

## HILMA AF KLINT. BIOGRAPHY

- 1862** Hilma af Klint is born on October 26 in Stockholm.
- 1882–87** She attends the Royal Academy of Fine Arts.
- Late 1880s** The Art Academy places a studio at Hamngatan 5 at her disposal. She paints portraits and landscapes in a naturalist style. The Kungsträdgården area is the heart of Stockholm’s art scene at the time. Her studio is situated in the building of Blanch’s Art Salon, where Edvard Munch has a famous exhibition in 1894.
- 1896–1906** Hilma af Klint regularly attends spiritual meetings with four female friends in the “The Five”. During their séances, they practise automatic writing and drawing.
- 1906** She starts working on *The Paintings for the Temple*, which will comprise several different series and groups of paintings on various themes. According to Hilma af Klint, these paintings are created mediumistically. Her work is kept secret and shown only to a chosen few.
- 1908** She meets Rudolf Steiner, then the general secretary of the German section of the Theosophical Society. He is most likely critical of the mediumistic approach.
- 1908–1912** In order to take better care of her blind mother, Hilma af Klint gives up her studio on Hamngatan. Then followed a four-year pause in her work.
- 1912–1915** She resumes work on *The Paintings for the Temple*. Several new series and groups are painted under the influence of spirits, but her work is significantly more independent than it had been previously.
- 1914** She shows naturalist paintings at the Baltic Exhibition in Malmö. The Russian section of the exhibition features works by Wassily Kandinsky. Strongly influenced by theosophy, Kandinsky had published *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* three years earlier.
- 1915** Hilma af Klint concludes *The Paintings for the Temple* with the three large altarpieces.

- 1916–1917** She paints the geometrically abstract *Parsifal Series* and the following year the Atom series
- 1920** Her mother dies. Hilma af Klint embarks on a series of paintings on the great world religions. She joins the Anthroposophical Society. In the fall, she visits Dornach in Switzerland, where Hilma af Klint again meets Rudolf Steiner. She stops painting for more than a year and subsequently gives up geometric abstraction. After this hiatus, she paints predominantly water-colours.
- 1921-1930** She spends long periods in Dornach.
- 1944** Hilma af Klint dies, almost eighty-two years old, in October. She leaves behind her artistic estate, comprising of more than 1,000 works and just over 125 notebooks.

Source: Moderna Museet Stockholm