

RAINER MARIA RILKE

1875-1926



Early and Formative Years

- Born in Prague, Bohemian capital in Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Military academy, trade school, brief university study in Prague.
- 1896 to Munich and artistic circles
- Meets Lou Andreas Salomé, lover and guide

Travels, Marriage, Fatherhood

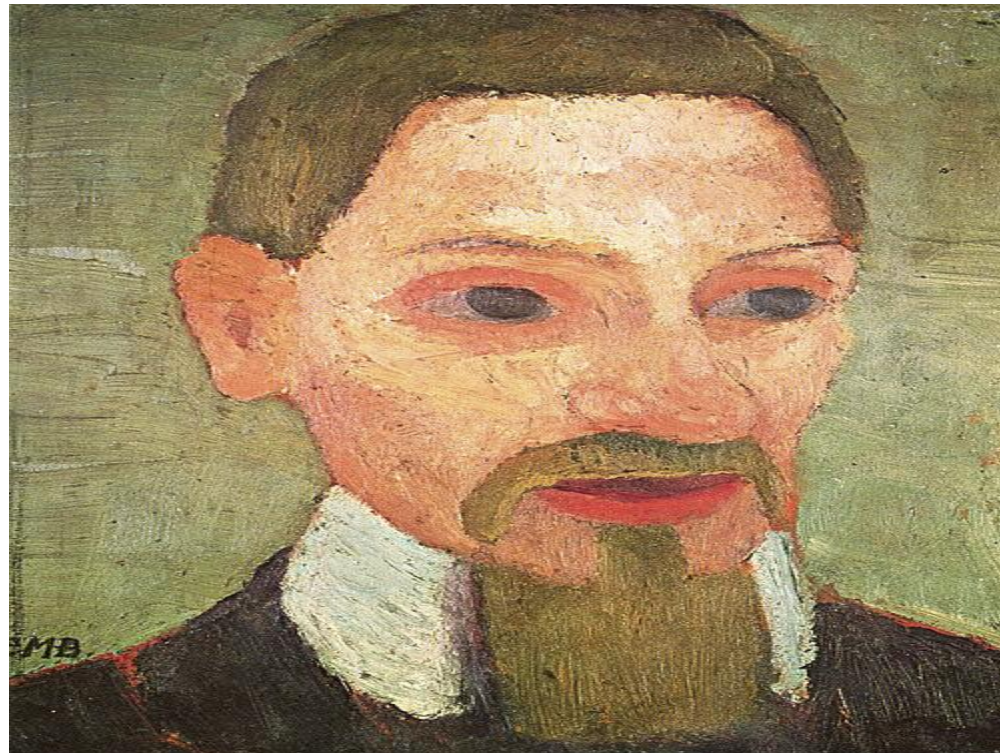
- 1898- Italy
- 1899- To Russia with Lou and her husband, Friedrich Carl Andreas
- Meets Tolstoy, Leo Pasternak, peasant poet Drozhnin Russia influenced his writing
- At Worpswede artists colony (in Germany) meets sculptor Clara Westhoff. Ruth born 1901 also Paula Modersohn-Becker

Paris to Duino 1902-1912

- Influenced by Modernism
- Only novel written *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*
- Meets Cezanne and Rodin, serves as latter's secretary
- *Book of Images* (1902)
- *Thing-Poems* (*Dinggedichte*)
- *New Poems Parts I and II* (1907/08)
- *Requiems* (1909)
- Time in Spain and Bohemia, then to Duino

Portrait by Paula Modersohn-Becker 1906

German Expressionism: vivid colors, angular lines, artist's perception more than accurate depiction



WORLD WAR I

- In Germany August 1914
- Unable to return to Paris
- Mainly in Munich- affair with painter Lou Albert-Lasard
- Drafted early 1916, placed in War Records Office, discharged June 1916
- Military experience brought back old memories and stifled his poetic voice

Post-War and Death

- Mourning the end of the world he knew, moves to Muzot, Switzerland in 1919
- Relationship with painter Baladine Klossowska
- Completes *Duino Elegies* and writes *Sonnets to Orpheus* in February 1922 (“savage creative storm”)
- Writes poems in French, collaborates with Erika Mitterer
- Dies of leukemia 1926