

APPLE-TREE I. 1911 or 1912

Oil on canvas, 109 x 110 cm

Signed bottom right: GUSTAV KLIMT

Inventory Nr. 3342

Acquired through a bequest (1936) of Adele Bloch-Baue

Formerly in the Bloch-Bauer collection, Vienna

Novotny/Dobai, Nr. 180

First exhibition: Great Art Exhibition, Dresden 1912, Nr. 1832

Trees, and frequently just a lone tree, are a favourite subject of Klimt, their richly suggestive form evidently holding an enduring fascination for him. When the painting is of a single tree, the latter is not so much a particular, attention-drawing feature, but rather the picture's compositional point of reference, the cynosure of nuanced colour. These nuances are achieved by the juxtaposition of differently tinted brushstrokes, the latter supplying individual illumina-

tion of green, blue or similar colour. The leaves thus symbolised seem to glow with a light that is more turbulent and agitated than that of the blooming flowers in the foreground. The present picture symbolically recreates the mutuality of nature and light, recalling Klimt's earlier (albeit very different) use of the tree as a symbol, that of the "tree of life". "*Apple-tree I*" is regarded to be one of the artist's most profoundly private and meditative works.

