

## Press release

# Museum Folkwang

### ***Paul Klee's Angels*** **2 February – 14 April, 2013**

Paul Klee's *angels* are amongst the artist's most popular works. They not only appeal to art lovers but have also gained immense popularity as poetic helpers of us mortals. As winged creatures that are half human, half celestial messenger they represent a transitional form between earthly and heavenly existence that meets our need for spirituality. That said, angels also reflect our modern skepticism towards religion and issue relating to faith. In addition, they also offer intellectual stimuli not only for art historians but also for authors, philosophers, theologians and psychologists.

For the first time, the *angels* of Paul Klee, the most important group of works he produced in his later years, are being shown in a presentation dedicated entirely to them. Most of the 80 or so angels (they are primarily drawings and watercolors) were produced during Klee's final years between 1938 and 1940. They reflect Klee's situation at the time, faced as he was by unrelenting illness and ever increasing frailty. The angels indicate how Klee felt on the threshold between life and death, they reveal fear and a sense of threat, but also intellectual detachment, wit, and cheer. Klee's angels, and surely this is the deeper reason for their popularity, are still largely rooted in human existence. They exhibit minor weaknesses and cosmetic flaws, are forgetful or ugly, worried or carefree, meaning that everyone can relate to them.

Most of Paul Klee's angels are to be found in the Paul Klee Center, with the rest being held in many important collections around the world. Meaning that the host of angels have been reunited for the first time the exhibition, which has already gone on show in Bern, and will move from Essen to the Hamburger Kunsthalle.

The exhibition catalog is published by Hatje Cantz Verlag(28 Euro).

In cooperation with Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, and Hamburger Kunsthalle.

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Image material for downloading is available at [www.museum-folkwang.de](http://www.museum-folkwang.de)  
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