

The background of the entire page is a detailed oil painting of a Parisian scene. It depicts a stone bridge with multiple arches spanning a river. On the left, a large tree with green and yellow leaves stands prominently. In the background, there are multi-story Parisian buildings with red-tiled roofs and dormer windows. The sky is a soft, pale blue. The overall style is impressionistic, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

CONSTANTIN KLUGE

(1912 - 2003)

A Master Painter of Paris

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In putting technique to the service of poetry, Kluge reconciles us with our civilization. It is modern art in all its conception because, retaining its teaching of the past, he renews it. – Le District de Paris

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1 Constantin Kluge in front of his picture of Bougival which won the *Raymond Perreau* prize in 1961

Though born in Riga, Latvia, in 1912, Constantin Kluge grew up in China, spending his adolescent years in Shanghai, where his family was forced to migrate during the Bolshevik Revolution. There, among his studies of Mandarin and the art of calligraphy, Kluge found excitement in visual art as an active member of the Shanghai Art Club. As a young adult, his parents urged him to study something more practical than fine art. Kluge found a compromise in architecture, but it was ultimately his exceptional drawing skill that secured his place at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts as a student of Architecture in 1931. In 1937, he graduated with the title of French Government Architect. His passion for the city of lights grew exponentially during his time there. Kluge was so profoundly moved and deeply in love with the city that he remained for several months after completing his studies. He stayed to paint views of Paris in oils, purely to portray and preserve the scenes he cherished so much.

Kluge returned to China and practiced architecture in Shanghai. After persuasion from friends, he began exhibiting his paintings, which reared great success, to Kluge's surprise. However, his painting career paused during World War II. Beginning in 1950, Kluge worked as an architect in Hong Kong. Supported fervently by friends and urged by his heart, he returned to his dear Paris due to rumors of the Communist invasion. Unsurprisingly, as an

already mature and successful painter, in 1951, Kluge won an award at the Paris Salon. After, he frequently exhibited in the Salon shows, which proved to be his gateway to ever-increasing public attention. Kluge then also became a member of the Société des Artistes Français and received the Médaille d'Argent and the special Raymond Perreau prize given by the Salon's Taylor Foundation.

By the late 1950s, Kluge's paintings caught the eye of the world-renowned art dealer Wally Findlay, Jr., who immediately presented Kluge's Parisian paintings to the American market and consolidated his stature in Europe. He launched his career in the 1960s with exhibitions in all Findlay Galleries locations, including Paris, New York, Palm Beach, Chicago, and Beverly Hills. Today, Kluge's estate is exclusively represented by Findlay Galleries after more than 60 years of representation, and his works are a highlight of the gallery's roster of highly valued artists. In 1990, after many critically successful years, French president François Mitterrand awarded Kluge the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Throughout the nineties and until his passing in 2003, Kluge continued to paint Paris's poetic landscapes and exhibit his renowned and masterfully detailed paintings at the Findlay Galleries worldwide.

Each Kluge painting is a love letter to Paris and its inhabitants. In the iconic streets, buildings, and public landmarks of Paris, Kluge found his paintings' true protagonists. It was from those elements that he both understood and captured the spirit of the city. He painted Paris and its environs as a cherished memory, as an iconic moment in time, as a treasure for everyone to enjoy and have a part of.

Le boulevard Saint Martin
oil on canvas
28 11/16 x 36 3/16 in.
FG© 135757





Boulevard Saint Germain
oil on canvas
29 x 29 in.
FG© 138647



Café de la Paix et l'Opera
oil on canvas
32 x 32 in.
FG© 135520



L'heure de l'aperitif, 1993
oil on canvas
36 1/4 x 28 3/4 in.
FG© 140138



Le Café du Coin, 1975
oil on canvas
28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in.
FG© 139750



Le Carrefour Soufflot, 1983 | oil on canvas | 28 11/16 x 36 3/16 in. | FG© 135706



Place des Ternes | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in. | FG© 140105



Sur les boulevards, 1985 | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in. | FG© 139903



Marche aux fleurs de la Madeleine, 1974

oil on canvas

36 1/4 x 28 3/4 in.

FG© 140521

Place du Trocadero, 1979

oil on canvas

32 x 32 in.

