

## Great Artists - Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky was born 1866 in Moscow, Russia. He loved music and learned to play the piano and cello and had some art lessons as a child. He said he could hear color and see sounds.

His family wanted him to study law, so he did. When he was 30 years old, he went to an art exhibit of French Impressionist works and saw non-representational art for the first time, especially the work of Claude Monet, a painting called "Haystacks". Impressionists used light and color to show their subjects rather than painting with lots of details, and that idea was very interesting to Kandinsky.

Representational Art – means there are things from nature, people, buildings, that are easily recognizable in a painting or drawing. All art was representational until about 120 years ago. Then artist began experimenting with abstract art. Abstract art does not try to recreate things from the recognizable "real" world or nature. Abstract art can be about color, shape, movement, the way the art piece is made or the materials it is made of. It means something because of how it makes you feel and can mean lots of different things to different people.

It was so exciting to him that he decided to give up law and study art full time. He moved to Germany and studied painting. He was very interested in how different colors make us feel and he had lots of ideas about the relationship between music and color.

By 1913, Kandinsky was making some of the very first completely abstract art. (*Composition VII*, Painting with Green Center)

They did not have any reference to the natural world and they were often inspired by music.

Between 1922 and 1933, geometrical shapes, especially circles and half-circles became very important in Kandinsky's work. (On White II, The White Dot, Composition VIII, )

He is considered the father of abstract art.

ART PROJECT: <http://www.deepspacesparkle.com/2009/12/30/kinders-paint-kandinsky/>