, revealing the various aspects of Paul Klee's life. His love of music is reflected in his record collection and the scores that Klee, a gifted violinist, played from. Klee's favourite music can be heard as part of a podcast in the exhibition. Parts of the artist's collection of natural materials, including shells, stones and pages from herbariums, display Klee's close relationship with nature and natural processes. Other objects include his watercolour box, his schoolbooks, scribbled over with drawings, as well as letters.

Fokus

One part of some 100 m² in area of the permanent exhibition is reserved for the series *Fokus*. Smaller exhibitions focus on particular aspects of Klee's work, present works of artists with surprising references to Klee and follow the global Klee reception. The current presentation is dedicated to the German-Venezuelan artist Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt), one of the pioneers of modern art in Latin America.

Unpacking Klee

Since June 2024, new episodes of the short film series *Unpacking Klee* are being released regularly and shown in the exhibition and on the Zentrum Paul Klee's YouTube channel. 10 sequences guide the viewer through the depot of the Zentrum Paul Klee, which holds not only art works but also the world's most comprehensive Paul Klee archive. It includes diaries, passports, the correspondence, photographs, musical notes, records, a violin and a grand piano, a collection of natural materials, books, studio utensils and more. Behind the scenes treasures are unpacked to show what the objects tell us about Paul Klee's life and work.

youtube.com/ZentrumPaulKlee

1. Shells
2. Paul Klee's passports
3. Studio utensils for the coloured paste technique
4. Hand puppets
5. Children's drawings
6. Catalogues of the artist's œuvre
7. Studio utensils for the spraying technique
8. Photographs of cats
9. Music
10. Schoolbooks

Digital Guide

The exhibition is accompanied by a digital guide offering thematic tours of the exhibition with changing emphases, a biographical overview and a study of historical and historico-cultural events and themes that were important to Klee's work.



Digitorial® on Paul Klee's travels

The Digitorial® presents five of Paul Klee's most important journeys and illustrates his artistic development from bewildered student to one of the most important artists of the modern period. The five chapters are dedicated to the artist's first journey to Italy in 1901, his 1912 journey to Paris where he visited Robert Delauney, among others, the now legendary study tour to Tunisia with Louis Moilliet and August Macke, one of Klee's trips to the south to recover from his teaching activity at the Bauhaus, and the 1928 journey to Egypt that was made possible by the Klee Society.

mappingklee.zpk.org/en/

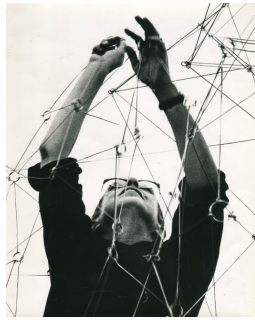


Press images *Fokus. Gego* (Gertrud Goldschmidt)

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01

Gego installing *Reticulárea* [Reticular]
Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, 1969
Photo: Juan Santana
Archivo Fundación Gego
© Fundación Gego



02

Gego
Sin título [untitled], 1963
Felt-tip pen on paper
30,6 × 22,4 cm
bpk / Private collection.
Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /
Photo: Frank Kleinbach
© Fundación Gego



03

Gego
Sin título [untitled], 1964
Ink on paper
66 × 47,9 cm
bpk / Colección Fundación Gego.
Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /
Photo: Frank Kleinbach
© Fundación Gego



04

Gego
Sin título (Tamarind 1843 State IV)
[Untitled (Tamarind 1843 State IV)], 1966
Lithograph on cardboard
47 × 32 cm
bpk / Colección Fundación Gego.
Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /
Photo: Frank Kleinbach
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05

Gego

Sin título [untitled], 1981

Watercolour and ink on cardboard

78 × 58 cm

bpk / Colección Fundación Gego.

Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /

Photo: Frank Kleinbach

© Fundación Gego



06

Gego

Dibujo sin papel 89/4 [Drawing without paper], 1989

Steel

30 × 29,5 × 3 cm

bpk / Colección Fundación Gego.

Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /

Photo: Frank Kleinbach

© Fundación Gego



07

Gego

Bicho 89/17 [Bug 89/17], 1989

Steel, Plexiglas and rubber

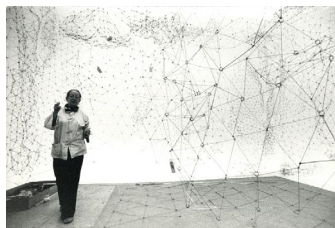
28 × 46 × 29 cm

bpk / Colección Fundación Gego.

