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Art Appreciation lecture series 2025

Legendary Stories: Leonardo da Vinci to Murakami

Portrait of Marianne Werefkin, Gabriele Münter

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Gabriele Münter, *Portrait of Marianne Werefkin*, 1909

Lecture summary

Gabriele Münter and Marianne Werefkin played a major role in shaping the stylistic and conceptual dimensions of German Expressionism, especially during the early formative years of Blue Rider from 1909-11. Exploring works produced by both artists during this period of great creativity and experimentation, I will focus on Münter's *Portrait of Marianne Werefkin*. Despite this astonishingly radical and confident portrait, Münter's significant contribution to modernism has been sidelined until recently. This lecture seeks to correct this imbalance by placing both artists at the centre of the European avant-garde, history and culture. It is a legendary story involving complex romantic and artistic relationships. In celebrating the careers of two influential and highly talented female artists, I will present new perspectives on this exciting and complex chapter of modernism.

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