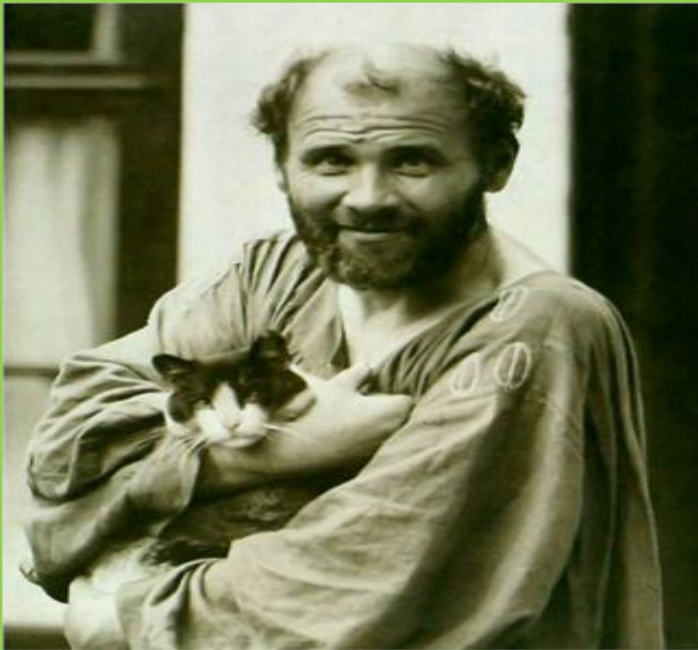




Gustav Klimt

1862-1918

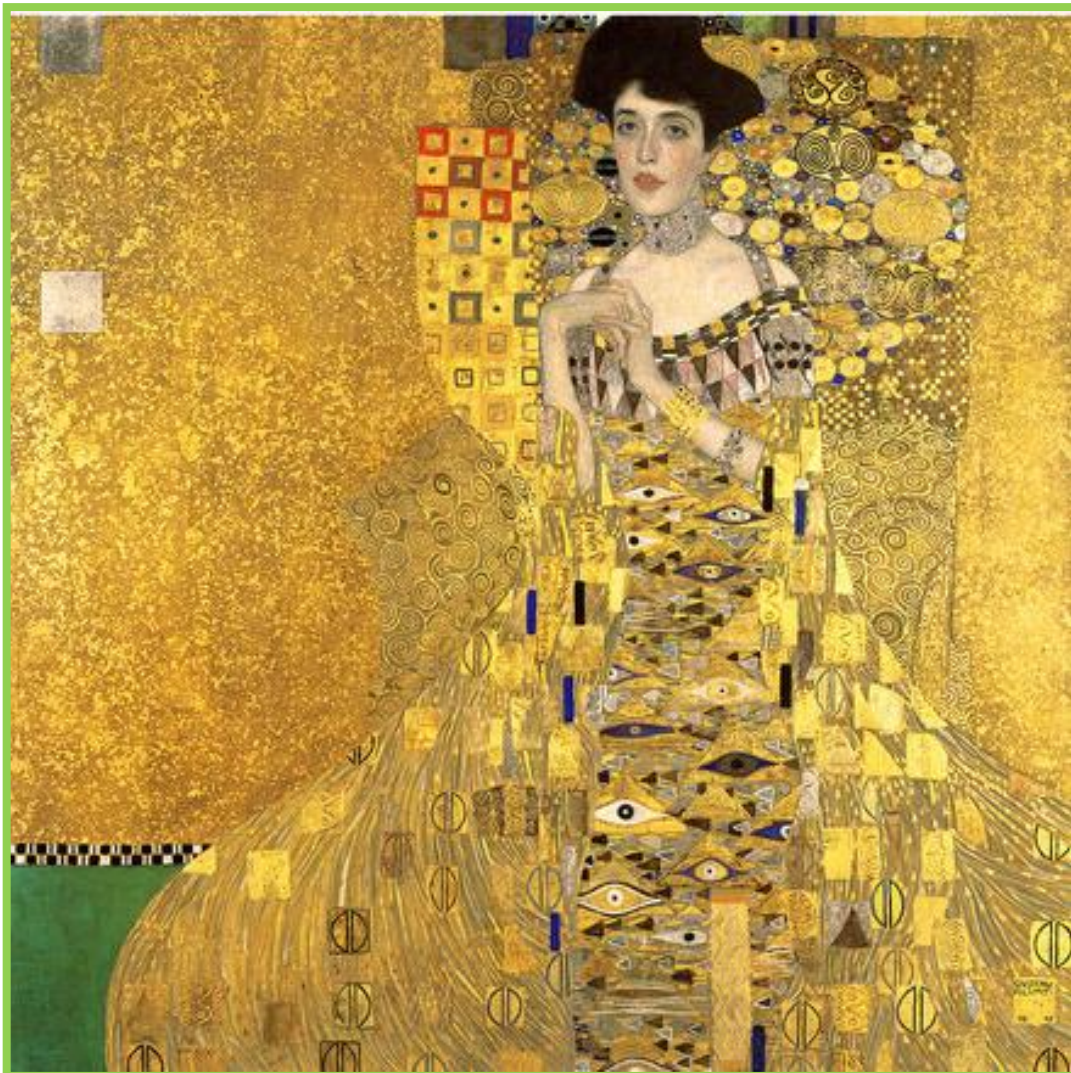


Gustav Klimt was born on 14th July 1862 in Austria. His mother was a musical performer and his father was an engraver of gold. Gustav was a talented artist from a young age and he attended the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts.

In 1877, he formed an artistic team with his brother, Ernst Klimt, and their friend, Franz Matsch, painting murals in Vienna's museums. In the 1880s, Klimt became well-known for his mural painting. He even received the Golden Order of Merit from the Austrian Emperor. Gustav's brother, Ernst, and their father both died in 1892. From then, Gustav's artistic style changed. His work began to include lots of symbolism. Symbolist painters used a wide variety of subjects including heroes, women, animals, and landscapes. They gave these subjects deep meanings such as love, death, sin, religion, or disease. They would use metaphors (or symbols) rather than real life to represent something. Klimt's paintings also incorporated gold leaf and were very intricate, so they took many hours to complete. Klimt lived a simple life. When at home, he wore a long robe and sandals. He painted all day, every day.

Questions to Answer

1. Can you identify any other of Klimt pieces of art?
2. Klimt went through an artistic phase where he used what specific material in his painting?
3. Why do you think Klimt chose to work with gold leaf?
4. Do you like/ dislike this painting?
5. What subject would you use in your artwork? What would it symbolise? (e.g. a wave to show strength)
6. How could you show love/ hate/peace/loneliness?
7. Which materials would you work with? Why?



Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I (also called *The Lady in Gold* or *The Woman in Gold*)