



ABSTRACT ART

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

-Abstract art is a form of art that does not have a recognisable subject. It does not show images from our everyday world.

-Abstract art has form, so it has colours, lines and shapes. However, these are not meant to represent objects or living things.

-It is often used to show feelings, thoughts and emotions, and so is sometimes known as abstract expressionism. Abstract artists are interested in how colours and shapes can show emotions.

-Perhaps the most famous abstract artist is the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944). He is most famous for works such as *On White II*, *Composition VII* and *Farbstudie Quadrate*.



-Wassily Kandinsky felt that he could express feelings and music through art. He thought certain colors placed together could harmonise like chords on a piano.



Significant Artists: to guide and influence creative ideas.

'Farbstudie Quadrate'
Wassily Kandinsky
(1913)



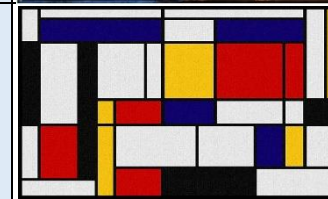
-This is arguably Kandinsky's most well-known work. The name of the painting means 'Squares with Concentric Circles.'
-This drawing is a study of how different colour combinations are viewed by the observer. Kandinsky believed that colours could combine to create sounds and music.

'Ankuran'
Sayed Raza
(1987)



-Sayed Raza was an Indian painter who lived and worked in France for much of his life, while maintaining strong ties with India. His paintings often attempted to represent 'Bundu' meaning the source of energy. As a result, he uses more earthy tones, for example greens, browns, oranges and yellows.

'Tableau I'
Piet Mondrian
(1921)



-Piet Mondrian is a Dutch artist best-known for his straight-line paintings. He often used primary colours, black, and white arranged into squares and rectangles. He believed that these base colours and shapes captured the essence of nature and the universe.

Key Vocabulary

Abstract

Shape

Colour

Tones

Lines

Forms

Expressionist

Semi abstract

Chromatic

Represent

Block colours

Emotion

Geometric

Subject

Styles and Techniques

Subject Matter

-Abstract art is a type of modern art which does not aim to represent images of our everyday world.
-Abstract art has colours, shapes and lines, but these are not intended to show objects or living things.
-Abstract art encourages imagination and thinking 'outside of the box.'
-Kandinsky was one of the first to create purely abstract art. Although the paintings may look random, these paintings used colours to express emotions.



Colours

-Different artists believe that certain colours can represent ideas and emotions. Kandinsky believed that red would make someone feel alive and energetic, while blue would make someone feel sad. He believed that yellow was the colour representing warmth, whilst blue was the cold. Whilst she share some ideas about how we see colours, colours can have different meanings to different artists.



Lines and Shapes

-Unlike traditional art, in abstract art the artist does not want to draw the viewer's eye to a particular subject. Abstract art often has lines and figures everywhere, so the eye doesn't focus on one particular point in the piece (full picture rather than focal point). Abstract art often uses geometric shapes (e.g. triangles, squares, circles, etc.) Circles often mean unity and infinity. Squares often represent stability, whilst triangles can be seen as instability.



Creative Ideas and Examples

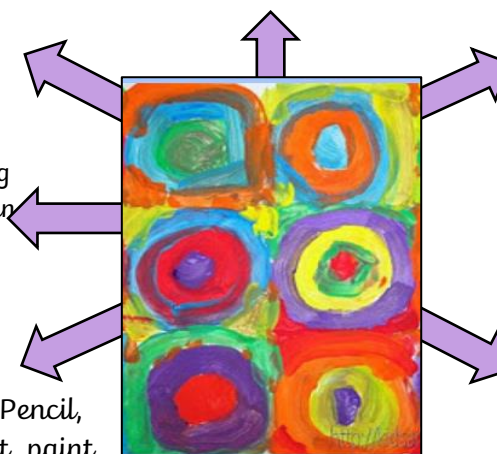
Step 2: Split your A3 page into six equal squares (creating a 3x2 grid).

Step 3: In each square, draw in pencil an outer circle (the same size in each square), then middle and inner circles.

Step 4: Paint your circles! Try to avoid using the same colour twice in any square. Paint from the outside in. Try carefully to stay inside the lines - this will stop you from smudging colours!

Step 1: Turn on your music! Abstract painting is about hearing music in colours and seeing colours in music!

Things you'll need: Pencil, drawing paper, paint, paint brushes, paper towels, jar with water.



A replica painting.

Step 5: Leave your painting to dry. After it has dried, add a second coat to any areas in which you have gone over the lines!

Abstract Art Timeline

Early 1900s

Artists begin to experiment with new ways of expressing themselves, using abstract shapes and forms.

1910s

Artists like Kandinsky create some of the first truly abstract paintings.

1920s to 1930s

Artists like Jackson Pollock create large abstract expressionist pieces that are meant to stir emotions.

1940s to 1950s

Kandinsky makes the argument that creativity lives 'outside of the conscious mind.'

1960s to 1970s

The Pop Art movement sees artists use abstraction using bright, bold colours.

1980s to 1990s

Sayed Raza produces abstract art that conjures thoughts and emotions linked to his native India.

Modern Day

Many contemporary artists continue to use abstract ideas within their work.