Custody at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart /

Photo: Frank Kleinbach

© Fundación Gego



08

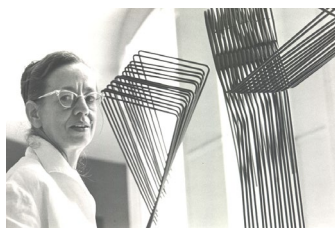
Gego installing *Reticulárea 1981* [Reticular 1981]

Sala Gego, Galería de Arte Nacional, Caracas, 1980

Photo: Christian Belpaire

Archivo Fundación Gego

© Fundación Gego



09

Portrait of Gego

Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, 1962

Photo: Joseph Fabry

Archivo Fundación Gego

© Fundación Gego

Press images *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*

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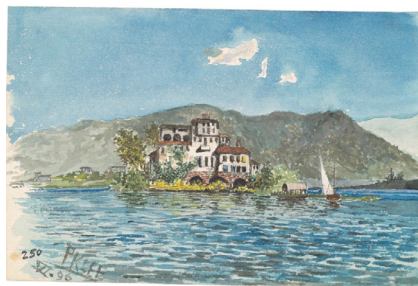
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01

Paul and Lily Klee with the cat Bimbo, Kistlerweg 6, Bern, 1935
Photo: Fee Meisel



02

Paul Klee

Ohne Titel (Villa am Langensee) [Untitled (Villa at the Langensee)], 1896
Watercolour on paper
9,9 × 15 cm
Private collection, Switzerland, deposit at the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



03

Paul Klee

Ohne Titel (Rückenakt) [Nude from Behind], 1902
Pencil on paper on cardboard
32,5 × 28,5 cm
Private collection, Switzerland, deposit at the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



04

Paul Klee

In den Häusern v. St. Germain [In the Houses of St. Germain], 1914, 110
Watercolour on paper on cardboard
15,5 × 15,9/16,3 cm
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee

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05

Paul Klee

Tunesische Scizze [Tunisian Sketch], 1914, 212

Watercolour and pencil on paper on cardboard

17,9 × 12,2 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee



06

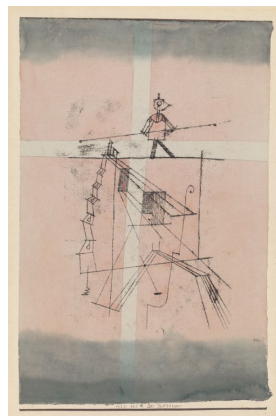
Paul Klee

Ohne Titel (Fabrikanlage) [Untitled (Factory Plant)], 1922

Watercolour and pencil on paper on cardboard

10 × 8,9 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee



07

Paul Klee

Seiltänzer [Tightrope Walker], 1923, 138

Lithograph

43,2 × 26,8 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



08

Paul Klee

Karneval im Gebirge [Carnival in the Mountains], 1924, 114

Watercolour on primed paper on cardboard

24 × 31,3 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

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09

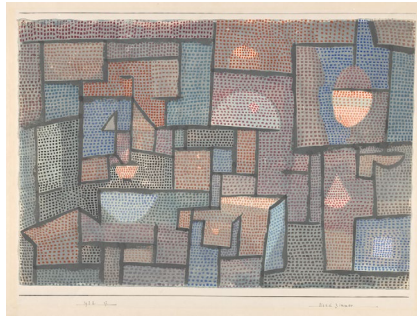
Paul Klee

Fische im Kreis [Fishes in a Circle], 1926, 140

Oil and tempera on primed muslin on cardboard

42 × 43 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee



10

Paul Klee

Nordzimmer [North Room], 1932, 17

Watercolour on paper on cardboard

37 × 55 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



11

Paul Klee

Doppelgesicht [Double face], 1933, 383

Coloured paste and pencil on paper on cardboard

33 × 21 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee



12

Paul Klee

spätes Glühen [Late Glowing], 1934, 29

Pastel on damask on cardboard

26,8 × 32,5/34,3 cm

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, donation of Livia Klee

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13

Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Rolf Siegenthaler, © Zentrum Paul Klee



14

Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Rolf Siegenthaler, © Zentrum Paul Klee



15

Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Rolf Siegenthaler, © Zentrum Paul Klee



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Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Rolf Siegenthaler, © Zentrum Paul Klee



17

Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Rolf Siegenthaler, © Zentrum Paul Klee



18

Exhibition view *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*, Zentrum Paul Klee, 2024, photo: Christine Strub, © Zentrum Paul Klee

Biography

1879

Paul Klee was born the son of music teacher Hans Wilhelm Klee (1849–1940) and singer Ida Maria Frick (1855–1921) on 18 December in Münchenbuchsee near Bern.

