

Year 5 - Summer

Art Knowledge Organiser

Unit of work:

Abstract Art – Wassily Kandinsky

Links to other year groups: Y1 – Van Gogh Y2 – Pablo Picasso & Paul Klee

Kandinsky Timeline

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

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.

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)		- <i>Composition VII</i> 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.

Sequence of Lessons	
	Brief summary of lesson content
Lesson 1	To learn about the life and work of Kandinsky.
Lesson 2	To develop ideas for an abstract work of art inspired by Kandinsky.
Lesson 3	To investigate how vector drawing can be used to create abstract art and how vector drawings differ from paper drawings.
Lesson 4	To create abstract art in the style of Kandinsky though the use of geometric shapes in vector drawings.
Lesson 5	To create an abstract work of art inspired by Kandinsky (part one drawing.)
Lesson 6	To create an abstract work of art inspired by Kandinsky (part two painting.)

