

Driven to Abstraction

Exploring Abstract Art

Abstraction

"Abstract painting is abstract. It confronts you. There was a reviewer a while back who wrote that my pictures didn't have any beginning or any end. He didn't mean it as a compliment, but it was."

Jackson Pollock

Most everyone that you meet will have an opinion about abstract art. Some hate it. Some love it. Let's see what you think.

Today, you will dip your toes into the ocean that is the world of abstract art. You will discuss different examples, and then try to create your own.

Proceed with your curiosity and imagination ready!

Resources

- [Abstract Art](#) (Wikipedia)

Warm-up

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Is beauty objective or subjective, meaning is something always beautiful, or does it depend upon the person viewing it?

- If beauty is objective, what happens if people disagree about an objects inherent beauty?
- If beauty is subjective, does the word have value?

Discuss the statement, focusing on whether you agree or disagree, *and why?* Are there caveats you would add, or is the statement always true?

For a challenge, argue against your original position, or take turns with a partner debating the statement from opposing viewpoints. As a reminder, keep debates fun by being respectful of the other.

Discuss

Now, let's see some art! We will view and discuss several examples of abstract art.

Remember, you do not need to like the art, but focus on *why* you feel the way you do about any given piece.

In addition, remember that you do not need to agree with anyone else. This is art. The only opinion that matters at the end of the day, is yours!

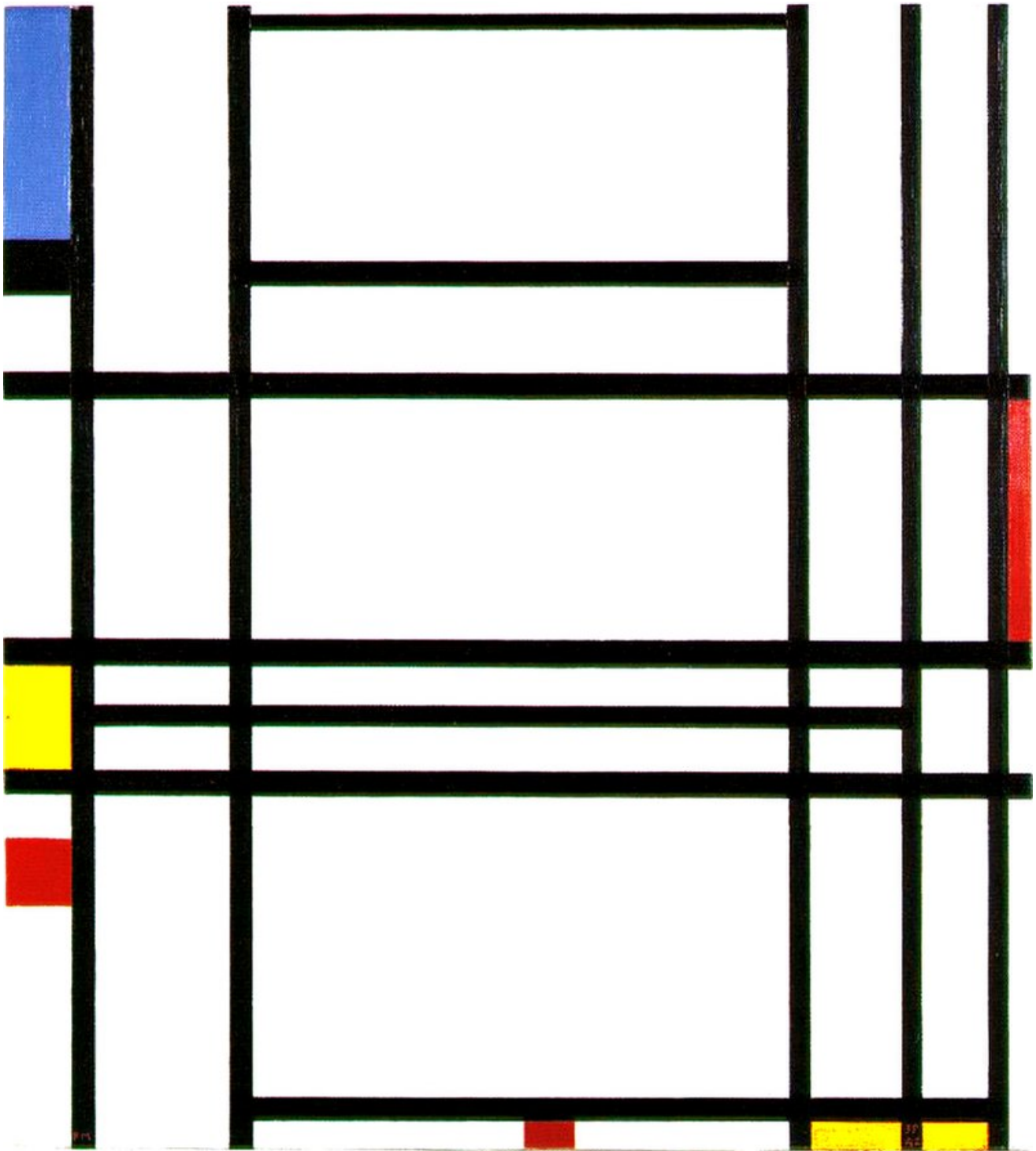


Pablo Picasso, 1913–14, Head (Tête)
SOURCE



Hilma af Klint, Svanen (The Swan), No. 17, Group IX,
Series SUW, October 1914–March 1915.

