

# ARTIST OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2024

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month. This month the artist has been chosen by Poppy Lathbury in Year 3, as part of her prize to be 'headteacher for the day', Poppy will be judging the winners at the end of the month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the basket next to the art cabinet next to the staff room or email it to [enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk) with the title 'Artist of the Month'.

This month's artist is: **Hilma af Klint (1862 – 1944)**

		
<p><b>'The Ten Largest No. 2 – Childhood' (1907)</b></p>	<p><b>'The Ten Largest No. 4 – Youth' (1907)</b></p>	<p><b>'The Ten Largest No.6 - Adulthood' (1907)</b></p>

Hilma af Klint (1862 – 1944) was a Swedish artist, considered to be the first abstract artist in Western art history. Her father, who loved nature, taught her all about different animals and plants that lived in Sweden. She made many detailed drawings of wildflowers. Hilma was inspired by different patterns, especially spirals like the ones found on shells. Hilma got a place at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Sweden. At this time, many countries didn't admit girls into universities, but Sweden was one of the few that did. Hilma did well in her studies and was given a studio space by the university.

She began by painting landscapes, portraits and illustrations of plants. In 1906 she began creating large scale abstract artworks which were part of her *Paintings for the Temple* series. She described this as 'the one great task I carried out in my lifetime'. When it was complete, the series was made up of 193 artworks. These paintings connected to Hilma's beliefs, and she imagined they would one day be displayed in a temple where people could go, and worship surrounded by art.

Over time, she developed a detailed system of signs and messages. Hilma was also a very spiritual person. Hilma never exhibited her art in her lifetime, and left instructions for them not to be shown

until two decades after her death. She is now recognised as a pioneer in abstraction before other abstract artists like Kandinsky and Mondrian.

Follow the link to take you to the TATE KIDS website to find out more about Hilma af Klint.  
<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-is-hilma-af-klint>

**Your turn** Why not have a go at making your own Abstract Art inspired by Hilma af Klint – visit the National Nordic Museum by scanning the QR code to take you to a ‘how to’ video on YouTube – please remember to watch with a grown up. Or follow the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWEUzoeL2U4>