FG© 140061

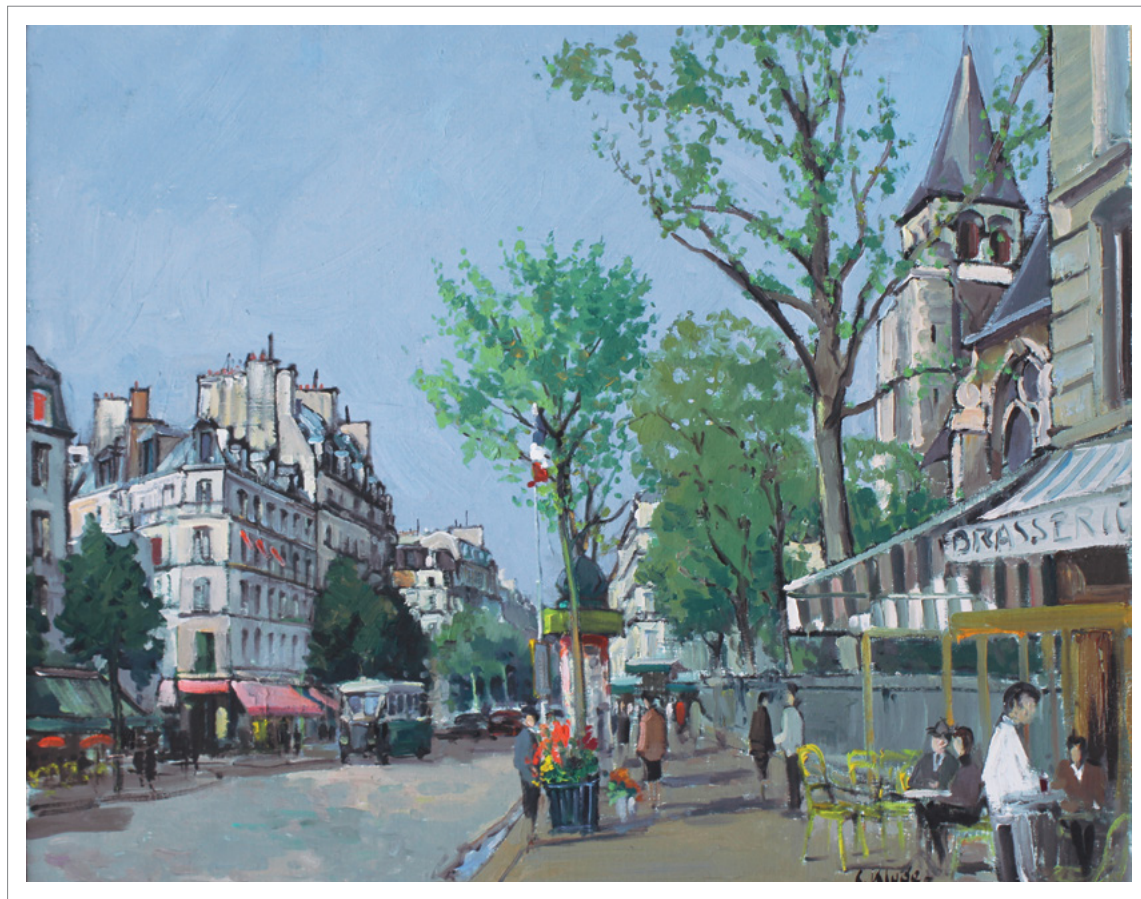


Kluge's relationship with buildings and structures began long before his painting career. He was a student of architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and worked as an architect for several years before dedicating himself to painting full-time. His intimate understanding of a Parisian building's anatomy gave him the insight to depict them with a unique combination of fidelity and charm. Kluge imbued his buildings with as much life as any other artist might give to figures. To him, they are ultimately living structures, aging with the years and changing with the light of day. Kluge knew that each detail told a piece of the story.

