



# In Paul Klee's Enchanted Garden

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Many call Paul Klee a magician. He was no such thing he did not conjure up anything. He was a creator who found beauty in the world around him, wrote one of Klees students from the legendary Bauhaus. The Swiss-born painter, like many of his contemporaries--Kandinsky among them--was interested in Transcendentalism and found nature an inexhaustible source of inspiration. Much of his oeuvre depicts gardens and parks--from real locations such as the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Worlitz in Germany or the Tunisian Hammamet to fantastic, fragmentary vegetal abstractions. An amateur naturalist, Klee would often collect flowers and leaves on walks, to later identify and store in an herbarium. With more than 200 color illustrations, this publication explores the spiritual, scientific and aesthetic manifestations of Klees engagement with nature, revealing a complex approach, by turns coolly analytical and completely subjective. Born in 1879, Paul Klee belonged to the Munich-based proto-Expressionist group Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider), which was active from 1911-1914. Members sought to express spiritual truths in their work, which--radically for the time--moved progressively towards complete abstraction.

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