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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.

### Slide list

1. Gabriele Münter, *Portrait of Marianne Werefkin*, 1909, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
2. Gabriele Münter, *Landscape near Guion, Texas, spring 1900*, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024

3. Gabriele Münter, *Boys playing between Abilene and Lake Abilene, the day we left, Texas, 1900*, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024
4. Gabriele Münter, *Three women in their Sunday best, Marshall, Texas, c.1900*, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024
5. Wassily Kandinsky, *Kallmünz – Gabriele Münter Painting II*, 1903, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
6. Gabriele Münter, *Eddamous Mosque in Sousse, Tunisia*, 1905, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024
7. Gabriele Münter, *Rue du Pacha, near the Madrasaa Bir el-Hadjar, Tunisia*, 1905, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024
8. Gabriele Münter, *Man Leading a Camel*, 1905, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Tate, 2024
9. Gabriele Münter, *Street in Tunis 1905*, 1906, private collection. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
10. Gabriele Münter, *Still Life in Grey*, 1910, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
11. Gabriele Münter, *View from the window in Sèvres*, 1906, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Jansen 2017
12. Wassily Kandinsky, *Gabriele Münter on a staircase in Sèvres*, 1906-7. Photograph, Tate, 2024
13. Henri Matisse, *Woman with the hat*, 1905, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Photograph, SFMOMA website, 2025
14. Gabriele Münter, *Village Street in winter*, 1911, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
15. Wassily Kandinsky, *Murnau – Johannisstrasse from a window of the Griesbräu*, 1908, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
16. Alexej Jawlensky, *Landscape near Murnau*, 1909, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
17. Marianne Werefkin, *Self-portrait*, c.1910, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
18. Gabriele Münter, *Münter's house in Murnau, view from the garden*, 1909. Photograph, Tate, 2024
19. Gabriele Münter, *Kandinsky and Erma Bossi at the table*, 1912, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
20. Gabriele Münter, *Listening (Portrait of Jawlensky)*, 1909, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
21. Gabriele Münter, *Jawlensky and Werefkin*, 1909, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
22. Gabriele Münter, *Boating*, 1910, Milwaukee Art Museum. Photograph, Milwaukee Art Museum website, 2025
23. Gabriele Münter, *Portrait of Marianne Werefkin*, 1909, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
24. Marianne Werefkin, *The dancer Alexander Sacharoff*, 1909, Fondazione Marianne Werefkin. Photograph, Tate, 2024
25. Marianne Werefkin, *The Prayer*, 1910, Fondazione Marianne Werefkin. Photograph, Tate, 2024
26. Marianne Werefkin, *The Skaters*, 1911, Fondazione Marianne Werefkin. Photograph, Tate, 2024
27. Marianne Werefkin, *Summer Stage*, 1910, Fondazione Marianne Werefkin. Photograph, Tate, 2024
28. Gabriele Münter, *Madonna with Poinsettia*, c.1911, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
29. Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc, *Der Blaue Reiter*, 1912, Victoria and Albert Museum. Photograph, Tate, 2024
30. Gabriele Münter, *Watering Plants*, 1912, Cover of *Der Sturm*, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024

31. Nordiska Kompaniet, Kandinsky and Münter in Stockholm, c.1916. Photograph, Tate, 2024
32. Gabriele Münter, *Portrait of Anna Roslund*, 1917, Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. Photograph, Leicester Museum and Art Gallery website, 2025
33. Gabriele Münter, *Lady in an armchair (Stenography: Swiss woman in pyjamas)*, 1929, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
34. Gabriele Münter, *Harbour Work in Cassis*, 1930, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
35. Gabriele Münter, *Working in the wine cellar*, 1937, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
36. Gabriele Münter, *Construction work*, 1912, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
37. Gabriele Münter, *New Years Greetings*, 1913, Lenbachhaus. Photograph, Tate, 2024
38. Gabriele Münter, *Procession in Murnau*, 1934, private collection. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
39. Gabriele Münter, *Harvest in Upper Bavaria (Field work near Dettendorf)*, 1942, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
40. Gabriele Münter, *Abstract (Middle Light Blue, Oval)*, 1954, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017
41. Gabriele Münter, *Design for a poster for the 1913 Gabriele Münter exhibition*, Gabriele Münter and Johannes Eichner Foundation. Photograph, Jansen, 2017

## References

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