

Gustav Klimt

What did Gustav Klimt create?

Gustav Klimt was a painter from Austria who loved to use **gold, patterns, and beautiful shapes** in his art. He painted **portraits, nature, and magical scenes**, often with sparkly gold and swirling designs. His work is very decorative and unique!



Childhood

- Gustav was born in **1862** in Baumgarten, near Vienna, Austria.
- His dad was a **gold engraver**, which inspired Klimt's love for gold in art.
- Gustav Klimt was the **second of seven children**, and three of his brothers became artists.
- His family moved to **Vienna when he was young**, which later became central to his artistic career.
- As a child, Klimt loved **drawing and copying artwork** from books and magazines.
- He grew up in a **very modest household**, and his family often struggled to afford materials, so he learned to be creative with what he had.

Education

- At **age 14**, Gustav got a scholarship to the **Vienna School of Arts and Crafts**.
- At the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts, he studied under **Ferdinand Laufberger**, a famous decorative artist.
- He learned how to paint and draw **very realistically**.
- He studied **architecture, fashion, and murals**.
- He admired **classical art**, but later developed his own special style.
- He learned to design **theatrical costumes and stage sets**, which later influenced his decorative style.
- Klimt received a **gold medal for excellence** in one of his school exhibitions.

Career

- Gustav started by painting **walls and ceilings** in big buildings.
- He co-founded a group called the **Vienna Secession**, which celebrated **new and modern art**.
- His painting style became very **decorative and full of patterns**.
- Some people loved his art, while others found it **strange or shocking**.
- Klimt's early professional work included painting **ceiling murals for theatres and museums** across Austria.
- In 1894, Klimt was asked to paint **three major panels for the University of Vienna**, but they were considered too radical and controversial.
- His unique style developed into the "**Golden Phase**", using gold leaf and symbolic designs, which became his signature.

Quotes by Gustav Klimt:

- *"Art is a line around your thoughts."*
- *"Whoever wants to know something about me – as an artist, the only thing that's important – they should look at my pictures."*

Artworks



The Kiss



Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer



Tree of Life



Farm Garden with Sunflowers