

Exploring the Art of Wassily Kandinsky

Learning objective: To identify key concepts and techniques used by Wassily Kandinsky, such as abstract art, colour theory, and the connection between music and painting.

Read each flashcard to learn more about the artist Wassily Kandinsky. Zara the zebra recommends using these cards to test your knowledge of how shapes and colours create emotion in art.

Who was Wassily Kandinsky?

He was a famous Russian artist who is often considered a pioneer of abstract art.

What is abstract art?

Art that does not try to look exactly like real-life objects, but instead uses shapes, lines, and colours to express feelings.

What is 'Synaesthesia' in relation to Kandinsky?

It is a condition where senses overlap; Kandinsky claimed he could 'hear' colours and 'see' music while he painted.

What are geometric shapes?

Precise shapes like circles, triangles, and squares that Kandinsky often used in his compositions.

How did Kandinsky feel about colour?

He believed that different colours could represent different emotions and sounds, like yellow feeling bright and sharp like a trumpet.

What is a 'composition'?

The way an artist arranges shapes, lines, and colours on a canvas to create a balanced piece of art.

What are primary colours?

Red, blue, and yellow; Kandinsky often used these to make his paintings look bold and energetic.

What did Kandinsky often use to create rhythm in his paintings?

He used repeating patterns, lines, and varying sizes of shapes to make his art feel like a musical rhythm.

True or False: Kandinsky only painted realistic portraits.

False; he focused on non-representational and abstract art.

What was the goal of Kandinsky's abstract art?

To help the viewer experience emotions and 'hear' the painting, rather than just looking at a picture of a scene.

What is a masterpiece?

A piece of art that is considered an artist's greatest or most important work.

How can you describe Kandinsky's style?

Bold, colourful, abstract, and full of musical energy.