SOURCE



A 1939–1942 oil on canvas painting by Piet Mondrian titled Composition No. 10.

SOURCE



František Kupka, Amorpha
Fugue en deux couleurs (Fugue in Two Colors), 1912
Narodni Galerie, Prague
SOURCE



James McNeill Whistler
Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Falling Rocket (1874)
SOURCE



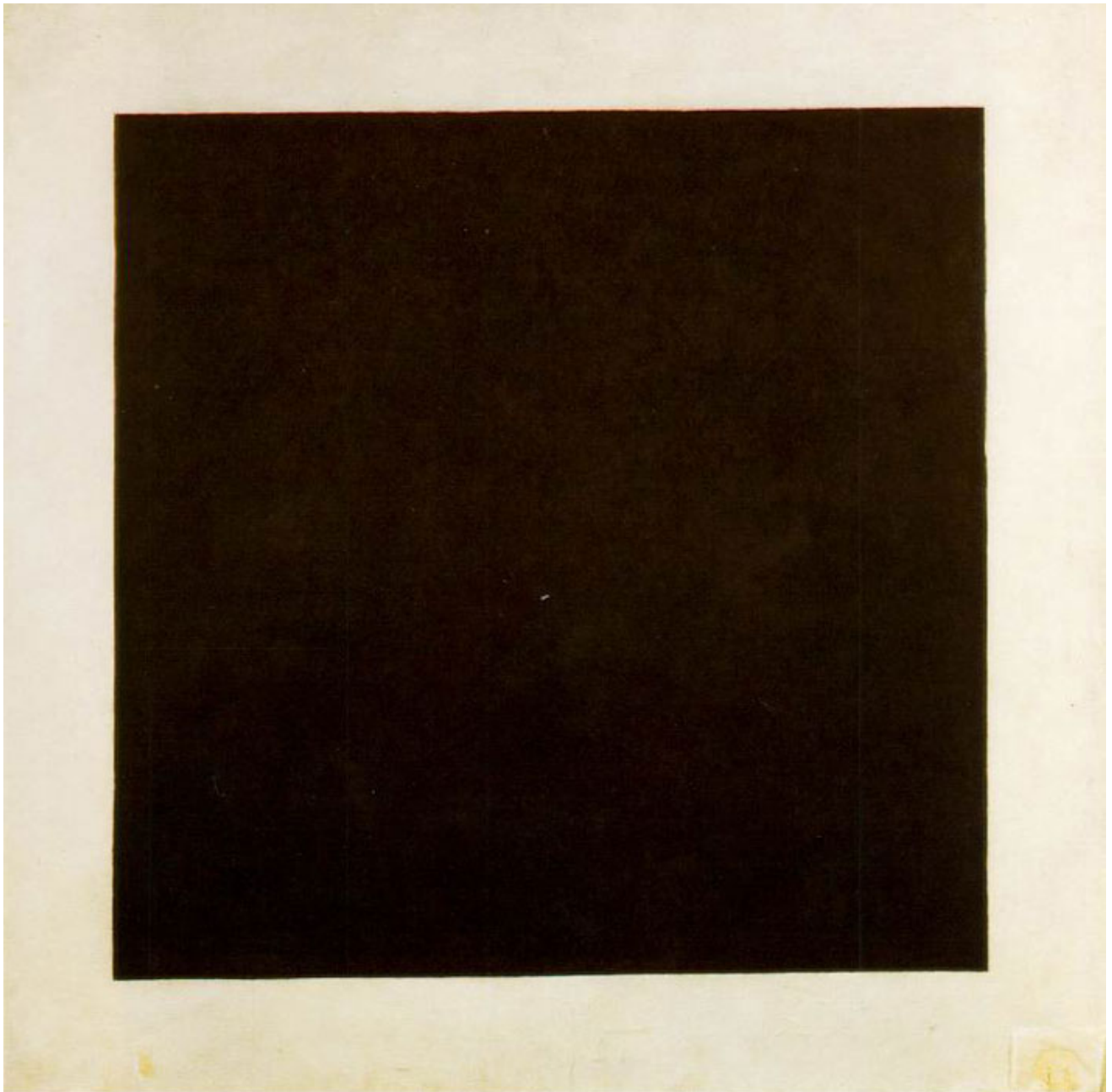
Francis Picabia, 1912

Tarentelle

SOURCE



Barnett Newman, Onement 1, 1948
Museum of Modern Art, New York
SOURCE



Kazimir Malevich, Black Square, 1923

The Russian Museum

SOURCE

Do It!

One of the best ways to deepen your understanding of something is to do it yourself, so let's get going!

Grab paper and art supplies. You can work with whatever supplies are available and inspire you.

Thinking of the various abstract art pieces you've seen, create your own abstract art.

Don't forget to give your piece a name, when finished, and sign it!

If you are having a hard time figuring out what to do, review the examples. Do not copy them, but you can use them for inspiration, and create your own variation of one. Alternately, just start putting color down on your paper.

There is no right and wrong answer, so forget the world, experiment, and see where the colors take you!



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