



WASSILY KANDINSKY

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Biography

- Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian painter.
- He is considered to be one of the leading figures in creating abstract art (art that is not intended to show images of our everyday world).
- Kandinsky was a keen experimenter, and his style and techniques changed throughout his life.
- He is most famous for works such as *On White II*, *Composition VII* and *Farbstudie Quadrate*.
- Kandinsky was fascinated by colour, and was also interested in geometry. Vibrant colours and geometrical shapes can therefore be seen throughout his work.
- He only started painting studies aged around 30.



-Kandinsky lived between 1866 and 1944. He was born in Moscow, Russia. However, he later moved to France and became a French citizen.

Significant Works

**On White II
(1923)**



- In *On White II*, Kandinsky explores the features of life and death.
- Life is shown as white, alongside several colours, showing the vibrancy and possibilities of life. Death is presented as black, cutting through the white, to show how death can destroy the joy of life.

**Composition VII
(1913)**



- *Composition VII* is often considered to be the most important abstract painting of all time.
- It is a huge painting, measuring 200 x 300cm. Kandinsky worked on 30 preliminary sketches for this painting.
- The whole piece is purely abstract – there are no representational meanings. Kandinsky considered it his greatest composition.

**Farbstudie Quadrate
(1913)**



- 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.

Key Vocabulary

Kandinsky

Russia

Moscow

Colour

Music

Abstract

Composition

Constructivism

Expressionism

On White II

Composition VII

Farbstudie Quadrate

Concentric Circles

Styles and Techniques

Abstract Art

- 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.



Constructivism

- Constructivism began around 1915, and was a specific type of abstract art. Some of Kandinsky's work could be described as constructivist.
- Constructivist artists believed that art should reflect the modern industrial world.
- The main idea of constructivism is that art should be carefully 'constructed' rather than just painted.



Expressionism

- Expressionism was another art movement that began in the early 1900s. Some of Kandinsky's work (especially his later work) could be described as expressionist.
- Expressionist art tries to show emotions and feelings rather than the realities of the physical world.
- To show emotions, the subjects are often distorted or exaggerated, and colours are vivid and shocking.



How do I create art like Kandinsky?

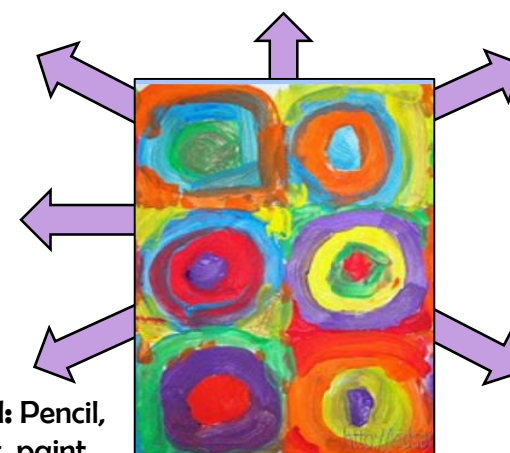
Step 2: Split your A3 page into six equal squares (creating a 3x2 grid).

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, A3 drawing paper, paint, paint brushes, paper towels, jar with water.



A child's concentric circle 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!

Kandinsky Timeline

16 th December 1866	1886	1893-1896	1903-1908	1909	1911	1913	1923	1923-1933	1934-1944	1891	13 th December 1944
Kandinsky is born in Moscow, Russia.	He studies law at Moscow University.	Associate professor at the law faculty. Later quit to paint full time.	He travelled Europe with his acquaintance Gabriela.	Co-forms 'The New Group of Artists.'	Makes the argument that creativity lives 'outside of the conscious mind.'	Creates <i>Composition VII</i> .	Creates <i>On White II</i> .	Takes an interest in geometric forms in his artwork.	Lives in Paris, France.	Creates <i>Sky Blue</i> .	Kandinsky dies in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.