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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

LARGEST KLEE EXHIBITION EVER SHOWN IN THIS COUNTRY TO OPEN AT MUSEUM
ON DECEMBER 21

A large retrospective exhibition of paintings, drawings and prints by Paul Klee has been brought to this country by the Museum of Modern Art from the Klee Foundation in Berne, Switzerland. The exhibition, which has been on tour in the United States, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from December 21 through February 19. This show, assembled by James Thrall Soby and Margaret Miller of the Museum, will present to the New York public more than 200 works by this artist. Only two or three of the pictures from the Klee Foundation has ever before been exhibited in this country. The Klee Foundation, a non-profit organization, functions to assure Klee's native Switzerland of a retrospective collection of works by one of the absolute masters of twentieth-century art. American-owned examples of exceptional quality have been included in this show to bridge a few chronological gaps in the Foundation's extensive collection.

Klee came of a musical family in Switzerland. In 1898, at the age of 19, he began to study art while still expecting to become a musician. After his student years and travel in Italy, he became associated with Kandinsky and Marc, who together formed Der Blaue Reiter. From 1920 to 1928 he was a professor at the Bauhaus both in Weimar and Dessau and formed, with Feininger, Javlensky and Kandinsky, the Blue Four whose works were exhibited throughout Germany and America. After the Nazi rise to power he returned to Berne and died in Switzerland in 1940, having achieved a uniquely distinctive position in twentieth-century art.

This exhibition is the largest show of Klee's work ever seen in this country. Klee's constant experimentation with media and his inexhaustibly imaginative exploration of the fantastic in form and subject matter has left the world with a body of works so extensive that it has taken many years for most of it to come to light. American audiences, among the first and most faithful in appreciating Klee's efforts, have eagerly awaited these works from the Klee Foundation.