

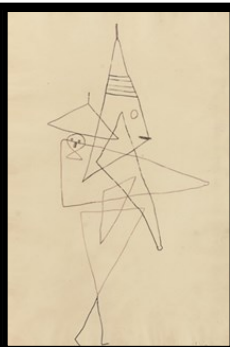
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The jester or fool has been a ubiquitous element in art. The jesters represent a welcome break of non-seriousness. They whimsically introduce the important concepts of satire, absurdity and the joys of childhood in general. Each clown and costume vary depending on the culture and time they came from.



This painting is called “Pierrot” by Jean Watteau. It depicts a famous actual stage actor of the time of the Rococo art period in 1719. The subject’s dead-pan expression attempts to expose a real person behind the costume. There is an awkwardness to the subject’s pose.

Pablo Picasso liked to hang around the circus and its players. He identified with the gypsy and bohemian lifestyles of the performers at the time of early 1900’s in Paris. This is a very non-sentimental and candid depiction. He did many studies of these performers, called harlequins.



Paul Klee was an art instructor at the famous Bauhaus School of Art and Design in Germany in the 1920’s.

His work always expressed a wonderful sense of humor and wit. Here he reduces the essence of a clown down to its most economical lines and forms.



In literature, the jester represents wisdom and honesty. In Shakespeare’s play, King Lear, the fool acts as King Lear’s conscience. This statue is located at the birthplace of William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon in England.

