

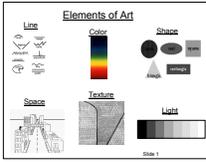
Piet Mondrian 1872 – 1944

Please bring with you to the presentation:

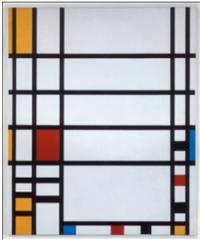
- * Jazz CD – should be in folder

A source for this presentation was
the Museum of Modern Art in New York www.moma.org

Introduce yourself and tell the children that you are in for Art in the Classroom. While we look at the art I am going to show you today, let's remember to keep in mind the tools that every artist uses – The Elements of Art.



Slide 1
Elements of Art Slide
Line, Shape, Color, Light, Texture, Space



Slide 2
What do you see in this picture?
Have you seen anything like this image before?
Take the children's comments. Use questions like “What do you think might be going on in this painting? What makes you say that? Does everyone agree? Please stress that there is **no** wrong answer.

This is a painting by an artist called Piet Mondrian. It is called “Trafalgar Square”. Trafalgar Square is a famous place in London, England.



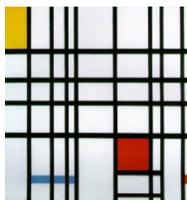
Slide 3
Here is a photograph of Trafalgar Square. Does this look to you like the painting we just saw? Why or why not? What is different? Do you see any similarities? Let's compare them.



Slide 4

Let's look at the colors Mondrian used. What colors do you see in the painting? What colors do you see in the photographs?

Do you see the tower in the photograph? Let's look at where Mondrian placed his colors. Can you find a part of the painting that reminds you of the tower in the photograph? *The left side of the painting is colored in narrow bands that are vertical.* Could this represent the tower? What do you think?



Slide 5

Here is another painting by Mondrian. Let's remember the elements of art, what does texture mean? *How something feels.* How does the texture of the surface appear? Rough, smooth, bumpy? *The paintings look smooth, almost like glass, but if we look close up:*



Slide 6

What do you see here? How do you think those thin lines got there? *You can see the lines in the paint from the bristles of the brush.* This is a close up of the last painting we were looking at. Does the texture of the surface look different when we see it close up? How is it different?

How do you think this artwork might have been made? *Mondrian painted black lines and then applied the colors in the areas he wanted. He used a brush to apply the paint. Sometimes he had to scrape one color off before he would put on another. You can see that he used a brush to apply the color here.*



Slide 7

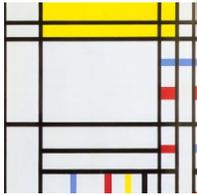
Here is another close up. Look at the black line on the left side. What do you see? *You can see the weave of the canvas*

underneath the paint. Like many artists, Mondrian did not paint on paper, but on canvas, which is like a tightly stretched fabric. You can see that this was painted on canvas.



Slide 8

Do you think he used quick, moving brushstrokes or slow, deliberate strokes? Why do you say that?



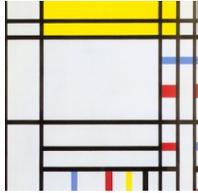
Slide 9

Here is another painting that is of a famous place in Europe – this time in France. It is called “La Place de la Concorde”.



Slide 10

Here are some photos of La Place de la Concorde. Let's look at Mondrian's version again.



Slide 11
What do you see here?

Do you notice any similarities with this painting and the other ones we have seen so far?

Lines: What kind of lines do you see? Vertical and horizontal, only. Vertical lines go up and down. Horizontal lines go from side to side. Do you see any curved lines?...squiggly lines?... diagonal? He is limiting himself with what kind of lines he uses.

Color: What colors does Mondrian use? *Black, white, blue, red and yellow.* He only used those colors. He chose to limit himself. What do you think about his decision to limit the colors that he used? What do you think about his color choices?

Red, blue and yellow are primary colors. These colors can be used to make all the other colors we see around us! Primary colors can not be made from any other colors.

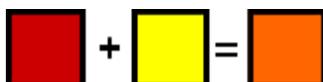
Does anyone know what color we will get if we mix the primary colors red and blue?



Slide 12
Red and blue make purple. What color do we get if we mix blue and yellow?



Slide 13
Blue and yellow make green. What color do we get if we mix red and yellow?



Slide 14
Red and yellow make orange.

Reinforce: Mondrian used only PRIMARY colors: red, blue and yellow.

