



Zentrum Paul Klee  
Bern

Founded by  
Maurice E. and Martha Müller  
and the heirs of Paul Klee

Preview  
2024

Press kit



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21 November 2023

Preview 2024  
Zentrum Paul Klee



**In 2024, the two main exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee are devoted to the artist Sarah Morris and the modern art of Brazil. In the context of the new permanent exhibition *Kosmos Klee*, attention will be devoted to the Egyptian artist Hamed Abdalla, avant-garde journals as well as Paul Klee's influence on architecture. An important topic of the exhibition programme is the networking and mutual inspiration of artists. Running alongside the exhibitions there will be a wide programme of concerts and readings.**

In the spring, the exhibition *Sarah Morris. All Systems Fail* is the first one to present a comprehensive overview of the paintings and cinematic work of the New York-based artist **Sarah Morris**. In her works she engages with modernity and power, and examines which systems run through life in modern society. Her themes range from the architecture of major corporations to digital infrastructure. As well as her large-format abstract paintings, the Zentrum Paul Klee is showing her extensive work in film.

The autumn exhibition *Brasil! Brasil! The Dawn of Modernity* impressively demonstrates the extent to which Brazilian artists developed their own modern pictorial language in the first half of the 20th century. Both the European avant-garde and the country's own indigenous and afro-Brazilian cultures were important references. Aside from works by ten Brazilian artists, the exhibition provides a comprehensive introduction into the architecture, design, literature and music of the period.

### **Permanent exhibition *Kosmos Klee* and FOKUS exhibitions**

In the context of the new permanent exhibition *Kosmos Klee*, the Zentrum Paul Klee is devoting one FOKUS room to exhibitions with a thematic reference to Paul Klee and his work. The FOKUS series 2024 opens with an exhibition on the Egyptian artist **Hamed Abdalla** (1917-1985). He engaged intensively with European modern art and Paul Klee in particular. Two additional FOKUS exhibitions address architecture and the journals of the avant-garde.

### **Music and literature**

Alongside the exhibitions, the Zentrum Paul Klee is offering a varied programme of concerts and readings: the American pianist **Claire Huangci** and the Russian pianist **Alexei Volodin**, the American violinist **Joshua Bell** and the Israeli pianist **Shai Wosner** as well as the **Alban Berg Ensemble Wien** are part of a series of master concerts. In the first half of 2024 **Gabriele von Arnim**, **Daniel Kehlmann**, **Kathrin Röggla**, **Christian Haller**, **Barbara Honigmann** and **Terézia Mora** present their latest literary works.

#### **Openings**

Exhibition openings take place on the eve of the first exhibition day from 6 pm. Admission to the exhibitions is free on these evenings.

#### **Opening hours**

TUE-SUN 10am-5pm

MON closed

[zpk.org](http://zpk.org)

#### **Tickets**

Exhibitions and accompanying programme: [zpk.org](http://zpk.org)

Concerts and readings: [kulturticket.ch](http://kulturticket.ch)

or at the museum desk.

### **Contact**

Martina Witschi, Communication & Media relations  
[press@zpk.org](mailto:press@zpk.org), +41 31 328 09 93

