



## Piet Mondrian

DESIGNER'S FULL NAME: Pieter Cornelius Mondriaan

DESIGNER'S PSEUDONYM/NICKNAME: Piet Mondrian

GENDER: Male

YEAR BORN: 1872

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER BORN: Amersfoort, Netherland

YEAR DIED: 1944

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER DIED: New York, New York, USA

RACE | ETHNICITY | RELIGION | POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

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.

He was Dutch which had an effect on him because he was considered an exile because he came to New York during World War II. He grew up as a Calvinist. He was interested in spiritual and philosophical studies so therefore he joined a society called Theosophical Society. He used simplified elements to help him express his belief that there is a spiritual order underlying the visible world. This religion was about harmony in which Mondrian applied that through his paintings. This influenced his representational style which is straight lines and pure colors. He grew up as a Conservationist which also correlated to his religion. This means it had the same effect to his clean and pure art style. His artworks shows a clear, aesthetic, and universal communication about the world through his simplistic and organized style.

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

### Painting

LIST AT LEAST ONE OTHER WORK THAT IS NOT NAMED IN THIS TIMELINE FOR WHICH THIS DESIGNER IS WELL KNOWN. IF WORK CO-CREATED, LIST THE OTHERS INVOLVED.

“Broadway Boogie-Woogie”

EXPLAIN IF THIS FAME IS ONLY WITHIN DESIGN CIRCLES OR ANY OTHER SUBSET OF THE POPULATION.

This painting was influenced by his love of jazz music. This artwork is different compared to his other work. The squares and rectangles are smaller but still contrastively different in sizes. There are lines going in opposite directions which makes the piece looks busier than other paintings.

DOES THIS WORK EXEMPLIFY ASPECTS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS QUESTIONS?

This painting exemplifies the Destijl movement because it is an abstract painting with primary colors, straight lines, squares, and rectangles.

FOR WHAT IS THIS DESIGNER MOST NOTED? EXPLAIN.

He is most noted for his non-representational artwork, also known as Neo-Plasticism, which contained horizontal and vertical lines, primary colors as well as black and white colors.

IS THERE ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT THIS DESIGNER? EXPLAIN.

“There is nothing notably controversial about this designer.”

WHAT MATERIALS WERE MOST OFTEN USED BY THIS DESIGNER IN THE CREATION AND PRODUCTION OF WORK?

Acrylic paint, paint brushes, and canvas

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

Mondrian studied at the art academies in the Hague and in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He was influenced by Cubism after seeing Picasso's work.

DID THIS DESIGNER PROMOTE A SPECIFIC IDEOLOGY IN HIS/HER WORK? EXPLAIN.

He promotes Theosophical belief which was about harmony and unity.

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

He is iconic for helping to begin the Destijl movement and making abstract art by using straight lines, the three primary colors, and the neutrals colors of black, white, and gray.

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

He did some Impressionism, Neo-Impressionism, and Symbolism in order to find his art style.

---

YOUR NAME: Xing Grubbs

GIVE YOUR EDUCATED OPINION OF THIS DESIGNER AND HIS/HER WORK. ALSO EXPLAIN WHAT INFLUENCE, IF ANY, THIS WORK HAS HAD ON YOUR OWN. A LACK OF INFLUENCE MUST BE EXPLAINED.

I like Piet Mondrian's work it's abstraction and structured so that the busy artwork look clean. I like the various sizes of rectangles and squares, which catch the viewer's eye. I also like his ideology of harmony and purity. You can see these elements in his work. I think people are drawn to this style in today's world because there is so much chaos and this work gives the viewer a sense of peace.

His artwork has influenced how I paint. I like to mix organic and geometric shapes together such as flowers with lines or squares in the background. I have done an appropriation of his work for my painting class by using the art style but changing the primary colors to CMYK and the black lines to white lines.

His artwork has influenced art, music, fashion and architecture. His famous painting series "Compositions" have influenced pop culture from clothes designers to architecture. For example, Mondrian's painting series of compositions have influenced Peter Rozenmeijer's woolen coats from the 1980s and Nike's 2008 Dunk SB Lows. Architect Gerrit Rietveld, who built the Rietveld Schröder House in Utrecht in 1924, made the inside based on Mondrian's style. Yves Saint Laurent created the iconic Mondrian Dress based on Mondrian's "Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow."

My favorite of Mondrian's work is "Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow." The emphasis in this piece is the red square, which draws in the viewers. My eyes are pulled from the red squares to the blue to the yellow then the white. Another element that I see in Mondrian's work is the high contrasts of color and sizes. The vertical and horizontal lines provides a calmness and balance while the primary colors give serenity, passion, and a happy feeling. The different sizes of the rectangles balance each other. I like the simplicity in this artwork. I think it's interesting how Mondrian made this artwork on a square canvas because it looks cohesive with the squares.

Another art piece that I like is the "Broadway Boogie Woogie." The way the squares and rectangles with the vertical and horizontal lines are laid out in this piece give the viewers the feeling of streets in a cityscape, or people dancing on the dance floor. Some people can feel the rhythm of music in this art piece because of the repetition shown. This particular artwork reminds me of Kandinsky's artworks, except Mondrian's abstract art style is busy and organized while Kandinsky's abstract art style is more busy and *scattered*. Kandinsky uses more variety of shapes and brighter colors and his lines go diagonally, while Mondrian uses different sizes of squares and rectangles and uses primary colors with black horizontal and vertical lines. In my opinion, I like Mondrian's art style more than Kandinsky's because I prefer Mondrian's structured style.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chadwick, Stephanie. "Mondrian, Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow." Khan Academy. Accessed April 04, 2018. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/late-europe-and-americas/modernity-ap/a/mondrian-composition>.

Jaffé, Hans L.C. "Piet Mondrian." Encyclopedia Britannica. February 28, 2018. Accessed March 30, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Piet-Mondrian>.

Lafer, Sarah. "How Mondrian Has Been Influencing Pop Culture for 100 Years." How Mondrian Has Been Influencing Pop Culture for 100 Years. May 31, 2017. Accessed April 04, 2018. <http://www.sleek-mag.com/2017/05/31/mondrian-100-years/>.

Meggs, Phillip B. and Alston W. Purvis. *Meggs' History of Graphic Design, 5th Edition*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

"Piet Mondrian Biography, Art, and Analysis of Works." The Art Story, [www.theartstory.org/artist-mondrian-piet.htm](http://www.theartstory.org/artist-mondrian-piet.htm).