Le kiosque de La Madeleine, 1980

oil on canvas
32 x 45 3/4 in.
FG© 140466

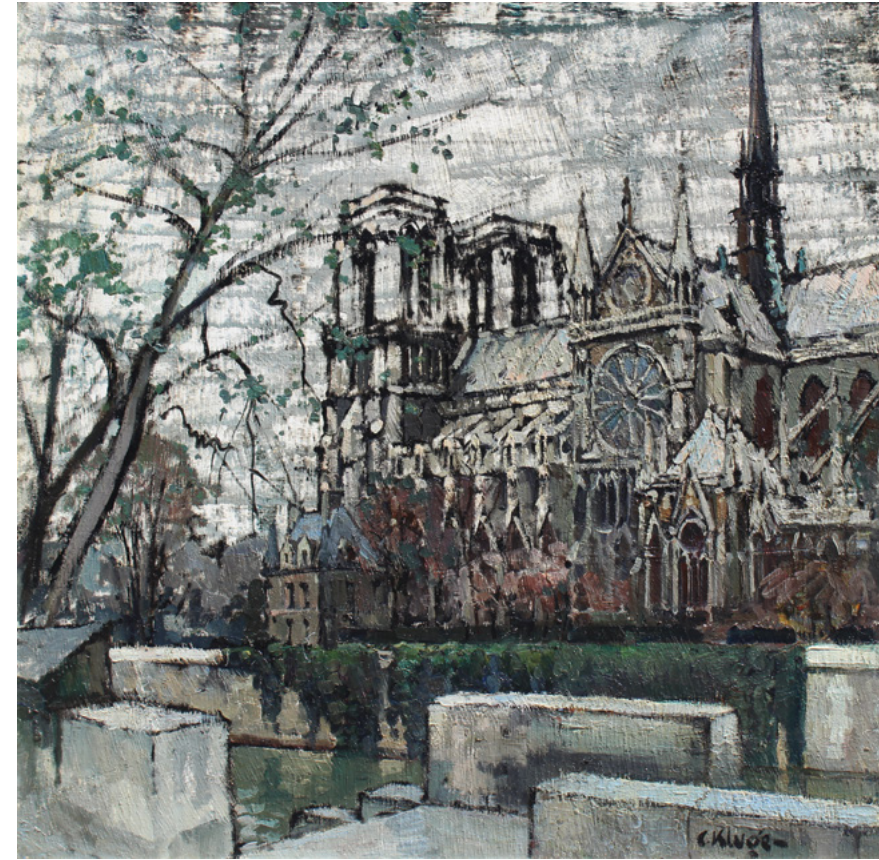




Boulevard Saint Germain, 1968 | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in. | FG© 140226



La Place du Costa Rica, 1974 | oil on canvas | 29 x 29 in. | FG© 139521



Notre Dame, 1963 | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 28 3/4 in. | FG© 138465