### **Visits of exhibitions, concerts and readings**



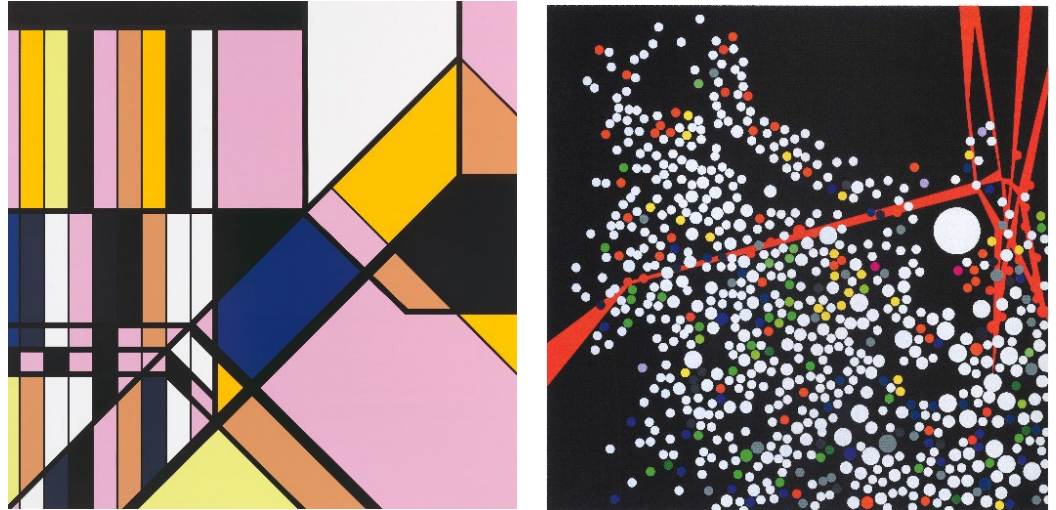
We are looking forward to your individual visit to our exhibitions. Admission to all exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee is free for media representatives with a valid press card. Please fill in the digital accreditation form which you can either access via [zpk.org/press](http://zpk.org/press) or by screening the QR-Code before your visit.

Furthermore, media representatives can attend the Zentrum Paul Klee's master concerts and readings free of charge as part of their reporting by registering via [press@zpk.org](mailto:press@zpk.org).

## Exhibitions

### Sarah Morris. All Systems Fail

29.3.–4.8.2024



In her work, the British New York-based painter and film maker Sarah Morris (b. 1967) combines abstract painting with issues around modernity and power. Morris is interested in the systems that run through our lives in modern society, and how they are manifested in different cities and cultural contexts – from the architecture of large corporations via traffic to the digital infrastructure. The exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of the artist's career, including her work in film. The fifteen films that will be shown in cinema boxes in the exhibition are devoted to the dynamic of global metropolises such as Los Angeles or Beijing, and blend into an artistic unity with the paintings.

**Curator:** Martin Waldmeier

**Media preview:** Wednesday, 27 March 2024, 10 am

**Opening:** Thursday, 28 March 2024, 6 pm

## Brasil! Brasil! The Dawn of Modernity

7.9.2024–19.1.2025



In the first half of the 20th century artists in Brazil sought a modern artistic expression of their own. Particularly in the first decades, the European avant-garde – including Paul Klee – was just as important a reference as the country's own indigenous and Afro-Brazilian cultures. As well as parallels with the investigations of European modern art, differences consistent with the political, social and cultural situation also become apparent. The exhibition shows the different ways in which Brazilian artists developed their own modern pictorial languages. It presents ten artists and an introduction to formative political and economic events as well as milestones in the country's literature, music, design and architecture.

### Artists:

Tarsila do Amaral (1886–1973)

Anita Malfatti (1889–1964)

Lasar Segall (1891–1957)

Alfredo Volpi (1896–1988)

Vicente do Rego Monteiro (1899–1970)

Flávio de Carvalho (1899–1973)

Candido Portinari (1903–1962)

Cícero Dias (1907–2003)

Rubem Valentim (1922–1991)

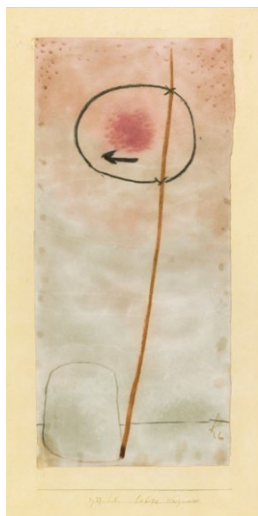
Geraldo de Barros (1923–1998)

**Curators:** Fabienne Eggelhöfer, Roberta Saraiva Coutinho

**Media preview:** Thursday, 5 September 2024, 10 am

**Opening:** Friday, 6 September 2024, 6 pm

## Permanent exhibition *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*



In 2023 the Zentrum Paul Klee installed the permanent Paul Klee exhibition *Kosmos Klee. The Collection*. The exhibition offers visitors a chronological survey of Klee's artistic career and presents some seventy works as well as biographical material and items from the archive that are regularly changed.

