



Farbstudie Quadrate, c.1913 by Wassily Kandinsky

About the Artwork

Wassily Kandinsky (1886-1944), considered to be the 20th Century peer of Picasso and Matisse, believed that art is music for the soul, and that it could even visually express musical compositions. Bright colors, like those in "Farbstudie Quadrate," also held exceptional fascination for him, even as a child. He was profoundly impacted by the houses and churches of his native Russia, whose glistening colors gave him the sensation that he was not walking into a building, but into a painting. Credited with painting the first modern abstract works, Kandinsky was gripped by what he called "inner necessity," a compulsion to relentlessly create. He believed that if this drive were pure, it would inspire a correspondingly powerful response in viewers of his work. "Farbstudie Quadrate," with its rhythm of colors and shapes, is music to the eyes of children, aspiring artists and anyone who wants to grace their home with a visual symphony.

"Color is a power which directly influences the soul. Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the hammer, the soul is the strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul."

Questions:

1. What do all of these paintings have in common?
2. How many different colors do you see in this painting?
3. What do you think this painting is about? What shapes do you see?
4. Do you see movement in this painting?
5. What would you name this painting if you painted it?
6. How do these paintings make you feel? Anxious? Excited? Relaxed? Confused? Scared?
7. What tools did Mr. Kandinsky use on this painting?



Kandinsky Scarf, Several Circles (1926)

Circles are a dominant motif in the art of Vasily Kandinsky, a Russian painter who in the early 20th century became a pioneer of abstract painting.



Vasily Kandinsky

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