

## Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

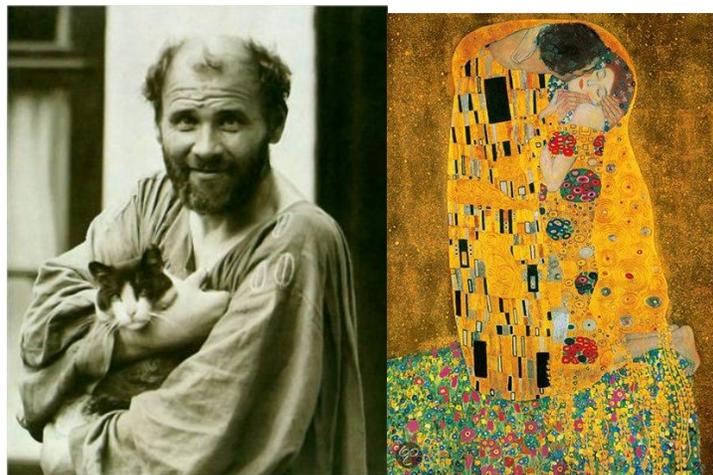
### Spotlight on Art History

#### Gustav Klimt

#### About the Artist:

“Art is a line around your thoughts.”

Gustav Klimt (1862 – 1918) was an Austrian symbolist painter and one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Secession movement. Klimt is noted for his paintings, murals, sketches, and other objet d'art. He became known for the highly decorative style of his works, which were seen as a rebellion against the traditional academic art of his time. At 14 years old he left his traditional school to attend the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts on a full scholarship. Klimt received a conservative, classical training that he readily accepted. In 1892 he was profoundly affected by the passing of his brother and father, and he began to reject the naturalistic trappings of his training in favor of a more personal style, one that relied heavily on symbolism and drew from a wide range of influences. In 1897, Klimt and a group of like-minded artists resigned their membership in the Vienna Artists' Association and founded a new organization known as the Vienna Secession. Although primarily rejecting classical, academic art, the group did not focus on any one style, instead focusing its efforts on supporting young nontraditional artists, bringing international art to Vienna and exhibiting the works of its members. In 1900, three of his murals were met with criticism and controversy due to various nude human forms and rather unsettling and dark symbolic imagery. Yet despite these frustrations, Klimt's success was reaching its peak during this time. Despite its rejection in Vienna, his works were embraced in other European cities. In the early 1900s, Klimt entered his “Golden Phase” in which he created a series of paintings that made extensive use of ornamental gold leaf and a flat, two-dimensional perspective reminiscent of Byzantine mosaics to create striking iconic figures. The majority of his later work featured sketches and paintings of women as well as landscapes, many of which were painted during summers spent with Emilie Flöge, his sister-in-law, and her family at Attersee, a lake in the Salzkammergut region of Austria.



## ART AT HOME – Layered Tree of Life

### What You Will Need:

- Poster Board
- Tissue Paper
- Glue
- Paint brushes
- Tempura Paint
- Scissors
- Tin foil, decorative paper, sequins, etc.

**Gustav Klimt's work were known for their rich imagery, colors, and composition. Look at images of Klimt's work for inspiration before you begin. Look closely at 'Tree of Life' for ideas regarding composition and decoration.**

- Step 1 – Tear your pieces of tissue paper. Choose colors that will create the type of leaf and seasonal background you are trying to convey (oranges, reds and yellows for fall or light blues and purples and pinks for spring, etc.)
- Step 2 – Paint on a thin layer of glue to your entire poster board.
- Step 3 – Apply your torn pieces of tissue paper to the background. Feel free to overlap the pieces. Try your best to cover the entire surface. Add more glue to the edges to make the tissues smooth.
- Step 4 – Allow your piece to dry entirely.
- Step 5 – Paint the trunk of your tree and then add several branches.
- Step 6 – While you let the paint dry, begin to assemble the pieces that you will glue on to the branches, being sure to cut them to an appropriate size in relation to the branches.
- Step 7 – Glue your decorative additions onto the tree trunk and branches.
- Step 8 – Clean your work area.

### Tips:

- Be sure to fill the entire poster board.
- When you are painting the tree trunk, you can begin by making a large 'Y', then add twirling branches to create a tree that resembles Klimt's.
- Before you glue down your decorative additions, you can place them on the piece and rearrange them until you find a design that looks the best to you.

### Questions for Discussion:

- Give a title to your artwork. Explain why you chose this.
- Place your finished work a few feet away from you. What is the first thing you notice about your work from a distance.
- How do the colors effect the mood of your piece? How do the decorative pieces add or detract from that mood?

### Follow Up Project Ideas:

- Klimt was known as a symbolist. Designate a meaning for what each decorative piece represents. You can create a 'key chart' to show what each symbol means.