## FOKUS exhibitions

In the context of the new permanent exhibition *Kosmos Klee*, the Zentrum Paul Klee is devoting one FOKUS room to smaller exhibitions with a thematic reference to Paul Klee and his work.



### FOKUS: Hamed Abdalla (1917–1985)

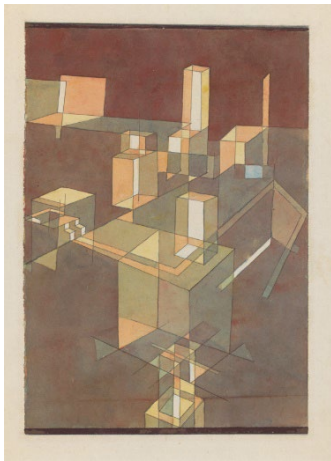
27.1.–26.5.2024

For the first time in Switzerland, an exhibition is devoted to the Egyptian artist Hamed Abdalla (1917–1985), pioneer of modern Egyptian art, who lived in Europe from the 1950s. He engaged intensively with Paul Klee and experimented with various techniques, with Arabic calligraphy forming a central starting point. As an artist of the Hurufiyya movement, which developed new artistic possibilities out of the Arabic alphabet, he invented his own 'creative words' by combining abstraction and human forms.

**Curators:** Zamân Books & Curating: Morad Montazami, Madeleine de Colnet

**Media preview:** Thursday, 25 January 2024, 10 am

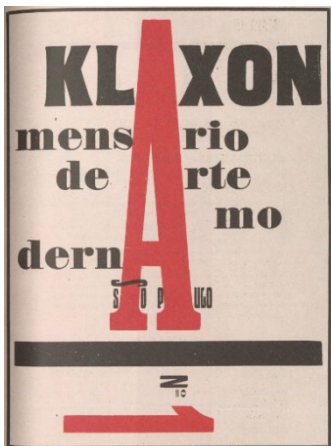
**Opening:** Friday, 26 January 2024, 6 pm



**FOKUS: Architecture with Klee. From Mies van der Rohe to Lisbeth Sachs**  
1.6.–13.10.2024

Paul Klee's art and pictorial thinking were highly influential on numerous architects. Many bought one or several of the artist's works. Mies van der Rohe had the most extensive collection. Lina Bo Bardi and Aldo van Eyck bought one of Paul Klee's imaginary architectural representations, a selection of which are presented in the exhibition. In 1948, Carlo Scarpa designed the Klee exhibition within the context of the Venice Biennale and went on to adopt some of Paul Klee's principles of composition. The post-war generation of architects, including figures such as Aldo Rossi and the Swiss architect Lisbeth Sachs, also engaged with Klee's writing, taking particular interest in the artist's process-oriented work. The organic development of form in nature became a central reference in their sketches, and dissolved the rectangular severity. A particular focus will be put on the works of the hitherto little-known Lisbeth Sachs.

**Curators:** Fabienne Eggelhöfer, Osamu Okuda



**FOKUS: Journals of the Avant-Garde**  
19.10.2024–9.2.2025

The 20th century was the age of the avant-gardes. All over the world, movements formed with a desire for a radical redesign of the world and a rethinking of art. To spread their visions, many avant-garde movements published journals. These allowed a global exchange of artistic ideas, as happens today on the World Wide Web. The journals did not only contain manifestos, images and programmatic texts that could not be published anywhere else, but also embodied artistic visions in terms of design and typography. From the contemporary point of view these journals are not only unique art-historical sources; they also set standards in the history of design. For that reason, the exhibition casts light for the first time on journals as a central and globally deployed medium of artistic modernity, in which art and design, form and content become a single unit.

