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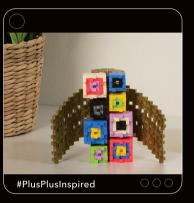
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GUSTAV KLIMT

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The Kiss Gustav Klimt



The Kiss Oil and gold leaf on canvas, c. 1908 72 x 72 in / 180 x 180 cm The Belvedere Museum (Vienna, Austria)

GUSTAV KLIMT b. 1866, Baumgarten, Austria; d. 1918, Vienna, Austria

How does Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* inspire you?

man obsessively devoted to his craft, Gustav Klimt's paintings are evidence that he was inspired by many things. In a style uniquely his own, he deliberately and proudly merged what inspired him onto the canvas.

Klimt's primary subject was the female body, followed by landscapes. His later works are characterized by a rejection of earlier naturalistic styles, and make use of symbolic elements to convey psychological ideas and emphasize the freedom of art from traditional culture.





The Kiss is Klimt's most popular work and is thought to be him and his companion. The male figure's coat of black and gray blocks is contrasted by the females bright, circular, floral motifs and wavy lines. They are further surrounded in golden rain that blesses the fertile earth.

It is a concoction of different schools of art. The gold leaf reflects religious art of the Middle Ages and Byzantine Empire, which some considered sacrilegious. The composition reflects the influence of Japanese prints. The detailed patterns in the two coats reflects mosaic art he admired while visiting Italy. Finally, he infused it with elements of his signature Art Nouveau style.

In 2003, Austria fittingly issued a 100-Euro gold coin with Klimt's head on one side and *The Kiss* on the other side.