

MODERN ART

Wassily Kandinsky
Paul Klee

Squares with Concentric Circles
Wassily Kandinsky 1913



Facts about Wassily Kandinsky

1866 - 1944

- Born in Moscow, Russia
- Studied piano and cello
- Graduated law school from the University of Moscow with honors in 1886
- Took a position on the Moscow Faculty of Law in 1892 (managed an art printing business also then)
- Spoke German as well as Russian
- Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich
- Over his lifetime he lived in Russia, Germany, and France



Two influences in 1892 caused him to change his career to an artist...

Claude Monet's
Haystacks at Giverny



Richard Wagner's Opera
Lohengrin



Important aspects of Kandinsky's works

- Most of his art study was self-directed
- Began with conventional themes and art forms, but developed theories of his own derived from spiritual study and the relationship between music and color
- He used color as an expression of emotion instead of as a faithful description of something
- He and Paul Klee were friends
- He has books published on his ideas on theories of art
- He is often referred to as the father of abstract art
- Most of the work he created in Russia did not survive

Other works by Kandinsky



Several Circles, 1926



Circles in a Circle, 1923



Yellow, Red, Blue 1925



Composition VIII, 1923



Composition VII, 1913

Sinbad the Sailor
Paul Klee, 1928



Facts about Paul Klee

1879-1940

- He was born in Switzerland
- His parents were musicians, he was a violinist invited to study at Bern at age 11
- Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich in 1898
- Met Kandinsky in 1911 and traveled to study in France in 1912
- Taught at the Bauhaus School in Germany but was forced to leave during WWII
- During his lifetime he lived in Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and France



Important aspects of Klee's works

- His work was influenced by cubism, expressionism, and surrealism
- He and Kandinsky formed the Blue Four with Alexej von Jawlensky and Lyonel Feininger which toured the United States with lectures and exhibits
- He often drew with a needle on a blackened pane of glass (his signature technique)
- His paintings are often referred as "childlike"
- He finished more than 9000 pieces of work in his lifetime

Other works by Paul Klee



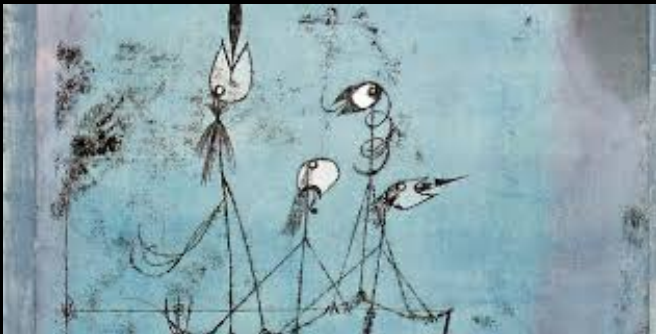
Cat and Bird, 1928



Ad Parnassum, 1932



Senecio, 1922



Twittering Machine, 1922



Der Goldfisch, 1925

PROJECT

To create our own version of *Squares with Concentric Circles* using oil pastels on paper. Will create while listening to the Overture from the opera *Lohengrin*. Just as Kandinsky was inspired.