



Gustav Klimpt

DESIGNER'S FULL NAME: Gustav Klimpt

DESIGNER'S PSEUDONYM/NICKNAME: None

GENDER: Male

YEAR BORN: 1862

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER BORN: Austria

YEAR DIED: 1918

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER DIED: Austria

RACE | ETHNICITY | RELIGION | POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE AFFECTED EITHER THE ARTIST'S LIFE EXPERIENCE OR WORK BECAUSE IT/THEY PROVIDED A CHALLENGE AT THE TIME, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

At first, he was conservative about artistic styles in society. But after his fathers and brothers deaths, he became more experimental and personal with his art and began to abandon those traditional views of painting. He was very successful and took on many commissions from the government and had a long-standing relationship with his partner Matsch. But after family deaths, he took it pretty hard and his new experimentation on style and abandoning traditional ways of art seemed to bother customers, his partners, and the government.

DID THIS DESIGNER DO NOTABLE WORK IN FIELDS OTHER THAN WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED GRAPHIC DESIGN TODAY? EXPLAIN.

Yes. He just wasn't a designer, but a painter.

LIST AT LEAST ONE OTHER WORK THAT IS NOT NAMED IN THIS TIMELINE FOR WHICH THIS DESIGNER IS WELL KNOWN. IF WORK CO-CREATED, LIST THE OTHERS INVOLVED.

Adele Bloch-Bauer I is one of his most well-known paintings, embroidered with gold leaf and colorful patterns. Despite being popular in art nouveau and today, his erotic works actually received some flag from the Austrian government and he was criticised for his more personal style.

EXPLAIN IF THIS FAME IS ONLY WITHIN DESIGN CIRCLES OR ANY OTHER SUBSET OF THE POPULATION.

His fame was mostly within the design circles. Other people from Austria, and the Austrian government, did not like his later works as much. They thought it was too erotic and sinful, and he later refused to take commissions from the governeemt.

DOES THIS WORK EXEMPLIFY ASPECTS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS QUESTIONS?

Yes. After his father and brothers death, it's explained that he takes a 180 degree turn in style.

FOR WHAT IS THIS DESIGNER MOST NOTED? EXPLAIN.

Gustav is most well known for his "Golden Phase" works, when he used a large amount of gold leaf in his paintings. This sort of style had not been done since illuminated manuscripts, let alone so much of it, and it was a stark contrast to his former academic style of painting.

IS THERE ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT THIS DESIGNER? EXPLAIN.

His provocative paintings received some heat, as people of the time preferred more conservative works. His paintings for the University were never installed because of the controversy, and so he decided not to accept public commissions.

WHAT MATERIALS WERE MOST OFTEN USED BY THIS DESIGNER IN THE CREATION AND PRODUCTION OF WORK?

Paper, oil color paint, pencil, gold leaf, canvas, and building walls (murals).

EXPLAIN THIS DESIGNER'S EDUCATION/TRAINING, INCLUDING ACADEMIC, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND /OR MENTORSHIPS.

Klimt attended school with his siblings, but at fourteen he took an entrance exam for the Kunstgewerbeschule, the Viennese School of Arts and Crafts. He became a teacher at Burgerschule shortly after.

DID THIS DESIGNER PROMOTE A SPECIFIC IDEOLOGY IN HIS/HER WORK? EXPLAIN.

His later and most known art was based around symbolism and in the art nouveau style. After a certain point, his works seemed to show a lot of the raw emotions that may have been too outrageous for his conservative past. It shows how much he had grown.

WHY IS THIS DESIGNER VIEWED AS ICONIC IN THE HISTORY OF GRAPHIC DESIGN?

He was iconic for his symbolic use of patterns, swirls, and his beautiful gold leaf designs. He was also able to balance fine and decorative arts together well.

IS THERE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DESIGNER?

Apparently this designer had a tendency to use cat urine in his sketchbooks. It seemed to be a good protective coating.

YOUR NAME: Brittney Clayton

GIVE YOUR EDUCATED OPINION OF THIS DESIGNER AND HIS/HER WORK. ALSO EXPLAIN WHAT INFLUENCE, IF ANY, THIS WORK HAS HAD ON YOUR OWN. A LACK OF INFLUENCE MUST BE EXPLAINED.

As a designer and painter, most of Gustav's later Gold Phase works remind me of illuminated manuscripts. Illuminated manuscripts were made of animal parchment, which was an expensive and long process. But every page was handmade and every design took hours and hours of hard work. Gold and silver leaf were often applied to pages, but gold was applied significantly more than silver leaf. So when I first see his works of art, I immediately think of illuminated manuscripts. In the aspect of design, they are simply beautiful, glittered in gold with often a provocative or passionate symbolism behind them. His paintings sparked controversy among his university and the government, even so far as to outright exclude his commissioned paintings from the university walls and ceilings. This outright disapproval for their artwork caused their commissions to be largely more scarce than the more conservative artists of the time.

There are actually very few pieces of his work that I like visually. Is the gold beautiful? Yes, it is. However, I think some of his paintings have too much of it. For example, “The Kiss”. I actually dislike it visually. Is the movement and emotion of the work stunning? It is. But I strongly dislike all of the gold and patterns in the illustration. It is hard to examine, and honestly, I am not fond of that much gold in one place. I find the angle awkward and the patterns of the clothes annoying. I have the same opinion of “Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I”. All of that gold and those odd, different patterns against a realistically painted face is not my cup of tea. That being said, I understand how important his works are, especially for liberation from traditional academic art. So no, Gustav has not had any influence on my own art as far as I am aware. I do love his “Judith I 1901”, however. It is beautiful in a sensually erotic way, and there is not an obscene amount of gold leaf to get rid of the rest of her body and disrupt that. However, it still has not had any effect on my art, as I have never even heard of Gustav until art history. I really do not know how to explain his lack of influence further than that of my disinterest in most of his art. I do not even like gold very much. I am more of a fan of silver and copper, whether it be its tone or metals. The only influence I could see him having over my art is the influence of his landscape paintings. They are extremely beautiful. The colors and paintbrush strokes are soft, and the semi-stylized way they look is my favorite to view. Maybe if I start doing landscape paintings, I will look at his art for reference. Gustav has amazing works of art that helped push symbolism and art nouveau forward, but he personally did not have any direct influence on my own art.

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