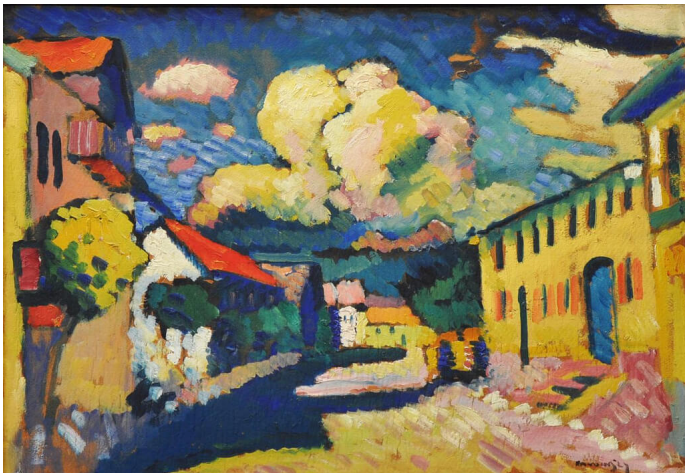


About Abstract Art

What is abstract art? Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using lines, shapes, forms, colors, and textures.

Strictly speaking, the word abstract means to separate or withdraw something from something else. Before a camera was invented, artists were hired to paint a person's portrait. That was the only way to capture a person's likeness. With the advent of photography, artists were liberated from needing to paint to document reality. Artists explored with new ways to paint and interpret the world.

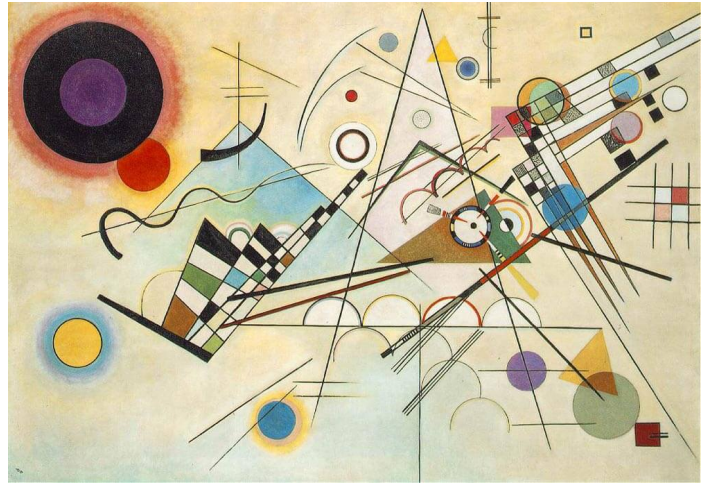
How did abstraction start? The first artist to create abstract art as we know it will always remain a mystery but Wassily Kandinsky is often credited by historians as an early pioneer of abstract art.



Murnau, Dorfstrasse (A Village Street) by Wassily Kandinsky

Who is Kandinsky? Wassily Kandinsky was born in 1886 in Moscow, Russia. He was on the path to be a lawyer when he saw an impressionist art show which inspired him to abandon law for painting. His early work is full of scenes and vistas from Russia and Germany. Gradually references to things became less important than the relationships of the painting elements.

Kandinsky also wrote about art as well, making him an art theorist. Kandinsky saw artists as pioneers, forging new ways to creating.



Composition 8 by Wassily Kandinsky

How is Kandinsky's work like music? As musical composers respond to the world using audio, Kandinsky felt artists could respond to thoughts, feelings, and emotions in a visual response to the world. Both musicians and artists respond through "compositions." Kandinsky continues to relate music to art.

"Our hearing of colors is so precise ... Color is a means of exerting a direct influence upon the soul. Color is the keyboard. The eye is the hammer. The soul is the piano with its many strings. The artist is the hand that purposely sets the soul vibrating by means of this or that key. Thus it is clear that the harmony of colors can only be based upon the principle of purposefully touching the human soul."

Wassily Kandinsky

About Abstract Art

Name _____



Now it's your turn to try your hand at abstraction using the above space.. Follow the steps below to create a composition that is unique to you.

1. Use a ruler or straight edge and draw an angled line about 2 inches in length.
2. Use the ruler again to create another angled line that touches and extends from one side.
3. Find something to trace (like a quarter) to add a circle.
4. Draw two parallel lines.
6. Draw a large triangle.
7. Draw a rectangle that overlaps with the triangle.
8. Draw an arch that intersects some of the previous marks. Then give it a heavier weight.
9. Add a ticktacktoe box.
10. Add a shape that goes off a side.
11. Add a half circle.
12. Take a black sharpie or color pencil and go over your pencil marks carefully and neatly.
13. Take a color pencil and create a gradient somewhere in the work. Shade carefully!
14. Fill in two squares of the ticktacktoe box with different colors.
15. Color your triangle a light color. Color your square a darker color, allowing the colors to blend where they overlap.
16. Take it from here , adding what you feel the composition needs!