

Wassily Kandinsky

Painting With Music

Wassily Kandinsky was a revolutionary artist from the early 20th century. One of the pioneers of abstract art, Kandinsky used classical music as a source of inspiration for his monumental improvisational paintings. Kandinsky was born in Moscow, Russia but relocated to Munich, Germany to pursue a professorship in the fields of law and economics. While in Munich, Kandinsky attended a concert of music by the famed composer Arnold Schoenberg. Schoenberg's music touched Kandinsky on a spiritual level, inspiring him to materialize the music in paint.



Help your students create art in the spirit of Wassily Kandinsky! Create a playlist of 5-10 of your favorite classical songs -- include songs by Arnold Schoenberg for a more authentic Kandinsky experience. Brainstorm how sounds might translate into visual art. Do loud sounds inspire larger marks? Do fast or quiet sounds inspire smaller marks of different shapes? Distribute art supplies like crayons, pens, or paint to your students. Then play your playlist and allow your students to improvise their own music-inspired creations.



Flood Improvisation, Oil on Canvas, 1913

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