1898

After finishing his secondary education and wavering between music and painting for a long time, he decides to study art and goes to Munich where he attends Heinrich Knirr's private drawing school.

1899

Klee meets his future wife, the pianist Lily Stumpf (1876–1946).

1900

After five months, he breaks off his studies at the Munich Academy in Franz von Stuck's painting class.

1901

In July, Klee returns to his parents in Bern.

1901/1902

He undertakes a six-month educational trip through Italy with the sculptor Hermann Haller and experiences a creative crisis in view of the art of antiquity and the Renaissance.

1902–1906

He retreats to his parents' house to study on his own and creates his first reverse glass paintings and etchings.

1906

After marrying Lily Stumpf on 15 September in Bern, the couple move to Munich.

1907

On 30 September, their son Felix is born.

1911

Klee meets the artists of the *Blauer Reiter*: August Macke, Gabriele Münter, Wassily Kandinsky, Marianne von Werefkin, Alexej Jawlensky and later Franz Marc.

1912

17 works of Klee are part of the second *Blauer Reiter* exhibition in Munich. In April, he travels to Paris, where he sees Cubist works for the first time and visits Robert and Sonia Delaunay.

1914

In April, Klee travels to Tunisia with August Macke and Louis Moilliet. There, he deepens the impulses towards abstraction and colour design which he received in Paris.

1916

On 11 March, Klee is called up to the army and, after infantry training, performs his military service with the aviation unit in Schleissheim near Munich and in Gersthofen. He is able to continue his artistic work.

1916–1918

Through his exhibitions in the Berlin gallery *Der Sturm*, he becomes a cult figure of young art in Germany.

1920

Hans Goltz, who represented Klee in his gallery, organises a first retrospective of 362 works in Munich. The first Klee monographs are published. In October, Klee is appointed to the Bauhaus in Weimar by Walter Gropius.

1921

On 13 May, Klee moves from Munich to Weimar and starts teaching.

1923

The Berlin National Gallery organises Klee's first museum exhibition in Germany in the Kronprinzen-Palais.

1924

Art dealer Galka Scheyer founds the artist group *Die Blaue Vier* with Wassily Kandinsky, Lyonel Feininger, Alexej Jawlensky and Paul Klee and tries to make the artists known in the U.S.

1925

The Bauhaus moves to Dessau.

Klee takes part in the first surrealist group exhibition *La peinture surréaliste* in Paris together with Max Ernst, Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso and other artists.

1926

Klee and his family move to Dessau, where they live in one of the two-family houses built by Gropius for Bauhaus masters with Wassily and Nina Kandinsky.

1928

Klee undertakes a journey through Egypt. The hieroglyphs and the Nile landscape in particular leave their mark on his work.

1929

Several exhibitions are organised to celebrate Klee's 50th birthday, including in Berlin, Dresden and Paris as well as at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

1931

Klee leaves the Bauhaus and takes up a professorship at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art.

1933

Under pressure from the National Socialists, Klee is dismissed from his teaching position. At the end of the year, he leaves Germany with his wife and returns to his hometown of Bern.

1935

Klee shows the first signs of scleroderma.

1936

His poor state of health makes Klee's artistic work much more difficult.

1937

Klee's art is labelled 'degenerate' by the National Socialists and 102 of his works are confiscated from German museums. 15 of them are part of the exhibition *Entartete Kunst*.

1939

Despite his poor state of health, Klee's productivity reaches a peak. He creates 1253 works in just one year.

1940

On 29 June, Paul Klee dies in Locarno-Muralto. His application for naturalisation, which had been pending until then, is approved on 5 July.

Current and upcoming exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee

Rose Wylie. Flick and Float

until 5.10.2025

Anni Albers. Constructing Textiles

7.11.2025–22.2.2026

Kosmos Klee. The Collection

Fokus. Hans Fischli

24.1.–26.4.2026

Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday

10:00–27:00

Monday closed

Contact

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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.



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