**Curator:** Martin Waldmeier



© Harald Hoffmann

## Master Concerts

Sunday, 28 January 2024 at 5 pm  
**Claire Huangci** and **Alexei Volodin**, piano

Sunday, 25 February 2024 at 5 pm  
**Joshua Bell**, violin  
**Shai Wosner**, piano

Sunday, 28 April 2024 at 5 pm  
**Martin Fröst**, clarinet  
**OSR String Quartet**

Sunday, 9 June 2024 at 5 pm  
**Arcadi Volodos**, piano

Sunday, 18 August 2024 at 5 pm  
**Alban Berg Ensemble Wien**

Sunday, 15 September 2024 at 5 pm  
**Martynas Levickis**, accordion & **Friends**

Sunday, 13 October 2024 at 5 pm  
**Marie-Elisabeth Hecker**, violoncello  
**Martin Helmchen**, piano

Sunday, 17 November 2024 at 5 pm  
**Regula Mühlemann**, soprano  
**Tatiana Korsunskaya**, piano



© Monika Flückiger

## Literature

Sunday, 21 January 2024 at 11 am  
**Gabriele von Arnim** reads from *Der Trost der Schönheit*

Sunday, 11 February 2024 at 11 am  
**Daniel Kehlmann** reads from *Lichtspiel*

Sunday, 14 April 2024 at 11 am  
**Kathrin Röggla** reads from *Laufendes Verfahren*

Sunday, 21 April 2024 at 11 am  
**Christian Haller** reads from *Sich lichtende Nebel*

Sunday, 5 May 2024 at 11 am  
**Barbara Honigmann** reads from *Unverschämt jüdisch*

Sunday, 7 July 2024 at 11 am  
**Terézia Mora** reads from *Muna oder die Hälfte des Lebens*

Sunday, 1 September 2024 at 11 am  
Event with reading for **Lukas Hartmann's** 80th birthday

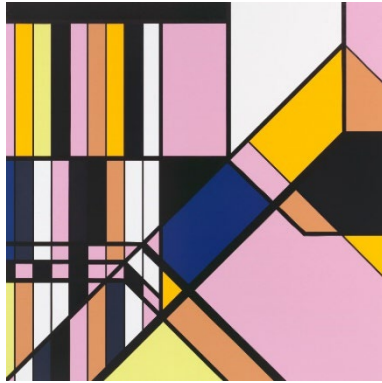


## Press images

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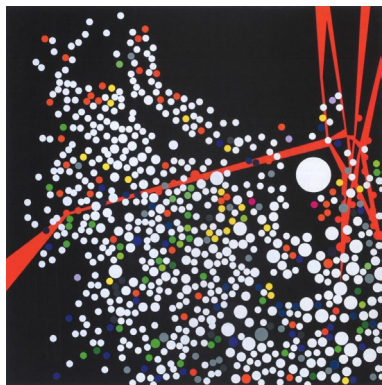
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**01**

Sarah Morris  
*Adnoc [Abu Dhabi]*, 2016  
Household gloss paint on canvas  
214 x 214 cm  
Private collection  
© Sarah Morris



**02**

Sarah Morris  
*Springpoint (Spiderweb)*, 2021  
Household gloss paint on canvas  
152,5 x 152,5 cm  
Courtesy of the artist and White Cube  
© Sarah Morris



**03**

Flávio de Carvalho  
*Ascensão definitiva de Cristo*, 1932  
Oil on canvas  
75,5 x 62 cm  
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo



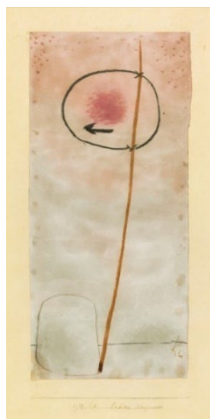
**04**

Djanira da Motta e Silva  
*Três Orixás*, 1966  
Oil on canvas  
130,5 x 195,5 cm  
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo

