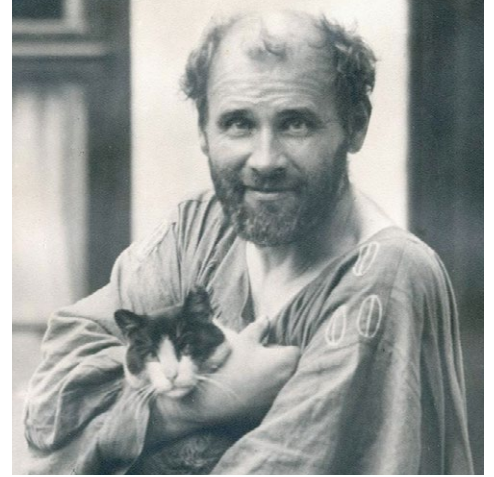


Gustav Klimt

1862 - 1918



Gustav Klimt was born on 14th July 1862 in Austria. His mother was a musical performer and his father was an engraver of gold. Gustav was a talented artist from a young age and he attended the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts.

In 1877, he formed an artistic team with his brother, Ernst Klimt, and their friend, Franz Matsch, painting murals in Vienna's museums. In the 1880s, Klimt became well-known for his mural painting. He even received the Golden Order of Merit from the Austrian Emperor. 'Gustav's brother, Ernst, and their father both died in 1892.

From then, Gustav's artistic style changed. His work began to include lots of symbolism. Symbolist painters used a wide variety of subjects including heroes, women, animals, and landscapes. They gave these subjects deep meanings such as love, death, sin, religion, or disease. They would use metaphors (or symbols) rather than real life to represent something. Klimt's paintings also incorporated gold leaf and were very intricate, so they took

many hours to complete.

Klimt lived a simple life. When at home, he wore a long robe and sandals. He painted all day, every day. Some of Klimt's most famous works include: 'The Kiss', 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I', 'Houses in Unterach on the Attersee', and 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer II'. Gustav Klimt never painted a self-portrait.

Klimt died on 6th February 1918. He suffered with pneumonia following a severe influenza outbreak, and he died of a stroke. He is buried in Vienna.

One final interesting fact about Klimt is that his 'Adele Bloch-Bauer I' portrait sold in 2006 at auction for more money than any other painting ever had before: \$135 million! In the painting, the model is covered in a golden gown. The gown is elaborately decorated with fancy details and gold leaf. The gown forms a powerful symbol of a person changing their identity as well as the hope of the future.