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INSIDER *art*

By Fiona McKenzie Johnston

Expressionists:
Kandinsky,
Münter and
The Blue Rider

In the early 20th century, a group of artists – including Wassily Kandinsky, Gabriele Münter, Franz Marc and Paul Klee – came together in Munich. In their desire to emphasise feelings and spiritual ideas over reality, they forever changed the course of art and led the way to European abstraction. This captivating show at Tate Modern, SE1 (until October 20; tate.org.uk) charts the international breadth of those who were involved in Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) group, as well as the impact of the artists' 1911 and 1912 exhibitions, and *Der Blaue Reiter Almanac*, which Kandinsky and Marc published in 1912, declaring themselves to be 'the savages of Germany'. The show contrasts the Munich works with the folk-art-influenced – and increasingly expressionistic – paintings made in the small Bavarian town of Murnau. Kandinsky and Münter, who were lovers, lived there from 1909 to 1914 and others came to stay. (The charming house is worth visiting; muenters-stiftung.de.) The group dispersed when the First World War started (Marc was killed at Verdun) but, extraordinarily, Münter successfully hid some of the finest Blaue Reiter paintings through the following decades' political turmoil, eventually bequeathing them to Munich's Lenbachhaus. The collaboration of that art museum with Tate – of unprecedented scope – makes this the most significant Blaue Reiter exhibition in the UK in more than 60 years. **Pictured** (from top) *Portrait of Marianne von Werefkin*, 1909, Gabriele Münter. *Impression III (Concert)*, 1911, Wassily Kandinsky



Three more to see...



Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood
Currently at the Arnolfini in Bristol, then moving to Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre, this Hayward Gallery Touring show examines the complexities of motherhood through the work of more than 60 modern and contemporary artists, including Eileen Cooper, Tracey Emin, Barbara Walker and Paula Rego. *Until May 26; arnolfini.org.uk. June 22-September 29; macbirmingham.co.uk. Pictured* *Untitled 2*, 1999, Paula Rego



The Shape of Things: Still Life in Britain
This exhibition at Pallant House Gallery, in Chichester, investigates the standing of the genre of still life, and its role in aiding modern and contemporary British artists to push creative boundaries and also develop interesting new ideas. *May 11-October 20; pallant.org.uk. Pictured* *Bright Intervals*, 1928, Edward Alexander Wadsworth

**Now You See Us: Women Artists in Britain 1520-1920**

At Tate Britain, SW1, this group show tells the stories of women artists spanning four centuries – including Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Beale, Angelica Kauffman, Elizabeth Butler, Gwen John and Laura Knight – who all challenged societal expectations to forge their remarkable careers. *May 16-October 13; tate.org.uk. Pictured* *Susannah and the Elders*, c1638-1640, Artemisia Gentileschi □

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