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**05**

Paul Klee  
*labiler Wegweiser* [Unstable Signpost], 1937, 45  
Watercolour on paper on cardboard  
43,8 x 20,9/19,8 cm  
Private collection, Switzerland,  
Deposit at the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



**06**

Franz Aichinger  
Paul and Lily Klee,  
Stresemannallee, Dessau,  
between 6 And 19 April 1933  
Scan of negative Felix Klee  
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern,  
Donation of the Klee Family



**07**

Hamed Abdalla  
*Les Amants de Sham Ennessim*,  
1953  
Gouache on silk paper on  
cardboard  
39 x 30 cm  
Artist estate  
Photo: Emmanuel Littot  
© Artist estate

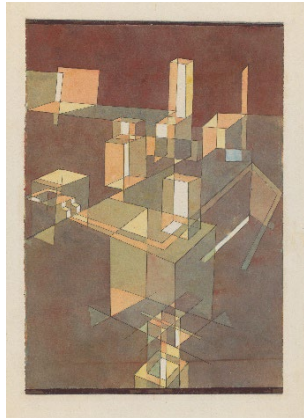


**08**

Hamed Abdalla  
*Taamira*, 1937  
Watercolour on paper  
18 x 25 cm  
Artist estate  
Photo: Emmanuel Littot  
© Artist estate

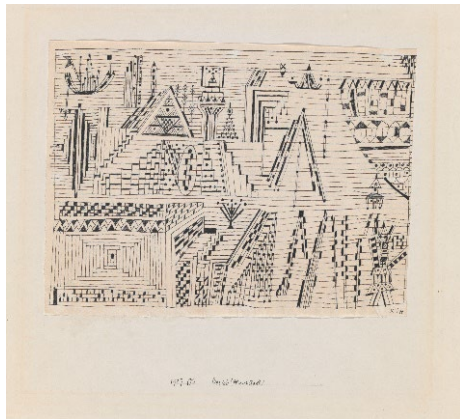
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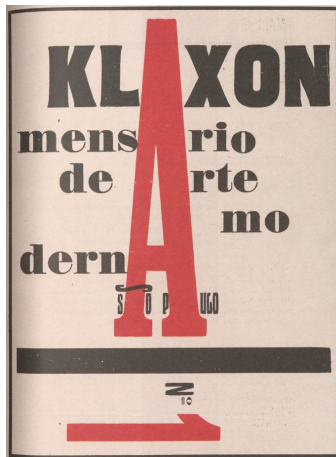
**09**

Paul Klee  
*italienische Stadt* [Italian Town],  
1928, 66  
Pen and watercolour on paper on  
cardboard  
33 x 23,4 cm  
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Deposit  
from private collection,  
Switzerland



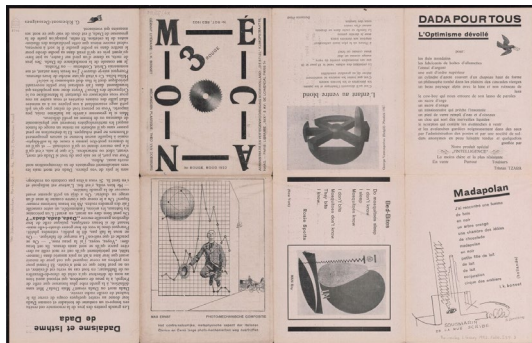
**10**

Paul Klee  
*Beride (Wasserstadt)* [Beride  
(Water Town)], 1927, 51  
Pen on paper on cardboard  
16,3/16,7 x 22,1/22,4 cm  
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern



**11**

*Klaxon: mensário de arte  
moderna*, São Paulo, published  
from 1922 to 1923



**12**

*Mécano*, Leiden, published from  
1922 to 1924