

All About...

Piet Mondrian

November
Artist of the Month



Piet Mondrian

Piet was born on 7th March 1872, in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. He was given the name Pieter Cornelis Mondrian (spelt Mondriaan by his family).



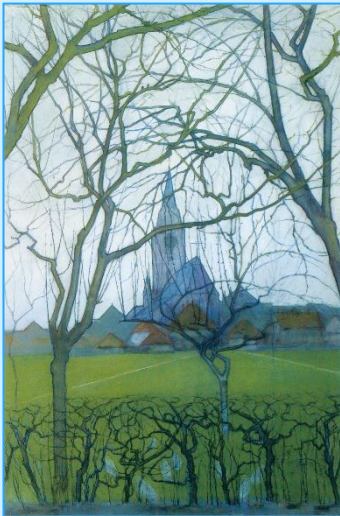
Both his father and uncle were artists, which meant that he was exposed to art from a young age. He began to study drawing at the age of 14.



His Early Work

Mondrian had ambitions to become a painter but his family wanted him to gain a qualification first. He eventually obtained a teaching qualification but instead of taking up a position in a secondary school, he took painting lessons.

Piet then moved to Amsterdam and his first paintings were exhibited in 1893. Many of Piet's earliest pieces were landscapes.



Village Church



View from the Dunes with
Beach and Piers

Trees

In 1908, he began painting trees; this is when he began developing his abstract style. Abstract art is when the picture doesn't look exactly like the object being represented.



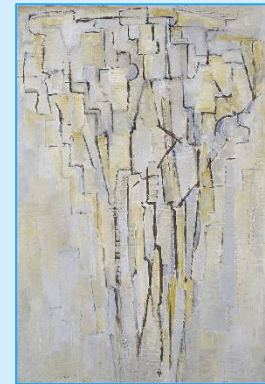
The Red Tree

"Le Jour ni l'Heure 8142 : Piet Mondriaan, plus tard Mondrian, 1872-1944, Soir ; L'Arbre rouge (Avond ; De Rode Boom), 1908-1910, La Haye, Gemeentemuseum, dimanche 21 janvier 2018, 13:37:56" by [Renaud Camus](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



The Gray Tree

"My remastered Piet Mondrian's 1911 oil painting, "Gray Tree."" by [Stephen L. Harlow](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



The Tree

Cubism

Around the end of 1911 and the beginning of 1912, Piet moved to Paris having seen the work of other cubist artists, such as Pablo Picasso. Mondrian was heavily influenced by their work.

Cubism was a new way of painting using combinations of geometric shapes. He began to experiment with this new style.



Still Life with Gingerpot 2

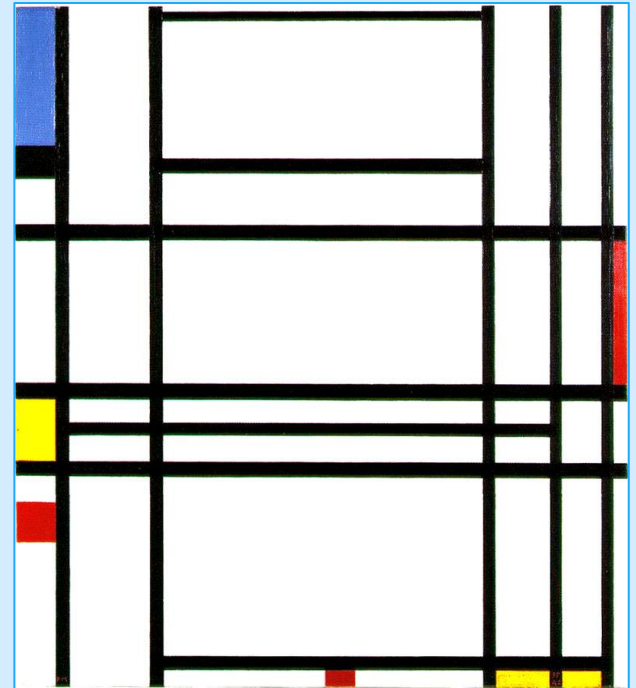
Neoplasticism

Piet developed a style of his own, called neoplasticism. His work became minimalistic. He painted using simple lines, right angles and blocks of primary colours. Mondrian wanted to express a harmony and purity in his work.

