



"Abstraction allows man to see with his mind what he

cannot see physically with his eyes."—Arshile Gorky





Abstract art has been around for well over 100 years. Some might even assert that abstraction started with the cave paintings of thousands of years ago.

The definition. Abstraction literally means the distancing of an idea from objective referents.

That means, in the visual arts, pulling a depiction away from any literal, representational

reference points. You can also call abstract art nonrepresentational art.



VS



The movement Modern abstract art was born early in the 20th century. In the western world it was completely radical for its day. Artists began to create simplified objections with little or no reference to the "real" world.

The father. 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 he created paintings of floating, norepresentational forms as early as 1912. His work brought abstraction to America during the Armory Show in 1913.

Background

Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky (1966 -1944) was a Russian painter and art theorist. Kandinsky is generally credited as the pioneer of abstract art.

Born in Moscow, Kandinsky spent his childhood in Odessa, where he graduated at Grekov Odessa Art school. He enrolled at the University of Moscow, studying law and economics.



Assignments

1: Observation

2: Art and Music

3: Art and Math



4: Creating an artwork inspired by Kandinsky

Assignment 1:

OBSERVATION



Observation of Art and the World

We observe physically with our bodies:

What we SEE

What we SMELL

What we TASTE

What we FEEL

What we HEAR

And most of the time these senses overlap with each other

Observation of Art and the World

We also observe what we FEEL emotionally:

What does this artwork make you feel?

Does this artwork make you remember a certain personal memory?

Does this artwork take you to a certain place in time?

Can you think about what else this artwork does to/for you?

What we THINK:

How does this artwork inform the viewer? What have you learned from the artwork?

Observation of Art and the World

Have you ever smelled something that took you back to a specific memory or made you think/see of a specific color?

Have you tasted something that reminded you of a memory or took you to a specific place, imagined place, or animal?

When you see a certain object/place do are you reminded of a food?

Do you see specific colors with music?

What other mixing of senses do you experience?

Have you seen a painting that made you cry?

Observation

I see (objective)	I think/feel	I wonder

What do you see, think/feel and wonder?



The Bird



What do you see, think/feel and wonder?



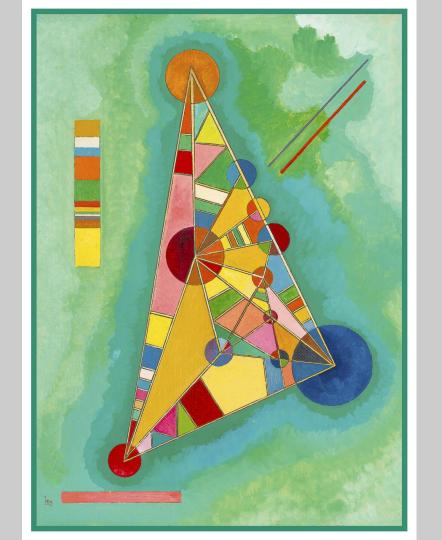
Composition 7



What do you see, think/feel and wonder?



Happy Triangles



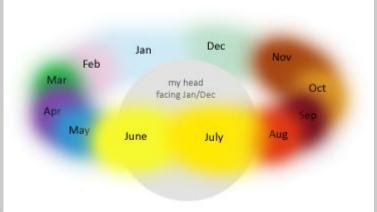
What do you see, think/feel and wonder?



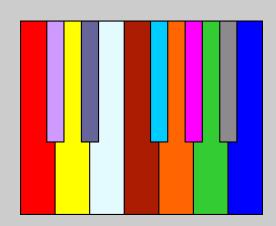
Circles in Circles



#2 Kandinsky and Music



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Assignment #2: Creating Art from Music

Kandinsky listened to music by Arnold Schönberg and created his artwork.

You will also listen to Schönberg and create a series of artworks inspired by his unusual music.

Things to think about when creating your artwork:

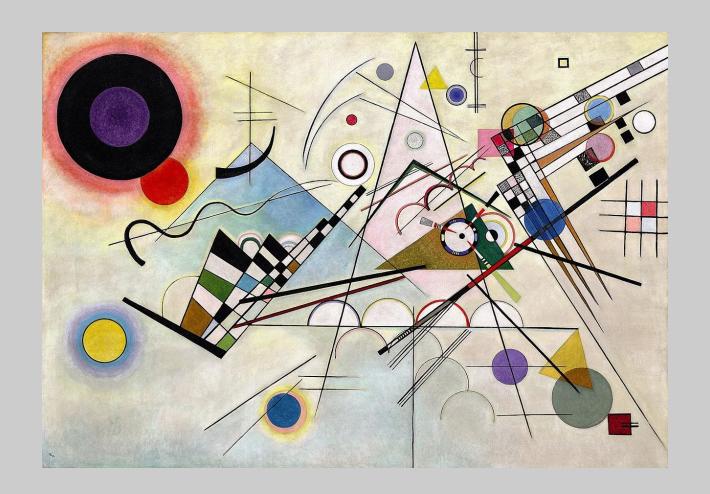
- What colors do you see associated with this music? Use the materials provided.
- What shapes and lines do you see?
- What does this music look like?
- There is no right or wrong, just let yourself be in the moment, respond and create.



Assignment #3- Kandinsky and Math

In your Kandinsky packet on the sheets showing *Composition 8* (1923) together we will:

- Identify and label all geometric shapes. For example: equilateral triangle, scalene triangle, right angle triangle, polygon, parallelogram, semicircle, quadrilateral, square, circle, etc.
- Identify and label different lines. For example: arc, point, parallel lines, intersecting lines, perpendicular lines
- Measure all angles and label using your protractor.
- Fill out a I see, I think, I wonder chart for this painting
- You will choose one painting from the packet and repeat these steps on your own



Assignment #4: Create your own Kandinsky inspired artwork

You will:

- Listen to your favorite song multiple times while you paint.
- Using shape, color, and line, create a painting that represents your song. Try not to use words or overt images. You are trying to invoke feelings and ideas.
- Also using your protractor, compass and ruler create mathematical elements without the use of numbers or letters.
- Decide what materials you would like to use. You can create a sculpture, painting, pastel, detailed drawing, or mixed media for your final project.

