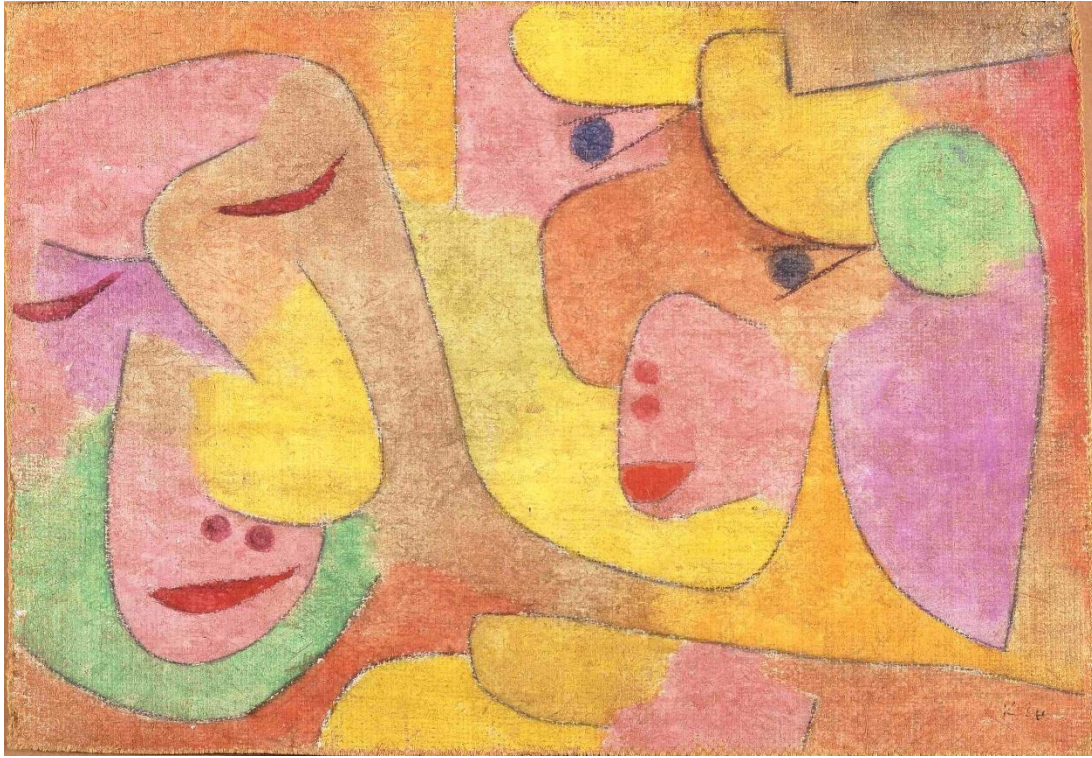


WATERCOLOR FACES Inspired by Paul Klee

Grades Levels: K – 5th Grade



PAUL KLEE
Swiss, 1879–1940
Old Married Couple, 1931

Tempera on burlap

Bequest of R. H. Norton, 53.94

OVERVIEW:

This painting appears to be a personal, though abstracted, portrait of the artist and his wife, Lily. The woman on the right gazes tenderly at the sleeping man. The image here is partially created from a curvilinear version of the grid design, a device which Klee had used earlier in his career. The artist fills the canvas with melting, evanescent color, portraying the image of an old couple, whose lives are completely intertwined. Just as line and color unify the architecture of this painting, so the couple have become an inseparable unit.

A large S-shaped line defines both the top of the man's head and his wife's chin. While C-shaped lines in the composition are reminiscent of various elements of Western musical notation. A connection to music can be justified by the fact that Klee was a gifted musician and believed in a holistic approach to the arts.

MATERIALS:

- Pencil/eraser
- Coloring utensils: watercolor, you could also use colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- Watercolor paper

PROCESS

1. After looking at the Old Married Couple by Paul Klee lets warm up by creating some faces on scrap paper. Who will be in your drawing? Will it be you and your parents, sister or maybe a friend? Choose who you are going to draw and begin to practice on your scrap paper. Be sure to use lines and shapes like Klee did in his art. Practice on the design of your nose and eyes.
2. You have warmed up now, let us use our watercolor paper to draw the faces we want on our art. The faces you draw should have a nose and eyes like the Old Married Couple. In Klee's art he has thin and thick lines.
3. We now have our faces in our art we are now ready for color. In Klee's artwork the colors he used were warm, his colors blended into both faces almost making them look as they are connected.
4. What colors will you choose? I am warm today so I will choose warm colors like red, yellow and green. You can begin to paint with your colors to express yourself with your art.

You can tag your work with **#nortonfromhome** on Facebook and Instagram so we can see the creative stories you tell in your quilts!