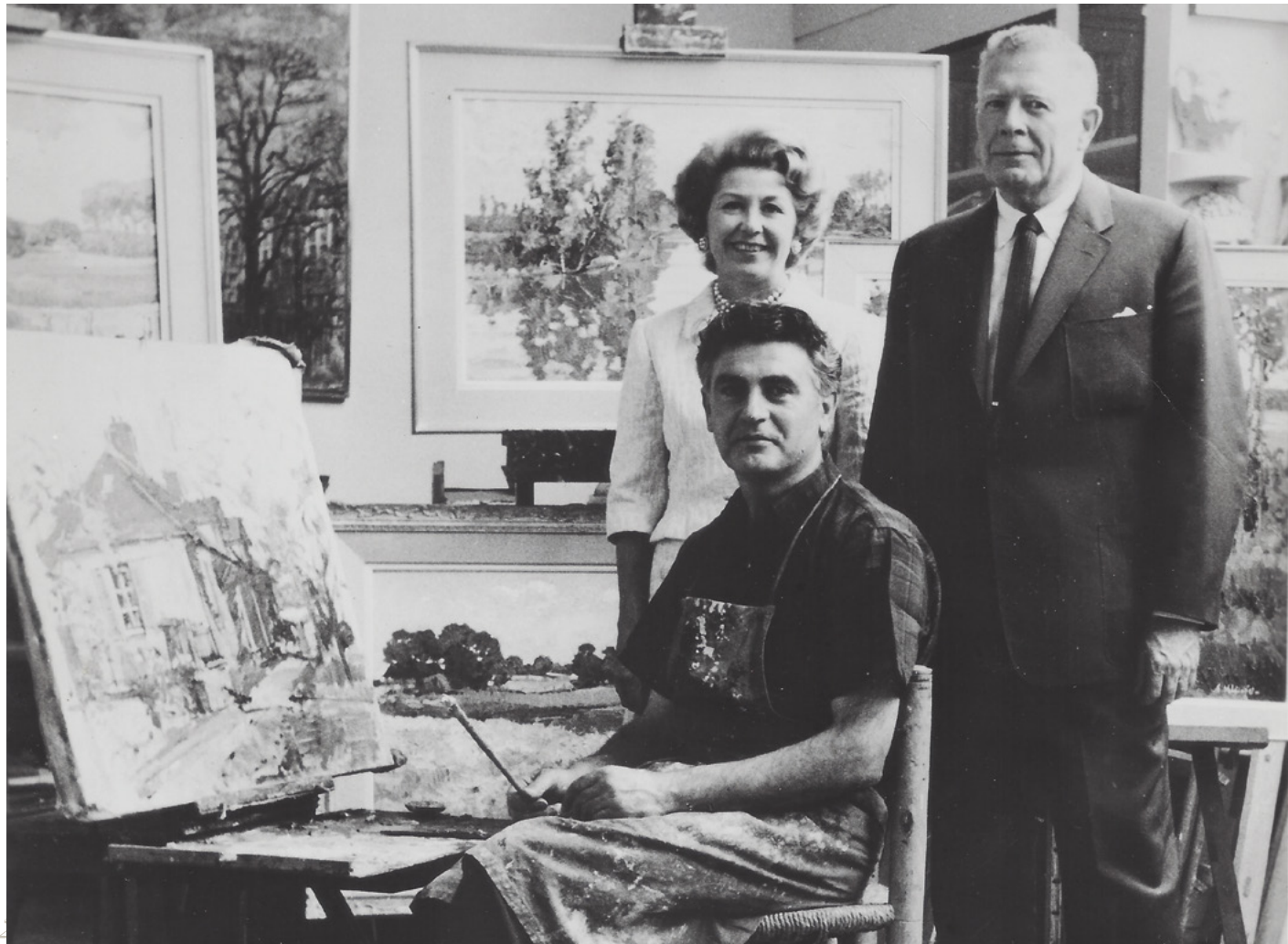


Avenue Matignon, Paris | oil on canvas | 24 1/4 x 36 in. | FG© 140218

Kluge once said, "When I was 18, my professor told me that the only way to paint a good portrait of a pretty woman is to, previously, fall in love with her. Be that as it may, years have gone by, and fate led me to paint Paris. Whenever it happens, I notice that the moment I start painting, preferably the banks of the Seine with antique structures reflected in its slowly gliding flow, I find myself whistling or humming some happy tune, while all the daily stress would vanish from my subconscious mind leaving me guessing at such a fortunate change of my mood. Could it be that I am permanently in love with Paris? My professor, back in China, never told me about anything like that."

Le Coq, 1975
oil on canvas
28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in.
FG© 140557





Constantin Kluge wins the coveted Medaille d'Or at the 1962 Salon.

(Left) Mrs. A. Karoff and Mr. W.C. Findlay in Kluge's studio, 1964.