Mondrian is famous for this style of painting; we call this style "Modern Art". He did not always paint like this.



Slide 15

Here is a sketch of a flower he made when he was younger.



Slide 16

Here is a painting that he made of himself – does anyone know what a painting of the artist painted by the artist is called? A *self portrait*.

Are the colors and lines you see in this self portrait different from the other paintings we saw today by Mondrian?

What about the shapes? Are they different or the same?

What do you see on the back wall? *Rectangles*. Do those

shapes remind you of the shapes in his other works? Do you think that he is starting to experiment with square and rectangle shapes in his painting?

Let's look at one more.



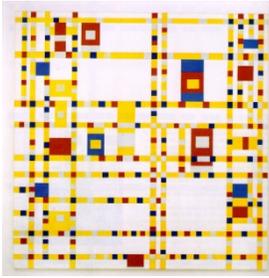
Slide 17

What do you see here?

The name of this painting is the "Grey Tree". Knowing the name of this painting, do you look at it differently?

Why or why not?

When an artist paints something that does not look like the object does in real life, we call that "**abstract**". That means that it does not look like a photograph. It is that artist's version of the object. Ask them to repeat the word abstract.



Slide 18

What do you see?

Does this remind you of anything you have seen before in real life?

Do you think that this painting is an **abstract** painting?

The name of this painting is Broadway Boogie Woogie.

Mondrian was born in the Netherlands – in Europe. He moved to New York when he was an older man – about 70 years old. When he got here he fell in love with a music called “Jazz” and with New York City itself. Some people called Jazz music “Boogie Woogie” music.

Has anyone here been to a big city? Does anything in this painting say something to you about city life? *The grids are like city streets. There are repeated shapes and color, just like the notes in boogie woogie music.* Does knowing that information change your understanding of this painting? Why or why not?

Note: There is a CD with Jazz music available in this folder for you to play to give the children an idea what “Boogie Woogie” music sounds like. If you are doing well with time, it would be nice for the children to hear the music now while they are looking at the piece (30 seconds would be enough for them to get the idea). Or, you can play it later when you are getting your things together at the end.

Look at the colors in this piece. Let's be art detectives. There is one color that Mondrian used in his other abstract works that is not in “Broadway Boogie Woogie”. What color is missing? *Black.*

How did he use that color in the other works? *The lines dividing the blocks.* What did he use for the lines in this painting? *Yellow and multi colored tiny blocks.*

Does it look to you like the dots are bouncing into each other? *They might appear as tiny blinking, bouncing blocks of color.*

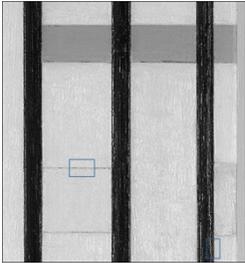
Do you think that the tiny blocks of color the painting seem livelier or less lively than his other abstract works?

Mondrian said that he wanted to put a little “Boogie Woogie” into his work. Do you think that he succeeded?



Slide 19

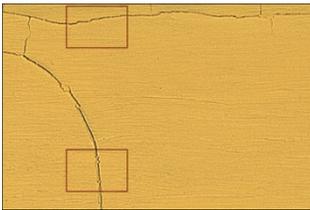
Here is a photograph of Mondrian. Can you find any of his paintings? *There they are in the right, lower front.*



Slide 20

Mondrian often made changes to his work. Where he put his lines and blocks of colors were very important to him. Some art researchers took an x-ray picture of one of his works. You can see where he changed his idea of where to put some lines.

Can anyone see the faint pencil marks that have been painted over? Can anyone notice the vertical rectangle of color on the right side of the image that has been painted over?



Slide 21

Mondrian died about 60 years ago. Though his paintings look fresh and new, there are signs that they are aging. Here is a close up of one of his paintings with a field of yellow. Can you see the cracks?

When we go to art museums to see artwork, sometimes we do not realize that there are a team of people that are working there to keep those paintings in good condition. They try and slow down the process that causes cracks like these.



Slide 22

Here is another close up of one of Mondrian's paintings. We all know that most artists sign their work. Why do you think these numbers are there? *These are dates to show the years that Mondrian worked on this piece. He started this artwork in 1939 and finished it in 1942.*

Thank you for being such good listeners. Let's try and remember the main points that we talked about today;

- Mondrian
- Abstract art
- Vertical and horizontal lines
- Rectangular blocks of colors
- Limited colors – black, white, red, yellow and blue;
Primary colors
- Lived in Europe and moved to New York