

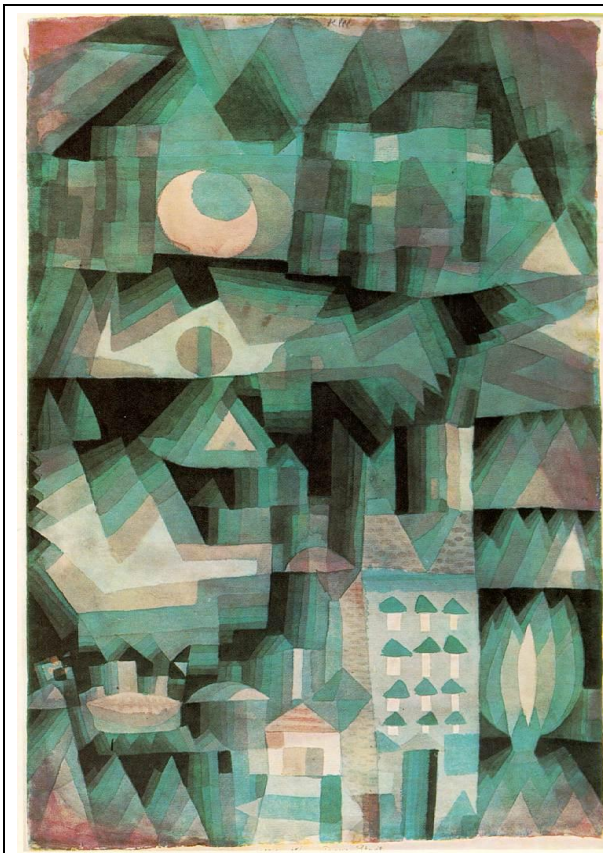
A Tale of Two Cities

An activity of "Where have all the cars gone?"

Read "Where have all the cars gone?" (page 21, *What's Up* March 2026). The article shows how streets change when cars are reduced or removed. Carry out this activity to express your sentiments about car-filled and car-free places. Do this by using abstract art in the way that the famous artist Paul Klee did.

1. Let's take a look at a piece of art, "Dream City" by Paul Klee

➤ <https://www.artchive.com/artwork/dream-city-paul-klee-1921/>



Paul Klee was an artist known for turning simple lines, symbols and playful shapes into paintings that feel like music or dreams. He often used bold colours, childlike marks, and pattern-like "maps" of imaginary places. Many of his works look like abstract cities.

2. Study his painting and jot down your observations.

- One line idea I noticed (e.g. zig-zag, wavy, dotted lines, etc.)
- One shape idea I noticed (e.g. rectangles, triangles, blocks, etc.)
- One pattern idea I noticed (e.g. stripes, grids, dots etc.)
- One mood word this style can show (e.g. sleepy/ chaotic / peaceful/ lively)

3. Close your eyes for 10 seconds and imagine two cities.

City A: Full of traffic.

Imagine a city that is full of cars and all sorts of other vehicles with their busy sounds. What do you hear? Circle any that you can "hear" in your imagination and add your own.

honk vroom screech beep rumble whoosh clang Other sounds: _____

What does it feel like to you? Circle any that resonates with you and / or add your own.

tense rushed crowded stressful smoky sharp cramped _____

City B: Car-lite or car-free

Now, imagine a city with minimal or no traffic. What do you hear? Circle any that you can “hear” in your imagination and add your own.

Tap-tap chirp swish hum strum rustle ring ding _____

What does it feel like to you? Circle any that resonates with you and / or add your own.

Open calm friendly fresh safe lively relaxed _____

4. Transfer the two templates below to fresh sheets of art paper. Create two abstract cityscapes: one based on City A, and the other one based on City B. You will notice that speech / sound bubbles are already drawn on the templates. Fill them with sound and mood language.

Each panel must include:

- At least 5 different shapes
- At least 3 types of lines (e.g. straight / wavy / zigzag / dotted, etc.)
- At least 2 patterns (e.g. dots / stripes / grids/ repeated shapes, etc.)
- A clear contrast between City A and City B.

Use Paul Klee’s art as an inspiration. To learn how to create art like his, watch:

Paul Klee Dream City Part 1

➤ <https://youtu.be/P-8qiSsntDQ?si=ZpROa6c9yaOWs6qw>

(Michael Wedge, 28 Sep 2020)