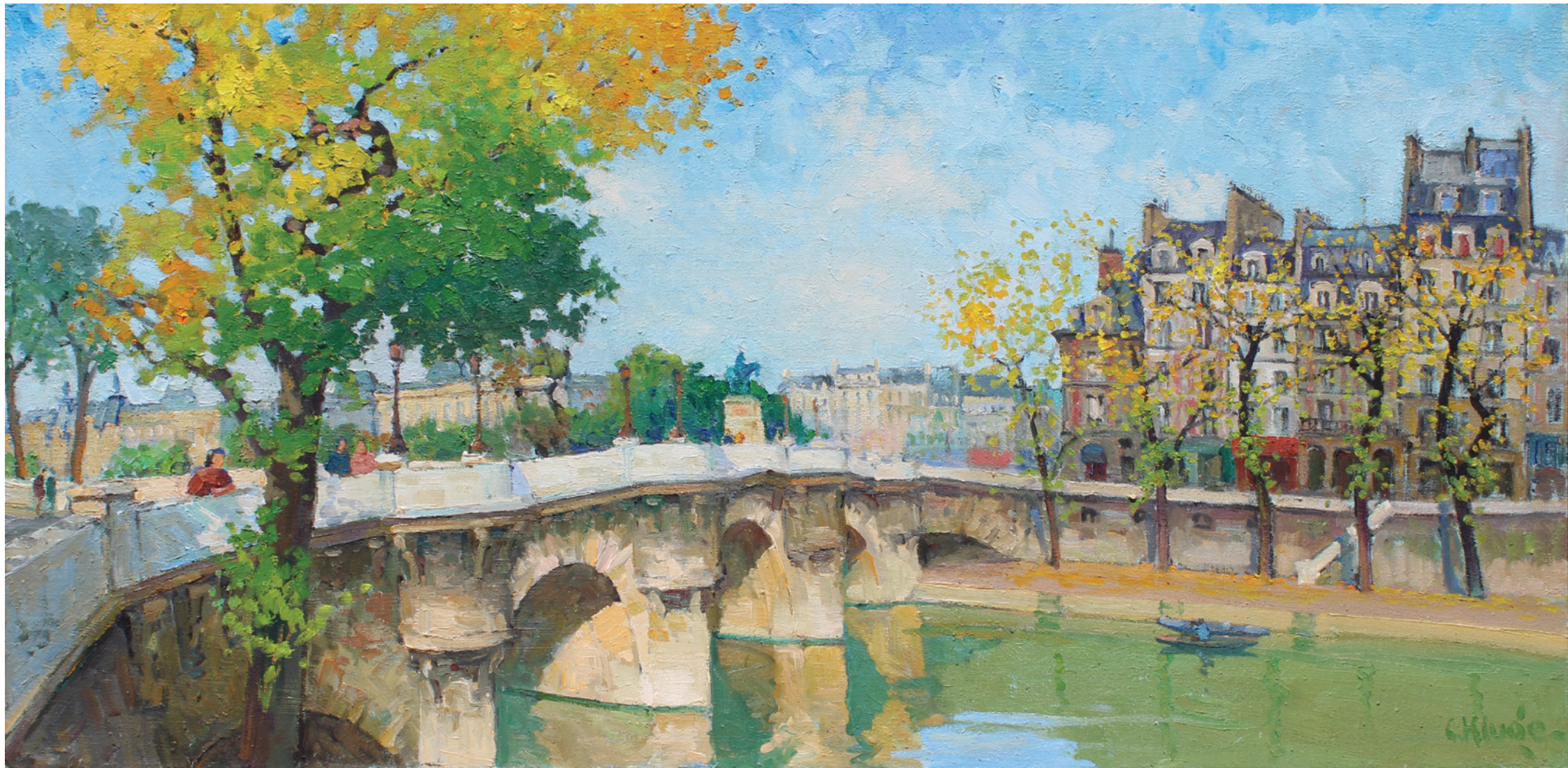
Le Pont Neuf, 1992

oil on canvas

31 1/2 x 63 in.

FG© 139411

(cover image)







In Kluge's work, each element is given balance and space to tell its own part of the story. The sky is given ample room to provide an uninterrupted display of summer clouds or winter hues. Every reflection of light, from a tree leaf to a boutique facade, is given as much voice as architectural details in a beloved Parisian bridge. There is balance and harmony in each composition supported by a beautifully crafted foundation made of precise proportions, perspective, and form.

Le Pont Marie, 1969
oil on canvas
35 x 51 1/8 in.
FG© 139913







Kluge's works carry enough honesty to evoke nostalgia, and equally enough beauty to evoke fantasy. He achieves excellent nuance without becoming overly formal. Paris's magic is evident in his oeuvre; the scenes could be found in an architectural review book or one's family album; they are the vistas everyone wants to savor and remember. Art historian, Raymond Charment referred to Kluge's paintings as, "A calm mirror, a beautiful clear lake, where the appearances of the world are reflected in their permanent and always comprehensible form." It is precisely Kluge's ability to tell the real story while so delicately emphasizing its beauty that makes his work timeless.

Le Chateau de Chantilly, 1966
oil on canvas
28 1/4 x 39 3/8 in.
FG© 134137





Le chateau de Pont l'Eveque, 1974 | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 23 5/8 in. | FG© 133871



Le chateau de La Victoire, 1976 | oil on canvas | 31.5 x 31.5 in. | FG© 140428

Le jardin de Luxembourg, 1965

oil on canvas

23 5/8 x 36 1/4 in.

FG© 138667



Findlay Galleries began representing the works of Constantin Kluge in 1961 and exhibited his works in Chicago, Palm Beach, New York, Paris, Beverly Hills, Tokyo, East Hampton, London, Monte Carlo and Barcelona. Today, Findlay Galleries represents the artist's entire estate internationally.

Please contact our galleries for inquiries, acquisitions and consignments.



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