What are the three primary colours?

red, yellow and blue

Mondrian always mixed his own colours. He added black to the primary colour to create a darker shade or used white to create a lighter shade.

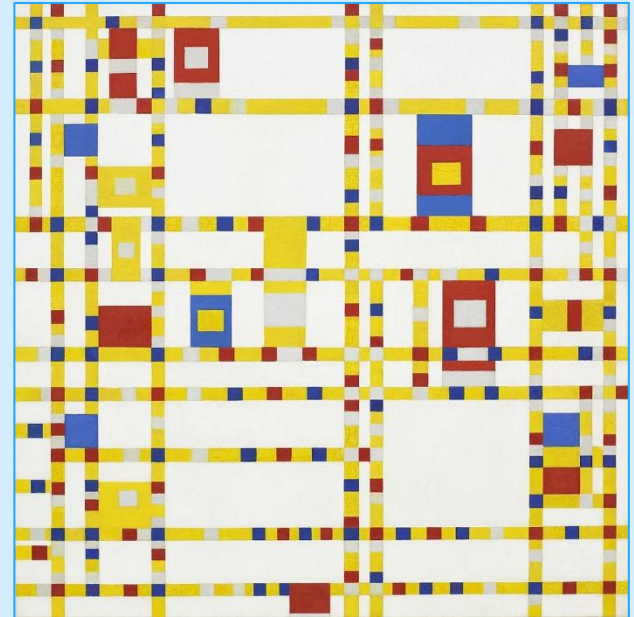


Composition No.10

His Later Work

Mondrian moved to London in 1938 and then to New York in 1940, where he created his final pieces.

Here is an image of Broadway Boogie Woogie. Piet loved to dance and this piece was named after a popular dance of the time.



Piet Mondrian

Mondrian died of pneumonia in New York, 1944 at the age of 71. Since his death, his work has continued to inspire design. Have you ever seen anything inspired by Piet's work?



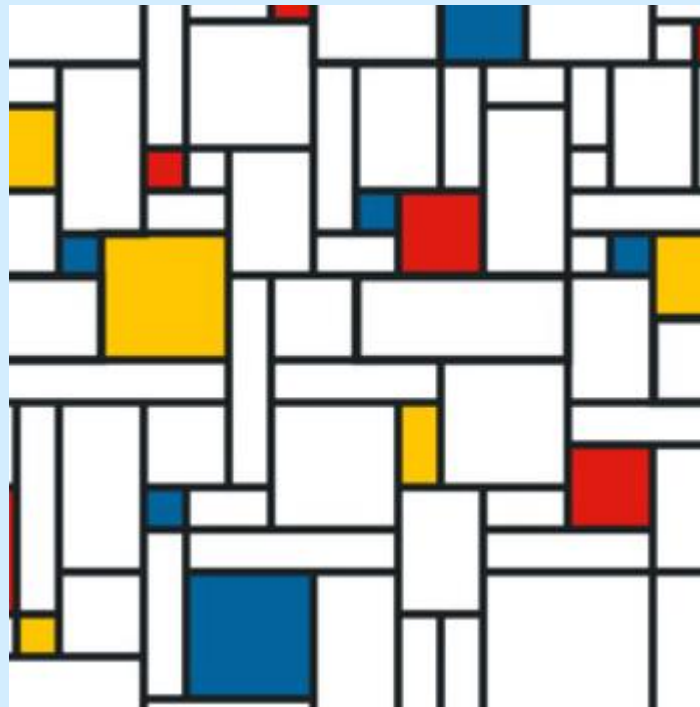
"La salle des fêtes de l'Aubette en 1928 (musées de Strasbourg)" by Jean-Pierre Dalbéra is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Le ciné-dancing de l'Aubette en 1928 (musées de Strasbourg)" by Jean-Pierre Dalbéra is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Piet Mondrian

Your Arty Task – Can you create a picture like Piet?



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