

Alexej Jawlensky

Alexej Georgewitsch von Jawlensky (March 13, 1864 – March 15, 1941) was a Russian expressionist painter active in Germany. He was a member of the Blue Rider group (Der Blaue Reiter). He was also a member of the Blue Four.

He was born in Torzhok, a town in the department of Tver, Russia, as the fifth child of Georgi von Jawlensky and his wife Alexandra (née Medwedewa). His family was aristocratic.

At the age of ten he moved with his family to Moscow. After a few years of military training, he became interested in painting, visiting the Moscow World Exposition c. 1880.

In 1896 he moved to Munich where he met Wassily Kandinsky, and Marianne von Werefkin, other Russian artists. His work in this period was lush and richly coloured, but later moved towards abstraction with a simplified and formulaic style in a search to find the spiritual.

Jawlensky died in Wiesbaden, Germany on March 15, 1941.

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