

Artist Resources – Wassily Kandinsky (Russian-French, 1866-1944)

[Kandinsky at the Tate](#)

[Kandinsky at the Guggenheim](#)

[Kandinsky at the National Gallery of Art](#)

[Kandinsky at MoMA](#)



Kandinsky, c. 1913
Photograph: Unknown

Kandinsky had synesthesia, an ability to experience multiple senses at once, and could hear the colors he would paint. Read an [article](#) about this part of the artist's life and a Google Arts & Culture project on his work.

[Kandinsky: Compositions](#) was on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1995. The exhibition was the first to bring together the ten named works in the *Composition* series completed between 1910 and 1939.

The Tate modern installed [Kandinsky: The Path to Abstraction](#) in 2006. Read an article about Kandinsky's relationship to music in [The Guardian](#) in anticipation of the exhibition's opening.

In 2014, the [Centre Pompidou](#) and the [Milwaukee Art Museum](#) co-organized *Kandinsky: A Retrospective*. After on display in both museums, the exhibition traveled to the [Frist Center for the Visual Arts](#) in Nashville, Tennessee. Read a [review](#) of the Milwaukee iteration in Luxe Beat Magazine.

[Vasily Kandinsky: Around the Circle](#) was on display at the Guggenheim museum in 2021-2022. The exhibition featured the museum's extensive collection of Kandinsky's work across his extensive oeuvre. Read a [review](#) in the New Yorker. In 2023, the exhibition traveled to the [Art Gallery of New South Wales](#).

Watch a [conversation](#) between Magnus Vanebo and Jan-Ove Tuv as they discuss Kandinsky's manifesto, "On the Spiritual in Art."



Kandinsky in his studio, 1936
Photograph: Roger Viollet via Getty Images



Wassily Kandinsky (Russian, 1866-1944)

Bild mit weissen Linien (Painting with White Lines), 1913

Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2023:1.1

Wassily Kandinsky is recognized as one of the first creators of modern abstract art. Born and raised in Russia, he moved to Munich, Germany, at the age of 30, where he studied painting and became a leading figure in the Blaue Reiter (Blue Riders) group of artists who helped catalyze German Expressionism. Notably, Kandinsky experienced synesthesia, a perceptual condition that allowed him to hear the colors that he painted. For him, green evoked the mid-range of a violin, yellow was middle C on a trumpet, and color combinations were complex chords on a piano. Kandinsky's explorations of music, painting, and the spiritual were instrumental in furthering the development of abstraction in early 20th century art. **Bild mit weissen Linien (Painting with White Lines)** was completed in 1913, shortly before the artist had to return to Russia at the onset of World War I. The painting was exhibited throughout Russia as Kandinsky helped to establish the Soviet Museum of the Culture of Painting in the wake of the Russian Revolution. As the artist once said: "Painting is a thundering collision of different worlds, intended to create a new world in and from the struggle with one another, a new world which is the work of art."

On view April 26 – July 30, 2023