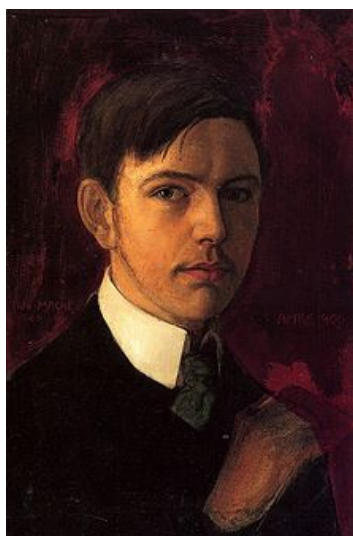


Project Number: 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006113

Activity: Evolution of Arts in Europe – August Macke - Biography

Author	Volkshochschule Olching e.V. – Hélène Sajons
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Name: AUGUST MACKE
Born in Meschede/Germany on January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1887
Died near Perthes-lès-Hurlus/Champagne/France on September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 1914
Nationality: German
Profession: Painter
Art Movement: Expressionism and Fauvism

**August Robert Ludwig Macke** was a German painter. He belonged to the artists' group "Der blaue Reiter" (The Blue Rider).

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Even if August Macke died as a young man, his oeuvre is considered as one of the most significant of the German expressionism.

After studying at the Realgymnasium in Bonn - the city to which his parents had moved - and at the Art Academy of Düsseldorf, the painter actually started his artistic career in 1907. He had visited the Netherlands, Belgium, North Italy and Britain where he had discovered new landscapes and met other artists but his short trips to Paris were certainly of real importance for the unfolding of his own style.

In Paris which he visited in 1907, Macke discovered the French impressionism. He returned to Bonn with new ideas, went to Berlin where he stayed some months with his friend Lovis Corinth.

In 1909 he married Elisabeth Gerhardt, his friend Walter's sister.

August Macke was a friend of Franz Marc, who was one of the key figures of German Expressionism and a founding member of the "Blue Rider" to which Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian emigrant, Gabriele Munter and Paul Klee belonged, too.

The “Blue Rider” consisted in a group of painters who shared a common desire to express spiritual truths through their art. The group was disrupted by the outbreak of First World War in 1914.

Two occurrences had a major influence on Macke’s oeuvre:

- He met Robert Delaunay in Paris in 1912;
- He travelled to Tunisia in 1914.

Delaunay’s chromatic cubism, who fused influences from neo-impressionism, cubism, and fauvism into a unique style, stroked Macke: it was for him the revelation of the kind of paintings he wanted to achieve.

During his trip to Tunisia in 1914 Macke discovered the light of that southern country. Inspired by the variations of light and shade he created there some of his most famous cubism art paintings. As fate willed the time spent in Tunisia turned out to be his final period and his works to be masterpieces.

In 1914 World War I started and unfortunately August Macke died at the very beginning of that war on the battlefield in Perthes-lès-Hurlus in the region Champagne/Maine in France. He was buried in a mass grave there. He was just 27 years old!



His final painting, Farewell, depicts the mood of gloom that settled after the outbreak of war.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:August\\_Macke\\_001.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:August_Macke_001.jpg)

<https://www.augustmacke.org/biography.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der\\_Blaue\\_Reiter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Blaue_Reiter)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz\\_Marc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Marc)

**Activities:****Cloze:**

Read the text, put it away and fill in the cloze. Here is the link:

<https://www.classtools.net/cloze/202101-FRHRQK>

**Multiple choices:**

Find the right answer(s).

<https://TopgradeApp.com/playQuiz/august-macke>

**August Macke - Cloze ('Fill the Gaps')**

Belgium young desire final southern landscapes major key sister actually  
founding region beginning city importance kind French shade unfortunately  
significant belonged consisted fused mass famous stayed Russian disrupted

3

**Learn more about: August Macke**

August Robert Ludwig Macke was a German painter. He \_\_\_\_\_ to the artists' group "Der blaue Reiter" (The Blue Rider).

Even if August Macke died as a \_\_\_\_\_ man, his oeuvre is considered as one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the German expressionism.

After studying at the Realgymnasium in Bonn - the \_\_\_\_\_ to which his parents had moved - and at the Art Academy of Düsseldorf, the painter \_\_\_\_\_ started his artistic career in 1907.

He had visited the Netherlands, \_\_\_\_\_, North Italy and Britain where he had discovered new \_\_\_\_\_ and met other artists but his short trips to Paris were certainly of real \_\_\_\_\_ for the unfolding of his own style.

In Paris which he visited in 1907, Macke discovered the \_\_\_\_\_ impressionism. He returned to Bonn with new ideas, went to Berlin where he \_\_\_\_\_ some months with his friend Lovis Corinth.

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August Macke was a friend of Franz Marc, who was one of the \_\_\_\_\_ figures of German Expressionism and a \_\_\_\_\_ member of the "Blue Rider" to which Wassily Kandinsky, a \_\_\_\_\_ emigrant, Gabriele Muntz and Paul Klee belonged, too.

The "Blue Rider" \_\_\_\_\_ in a group of painters who shared a common \_\_\_\_\_ to express spiritual truths through their art. The group was \_\_\_\_\_ by the outbreak of First World War in 1914.

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Delaunay's chromatic cubism, who \_\_\_\_\_ influences from neo-impressionism, cubism, and fauvism into a unique style, stroked Macke: it was for him the revelation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of paintings he wanted to achieve.

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In 1914 World War I started and \_\_\_\_\_ August Macke died at the very \_\_\_\_\_ of that war on the battlefield in Perthes-lès-Hurlus in the \_\_\_\_\_ Champagne/Maine in France. He was buried in a \_\_\_\_\_ grave there. He was just 27 years old!

<https://www.classtools.net/cloze/202101-FRHRQK>

Multiple Choice exercises:

**1. When was August Macke born?**

1890

1887

1889

**2. Was August Macke an Austrian painter?**

He was a Swiss painter

He was a German painter

He was an Austrian painter

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**3. Did the painter live in Cologne?**

He lived in Paris

He lived in Bonn

He was in Düsseldorf

**4. Did August Macke belong to the impressionism movement?**

He belonged to expressionism movement

He belonged to pointillism movement

He belonged to Romantic Movement

**5. Who was a founding member of the "Blue Rider"?**

Vincent van Gogh

Wassily Kandinski

Franz Marc

**6. Was Kandinsky German?**

*No, he was Russian*

*No, he was a Finn*

*No, he was a Dane*

**7. When was the group belonged to the "Blue Rider" disrupt?**

*In 1918*

*In 1914*

*At the outbreak of First World War*

**8. Who did August Macke meet in Paris?**

*Elisabeth Gerhardt*

*Robert Delaunay*

*Wassily Kandinski*

**9. What influenced August Macke in his paintings?**

*Pablo Picasso's cubism*

*Franc Marc's expressionism*

*Robert Delaunay's chromatic cubism*

**10. Where did August Macke experience the variations of light?**

*In Greece*

*In Italy*

*In Tunisia*

**11. When did August Macke die?**

*In 1917*

*In 1914*

*In 1916*

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**Solutions:**

- |  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 1. 1887                                  | 2. He was a German painter   | 3. He lived in Bonn |
| 4. He belonged to expressionism movement | 5. Wassily Kandinski and Franz Marc                                  |                     |
| 6. No, he was Russian                    | 7. In 1914 and At the outbreak of First World War                    |                     |
| 8. Robert Delaunay                       | 9. Franc Marc's expressionism and Robert Delaunay's chromatic cubism |                     |
| 10. In Tunisia                           | 11. In 1914  |                     |