

...Works by Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian Come into a Close Dialogue for the First Time at Tate Modern

Exhibition Announcements

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Considered two of the most imaginative and innovative artists of the 20th century, **Hilma af Klint** (1862-1944) and **Piet Mondrian** (1872-1944) share some traits in their artistic approach and thinking, mostly pertinent to the natural world and the fascination with its workings.

Although they never met in real life, their work corresponds with each other through the unique application of forms, perspectives, and colours, coming from the desire to **understand the natural forces** that shape life on earth.

The upcoming exhibition at **Tate Modern** puts these two artists in dialog and includes around 250 works, such as paintings, archival materials, and drawings. The exhibition, *Hilma af Klint and Piet*

Mondrian: Forms of Life, will also highlight how the artists approached scientific and theoretical discoveries of their time, when rapid social change reshaped the understanding of the world and human's place in it.



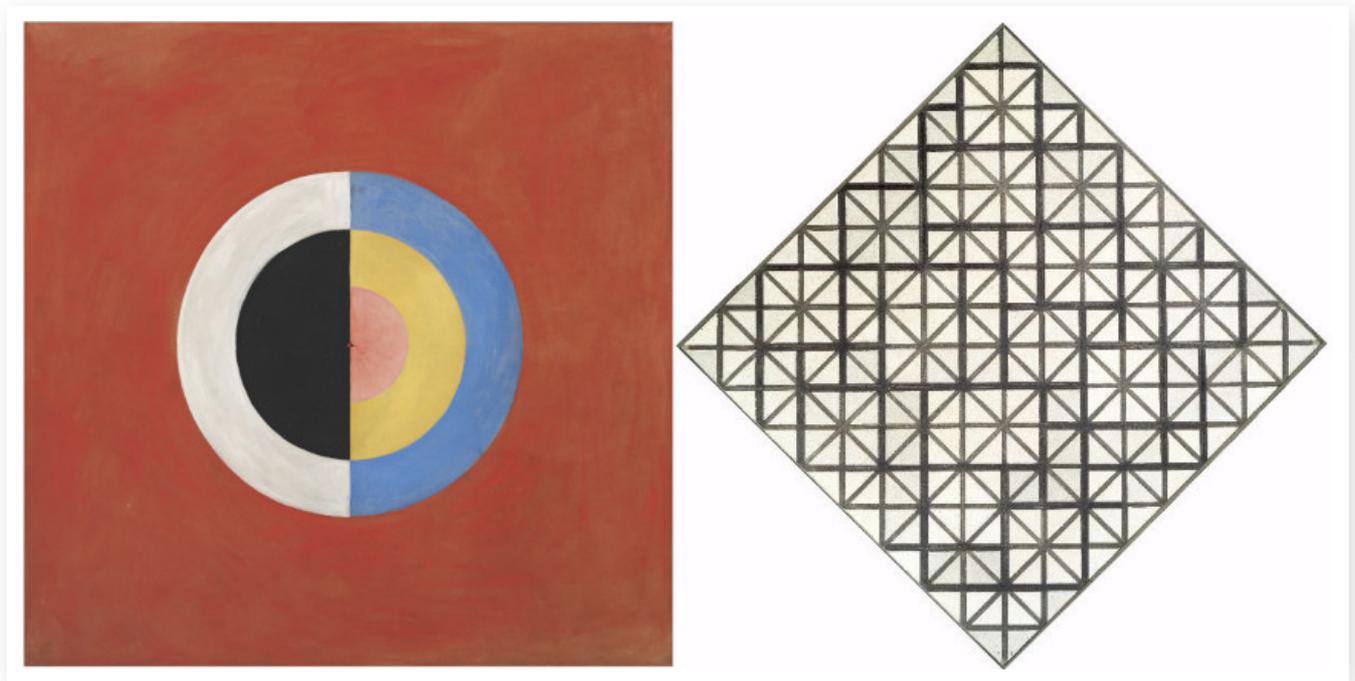
Piet Mondrian - The Gein Trees along the water c.1905. Kunstmuseum Den Haag

Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian

The centre of the exhibition revolves around sketches, notebooks, and letters from the artists' archives, showing how they approached ideas that shaped their art.

The archival material will be shown alongside key references from various sources, including Goethe's colour theory, Rudolf Steiner's blackboard diagrams, and Carl Linnaeus's renderings of the natural world. Bringing these materials together, *Forms of Life* highlights how

the artists developed their visual language of signs, colours, and diagrams in order to break the code of life on earth.



Left: Hilma af Klint - The Swan, The SUW Series, Group IX, No. 17, 1914-1915. Courtesy of The Hilma af Klint Foundation / **Right:** Piet Mondrian - Composition with Grid 3 Lozenge Composition with grey Lines, 1918. Kunstmuseum Den Haag

Ten Monumental Paintings

Besides archival material, Tate's presentation also includes ten of Hilma af Klint's **monumental paintings** from the series *The Ten Largest* 1907, which are shown together for the first time in the UK. This will be the largest presentation of Klint's work to date in the country, rooted in the artist's fascination with nature and in close dialog with another painter who shared her interests.

Both artists started their careers as landscape painters that turned to abstraction almost simultaneously in the early 1900s. Their approaches were inspired by new ways of looking at nature, and references to **natural forms** remained present in their work throughout their careers.

They also shared an interest in **spiritualism and mysticism**, which

were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Discoveries of X-rays, electrons, and radioactivity opened new perspectives on how to understand and approach the world, and these new scientific findings also influenced Klint's and Mondrian's artistic language.



Left: Hilma af Klint - Botanical Drawing c.1890. Courtesy Hilma af Klint Foundation / **Right:** Piet Mondrian - Composition with red, black, yellow, blue and gray 1921. Kunstmuseum Den Haag

Forms of Life at Tate Modern

Featuring valuable archival and artistic materials, *Forms of Life* is also the first major UK exhibition of Piet Mondrian's early work, staged in the last 25 years. It brings to audiences his figurative pieces, such as *The Red Cloud*, 1907 and *Evolution*, 1911, and his celebrated grid compositions.

The exhibition *Hilma af Klint & Piet Mondrian: Forms of Life* will be on

view at [Tate Modern](#) in London **from April 20th until September 3rd, 2023**. It is curated by Frances Morris, Director, Tate Modern; Nabila Abdel Nabi, Curator, International Art, Tate Modern; Briony Fer, Professor of Art History, UCL; Laura Stamps, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Kunstmuseum den Haag; with Amrita Dhallu, Assistant Curator, International Art, Tate Modern, and organised by Tate Modern and Kunstmuseum Den Haag.

A major, fully illustrated, new publication accompanies the exhibition, featuring new research on Klint and Mondrian.

Featured image: Hilma af Klint - The Evolution, The WUS Seven-Pointed Star Series, Group VI, No.15, 1908. Courtesy Hilma af Klint Foundation