



Wassily Kandinsky

DESIGNER'S FULL NAME: Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky

DESIGNER'S PSEUDONYM/NICKNAME: Wassily Kandinsky

GENDER: Male

YEAR BORN: 1866

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER BORN: Russia

YEAR DIED: 1944

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER DIED: France

CAUCASIAN | RUSSIAN, MONGOLIAN | NONE | SOCIALIST

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE AFFECTED EITHER THE ARTIST'S LIFE EXPERIENCE OR WORK BECAUSE IT/THEY PROVIDED A CHALLENGE AT THE TIME, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Living in Russia, Wassily felt that art was "a luxury forbidden to a Russian" and so he decided to move in order to pursue his education and art. In doing so, he was offered many teaching posts. However, even though he had plenty of experience alongside the equivalent to a doctorate, he preferred to pursue his art.

DID THIS DESIGNER DO NOTABLE WORK IN FIELDS OTHER THAN WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED GRAPHIC DESIGN TODAY? EXPLAIN.

Wassily is most noted for his abstract paintings due to his creative concepts of color on canvas.

FOR WHAT IS THIS DESIGNER MOST NOTED? EXPLAIN.

Wassily is most noted for being a leader of abstract art as of the founders of pure abstraction in painting due to his creative concepts of color on canvas.

IS THERE ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT THIS DESIGNER? EXPLAIN.

Kandinsky's controversy lies in his involvement with the cultural and political developments in Russia by contributing to museum reforms. Kandinsky devoted his time to teaching, however, his theories about art conflicted with Russian Marxist-Leninist theories. In response to this conflict, he decided to take up his invitation to the Bauhaus and return to Germany in 1921. Judging abstract art as harmful to the socialist ideal, the Soviets officially banned all forms of abstract art the following year.

EXPLAIN THIS DESIGNER'S EDUCATION/TRAINING, INCLUDING ACADEMIC, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND /OR MENTORSHIPS.

Wassily completed his secondary schooling in 1871 becoming an amateur performer of cello and piano as well as an amateur painter. He later recalled each color having a mysterious life of its own, as a first impulse at abstraction which he would become one of the first creators of in a pure form in modern painting. He began studying economics and law in 1886 at the University of Moscow, though he contemplated the city's vivid architecture and collection of icons having a continued unusual feeling for color. The university sent him on a mission to the forested north in 1889 which he returned with an undying interest in Russian folk paintings, which often had garish and non-realistic styles. He also discovered the Rembrandts in that same year and continued his visual education by traveling to Paris; pursuing his education resulting in the degree equivalent of a doctorate in 1893. He had lost much of his enthusiasm for the social sciences by this time, however, he felt that art was "a luxury forbidden to a Russian" and eventually accepted a post as the director of a Moscow printing establishment's photographic section after teaching at the university for a period of time. He had received an offer for a professorship at a university but he declined it on a "now or never mood" and moved to Germany to become a painter after seeing an exhibition of French Impressionists in 1896. He was accepted into a prestigious painting school later moving onto the Munich Academy of Arts, where he began a self-directed study of conventional themes and art forms while forming theories derived from spiritual study and the relationship between music and color. His theories led him to become the "father of abstract art." [1]

WHY IS THIS DESIGNER VIEWED AS ICONIC IN THE HISTORY OF GRAPHIC DESIGN?

Kandinsky's take on art from a musician's perspective led him to become a respected leader of the abstract art movement through his creative concepts of color on canvas which were often controversial amongst his contemporaries and critics.

IS THERE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DESIGNER?

Of Kandinsky's work he produced in Russia, very little of it survived while many of his German works are still around today. Few of his Russian works survived due to the Soviets banning all abstract artwork for they saw it as harmful to the socialist ideal.

YOUR NAME: Tyler Lee

GIVE YOUR EDUCATED OPINION OF THIS PERSON AND THE QUALITY/IMPORTANCE OF HIS/HER WORK.
EXPLAIN WHAT INFLUENCE – OR LACK OF INFLUENCE – THIS WORK HAS HAD ON YOUR OWN.

Wassily Kandinsky is an interesting character. He approached art in a unique way through the perspective of a musician. His take on art led him to become a respected leader of the abstract art movement through his creative concepts of color on canvas, which were often controversial amongst his contemporaries and critics.

Although his earlier works were more observational, his later works were solely abstract. His earlier works consisted mostly of observational paintings in contemporary style. He painted scenes such as buildings, boats on the water, landscapes, and other such sights from his homeland. These works, though more realistic, showed that Kandinsky was developing his style to become more abstract through their contemporary style. His odd color choices for his paintings of real scenes and environments support his path towards abstraction.

Kandinsky's later work often portrayed various lines and shapes of all sorts in many vibrant and striking colors. The various abstract forms and colors create a flow and rhythm, which shows us the musician's perspective he takes in while creating his paintings. This perspective adds to the abstractness by playing around with the form and flow of his art. Many of his paintings were simply just varying collages of these shapes and lines, hardly giving any evidence as to what you were looking at, which added onto the abstract nature of them.

Contemporary art is something I have not looked into that much since getting involved with art and design more thoroughly, but seeing Wassily Kandinsky's work has left an impression on me. His contemporaries, both abstract and not, are fascinating and a delight to look at. I have come to enjoy contemporary art with its captivating and beautiful colors. The limited pallet makes for a more creative look at the usage and selection of colors. I enjoy abstract art for its ability to be something that requires more than just a quick moment of looking at a piece, swiftly getting what it is about, and moving on. Abstract art makes you stop and stare for a while, making you truly take in the work and try to understand it.

Wassily Kandinsky's work has inspired me to attempt producing more abstract artwork and pick up painting again. His work comes off as messy yet planned to me, with many of the lines and shapes appearing to be made cleanly with few strokes upon the canvas. I would like to follow suit in his methods in creating abstract art with music as my guide, allowing the flow of the melodies be the guides for my brush. I feel if I were to follow in his methods, I could make a discovery through the abstract, as if to find a new path in my art career; in fact, my recent assignment for another class is requiring me to, coincidentally, create a design using a contemporary art style. With this opportunity, I will look more into the works of Wassily Kandinsky and bring about new works I would have never thought of creating before.

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