

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**THE EFFECT OF MUSIC ON  
PAINTING J.S. BACH'S FUGUE  
FORM IN PAUL KLEE AND MEHMET  
MAHIR'S PAINTING**

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## ABSTRACT

Throughout history, as in other branches of science and art, a relationship has been tried to be established between music and painting. From the past to the present, many branches of science and art have formed an interdisciplinary focus, although they are not related to each other. This interaction is sometimes due to the interests and abilities of the artists, sometimes because they are synesthetic, and sometimes because they are in search of completely different things. In this study, the effect of music in painting was emphasized, the painters who painted with the influence of music from the Ancient Greek Times to the present day were discussed, and their paintings and music relations were examined. J.S. Bach's life and the definitions and shape structure of fugue and prelude forms are given, considering that it is important for music studies. Later, the life and the pictures that Paul Klee painted using the fugue structure were examined one by one in terms of musical and pictorial aspects. Before examining the paintings of Mehmet Mahir, a Turkish painter, information was given about the studies on this subject in Turkey. Afterward, Mehmet Mahir's life and his paintings, which he portrayed with Bach's fugue form, were examined. This research is a descriptive and research-based qualitative study aiming to reveal the existing situation based on a literature review. It is based on document analysis, which is one of the qualitative data collection methods from an interdisciplinary perspective. While the study was being carried out, the paintings of painters, which contain music in different ways from history to the present, were examined one by one. In addition, the study is also important in terms of explaining the painting of music from the past to the present, mentioning the works in both fields with examples and evaluating the paintings of two important painters, Paul Klee and Mehmet Mahir (painters who lived in different times from two different countries). While a total of 20 paintings by the two artists are evaluated, there are many paintings in the study that have been examined in terms of the picture of music.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

With the increasing interest in music in the 19th century, the realism awareness was awakened and thus a subjective perspective was formed in the works created. While reality is limited to what is visible, this consciousness has changed and man has seen himself as a part of nature. İpşirođlu stated that the art of painting, which is an art that includes descriptive features, is not only the visible but also the expression of a reality beyond the visible. She claims that the art of music, which reflects nature, tries to explain not only natural phenomena, but also the emotions that all these phenomena arouse, and parallel to this, where words are not enough, resonances also take place. The perspectives of the artists have changed and borders have been tried to be crossed in both forms of art. The changing point of view has led to the emergence of the awareness of the art of painting that reality is not only visible objects, and instrumental music, which is not limited to words, has gained importance in the art of music. With the prominence of instrumental music, a wide range of freedom is given to the composer (İpşirođlu, 2006)

According to İpşirođlu; The listener either got away from the music he listened to and went to very subjective interpretations created by his imagination or he got caught up in the emotions that the music evoked. In the light of these developments, the progress of the two art forms in parallel with each other with the same thoughts caused the artists to be influenced by each other. As a result of this influence, the process of influencing between different disciplines has begun to be explained with intertextual methods (İpşirođlu, 2006).

My research will be at the junction of two areas: music and painting. In my work, I will investigate the effect of music on painting and also examine and evaluate the paintings of Paul Klee and Mehmet Mahir, who depict the Bach fugue form, from a musical perspective.