

CLS Winter Course Outline



Title: *Four Metaphysical Artists: The Abstract Explorations of Kandinsky, Klee, Mondrian and af Klint*

Presenter: *Jim Bennett, BFA, MFA*

Days & Dates: *Tues. & Thur. Jan 14, 16, 21 & 23, 2024*

Time: *1:15 PM*

Basic Lesson Plan Structure

1. Introduction/Biography (20 minutes)
2. The artist's art. Key influences and historical context. Overview of the artistic style and techniques. Describing 2-4 major works with examples. (20 minutes)
3. Demonstration /Follow-Along Activity (15 minutes)
4. Discussion/Recap/Conclusion (5 – 10 minutes)
5. Preview of the next session.

Lesson Plan Details

Session 1. Wassily Kandinsky

General introduction to this course: terminology and materials

1. Introduction/biography: Kandinsky's background, his move from Russia to Germany, and his role in the Bauhaus movement.
2. Art: Focus on his transition from representational to abstract art. Highlight works like "Composition VII" and "Yellow-Red-Blue."
3. Activity: Create abstract art using lines, shapes, and colors to express emotions, following Kandinsky's approach.
4. Conclusion: Summarize Kandinsky's impact on art.
5. Preview next lesson.

Session 2. Paul Klee

1. Introduction/biography: Cover Klee's early life, his time at the Bauhaus, and his unique style combining abstraction with figuration.
2. Art: Look at the "Twittering Machine," "Senecio," and "Castle and Sun." Explain his use of color theory and symbolism.
3. Activity: Create a simple drawing using Klee's technique of combining geometric shapes and vibrant colors.
4. Conclusion: Recap Klee's contributions to modern art.
5. Preview next lesson.

Session 3. Piet Mondrian

1. Introduction/biography: Mondrian's early life in the Netherlands and his development of Neoplasticism.
2. Art: Look at key works such as "Composition with Red, Blue, and Yellow" and "Victory Boogie Woogie." Discuss his use of grids and primary colors.
3. Activity: Create a Mondrian-inspired piece using colored paper and black lines to form a grid.
4. Conclusion: Summary of Mondrian's influence on abstract art and design.
5. Preview next lesson.

Session 4. Hilma af Klint

1. Introduction/biography: Introduction to af Klint's life, her mystical beliefs, and her pioneering role in abstract art.

2. Art: Look at “The Ten Largest” series and her use of symbolism and spiritual themes.
3. Activity: Create an abstract piece using swirling shapes and vibrant colors, inspired by af Klint’s style.
4. Conclusion: Recap of af Klint’s legacy and her recent recognition in the art world.
5. Going forward from here.

Suggested Materials for Follow-Along Activities (Your Choice)

- Paper: letter-sized paper or larger for drawing and painting.
- Pencils and Erasers: For sketching initial designs.
- Rulers: Useful for creating straight lines, especially for Mondrian’s art.
- Colored Pencils, Markers, or Crayons: For adding color to artworks.
- Paints (Optional): Watercolors or acrylics for those who prefer painting.
- Brushes (Optional): Various sizes if participants are using paints.
- Black Markers or Pens: For outlining and adding details.
- Glue Sticks: For attaching colored paper onto a base sheet.
- Colored Paper (Red, Blue, Yellow - optional): For creating Mondrian-style compositions.
- Black Tape or Strips of Black Paper (optional): To create the grid lines.
- Pastels or Chalk (optional): For creating soft, swirling shapes.