

*We vain myopics
take on great topics
Death and diseases
discussed over cheeses
The nature of truth
mixed with gin and vermouth
The world's a mess
still we must confess
That frankly we couldn't care less...*

The Smart Set

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While the kabarett focused on public exhibition, the café provided a venue for private rendez-vous, illicit activities, and heated debate. As in Paris, the cafes of Berlin were the vibrant hub of the city's artistic life. Students, industrialists, politicians, and entertainers gathered at landmarks like the Romanische Café and the Monopol to drink, eat and argue philosophy, art and politics.

Prostitutes, transvestites, and bankers mixed and bantered amidst cocktails, curling cigar smoke, and coquettish laughter.

