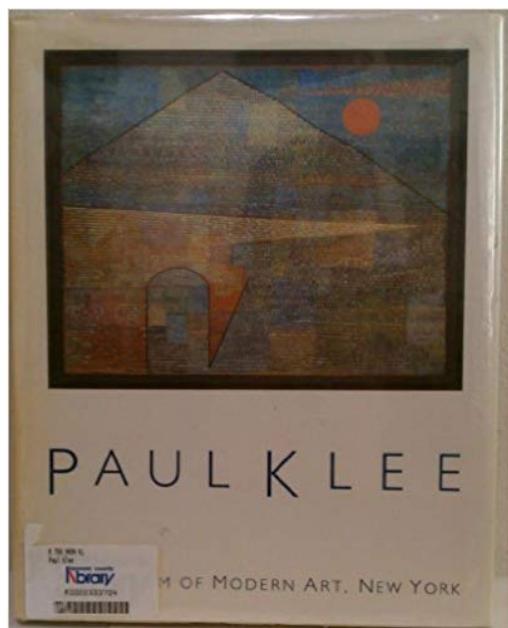


## Paul Klee *by* Carolyn Lanchner



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## Reviews of the *Paul Klee* *by* Carolyn Lanchner

### Bulace

Quality catalog covering some of Klee's work; it indicates why Der Blaue Reiter, of which PK was a profuse member, is so impressive, so influential to this day.

### Mopimicr

paul klee is a fascinating artist

### Frey

All the world's a stage, said Shakespeare in the guise of Jaques in As You Like It; and Klee not only

believed it, he perceived it. Klee was a lifelong fan of theater arts, from grand opera to the circus to street puppet theatre, from fantasy drama and comedy to ballet even to some cinema and cabaret. This unusual and important book, presently available as remainders, presents selections from many Klee collections that illustrate this perspective. Thumbing through the book at a store, I was struck by the many, many images of Klee's works that I have never before seen; and I have many books on Klee and have visited several museum exhibits of his paintings and drawings. The book, which accompanied an exhibit in Bern and Brussels in 2007-2008 on the same topic, includes a useful illustrated chronology of theater arts from 1876 to 1940 (the year of Klee's death). Klee, unlike Picasso, had never actually been involved in theatrical art design, yet his works are of masks, caricatures (Charlie Chaplin, Anna May Wong, Josephine Baker, Kaiser Wilhelm II), facial gestures and exaggerated expressions, more direct theatrical references, and folk tale stereotypes. He also made grotesque puppets that Tim Burton would enjoy. Other works concerned dancers, circus acrobats and clowns, and children at play (which of course is theater of imagination). Six brief essays from art historians and critics close the book. I found the discussion by Christine Hopfengart on Klee's advocacy and criticism of the Bauhaus theater program particularly insightful. To put it bluntly, every fan of Klee and those interested in theatrical art design should search for a copy of this book. Even though limited in scope, this book is that worthy.

### **Jozrone**

With Paul Klee art moved further away from the ethos of masterpiece paintings. Now a great painting did not need to carry the crown of masterwork. Each piece could be appreciated at it's own level of greatness. If you would scroll back through our reviews; back between Jan 30 2010 and feb 14 2010 we had commented upon about 10 Klee books. Since we have amassed another five. And then we came upon this gem. Wow what a big ruby!

Klee was driven by the 'musicality of art' as can be seen in his style. Here we see the deep influence which theatre had upon him.. This big beautiful book presents the theatre world of Europe at klee's time. Then goes onto give over 200 color reproductions highlighting his passion for all things theatre. Degas had his ballet, Klee had the theatre.

Reproductions of ballet, dance, clowns, singers, masks all of course Klee style. But what makes this book stand out from ALL the others are the dozens and dozens of reproductions not seen in any of the other Klee book we have seen. Usually the standard fair of Klee pictures seem to come out from a common catalog. Then each book has maybe ten unique reproductions to bring delight. Well with over 10,000 lifetime paintings and drawings you would think we would have had exposure to more than the usual 300. Well here you have a chance to see an additional 120 or so. Great quality. Printed on strong paper in a big book by Hatje Cantz Verlag, Switzerland. Well Paul was Swiss after all. All in all there are 383 illustrations.

The text deals strictly with the interaction and involvement which Klee had with the theatre. It does not go into his lifetime achievements.

This book along with " His Life and Work" would make a strong cornerstone in any Klee collection.

### **Steelraven**

This hardback was issued by the museum when the Klee show toured the USA. It was a spectacular show that captured the essence of this 20th century artistic genius and I was fortunate enough to see the show and buy the book. Paul Klee explored just about every art style there was in his quest to develop modern art and his seemingly simplest paintings were usually his best. Klee lived an often traumatic life as well and when you are exposed to all of his works, you can easily see that quality in

his paintings. I found the most eloquent ones were the ones he did as he approached his own painful death. The book does a tour de force job of covering the paintings which were in the show, which is the way the show now lives on.

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