

Painting Like Gustav Klimt

Who is Gustav Klimt?

Gustav Klimt was an Austrian artist known for painting people wrapped in **beautiful patterns**, **shiny gold shapes**, and **sparkly swirls**. His most famous painting is “**The Kiss**”, where two people are covered in golden shapes and hugging each other.

Klimt’s art feels like a **dream** — full of colour, magic, and decoration.

What Will You Make?

In this tutorial, you'll create a **self-portrait** wrapped in **decorative patterns and golden shapes**, just like Klimt painted.

You Will Need:

- White paper (A4 or bigger)
 - Pencil and eraser
 - Paints, crayons, or coloured pencils
 - Gold paint or gold foil (or yellow if you don’t have gold!)
 - Black pen for outlining (optional)
 - Glitter or shiny stickers (optional, for extra sparkle!)
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Step 1: Draw a Simple Portrait

1. In the middle of your paper, draw **your face and upper body** (head, shoulders, arms).
 2. Keep the face **simple and calm** — Klimt’s people often look peaceful or dreamy.
 3. Add **long flowing hair or, if you don’t have long hair, add a hair cover**, and keep space around yourself for decoration.
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Step 2: Add a Fancy Cloak or Dress

1. Around your body, draw a **big cloak, robe, or dress** that spreads out around you.

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2. Make it large and smooth, like a blanket. This is where all the **patterns** will go!
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Step 3: Fill It With Patterns

Here's the fun Klimt part!

1. Decorate the cloak with **shapes**:
 - Squares
 - Swirls
 - Triangles
 - Eyes
 - Flowers
 - Circles
 2. You can **repeat shapes in rows** or **mix them up** like a patchwork quilt.
 3. Use a **ruler** to help with squares and a **cup** to trace circles if you want.
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Step 4: Paint With Klimt Colours

1. Use **gold paint** for parts of the robe or background — Klimt loved gold! (If you don't have gold, use **yellow, orange, or glitter** instead.)
2. Fill other shapes with **bold colours** like red, black, white, and blue.
3. Paint your **face and skin softly**, with peach or light brown tones.

 **Tip:** You can mix shiny and soft colours for contrast, like gold next to black.

Step 5: Add Background Magic

1. Fill the background with **stars, flowers, or swirls**.
2. Klimt sometimes used **blocks of colour** or **patterns behind** his people too.
3. Use glitter, stickers, or gold foil for extra sparkle.

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More fun ideas

- ✨ **Make a golden collage** using shiny paper, swirls, and shapes.
- 🎨 **Draw your own “Tree of Life”** using spirals and symbols.