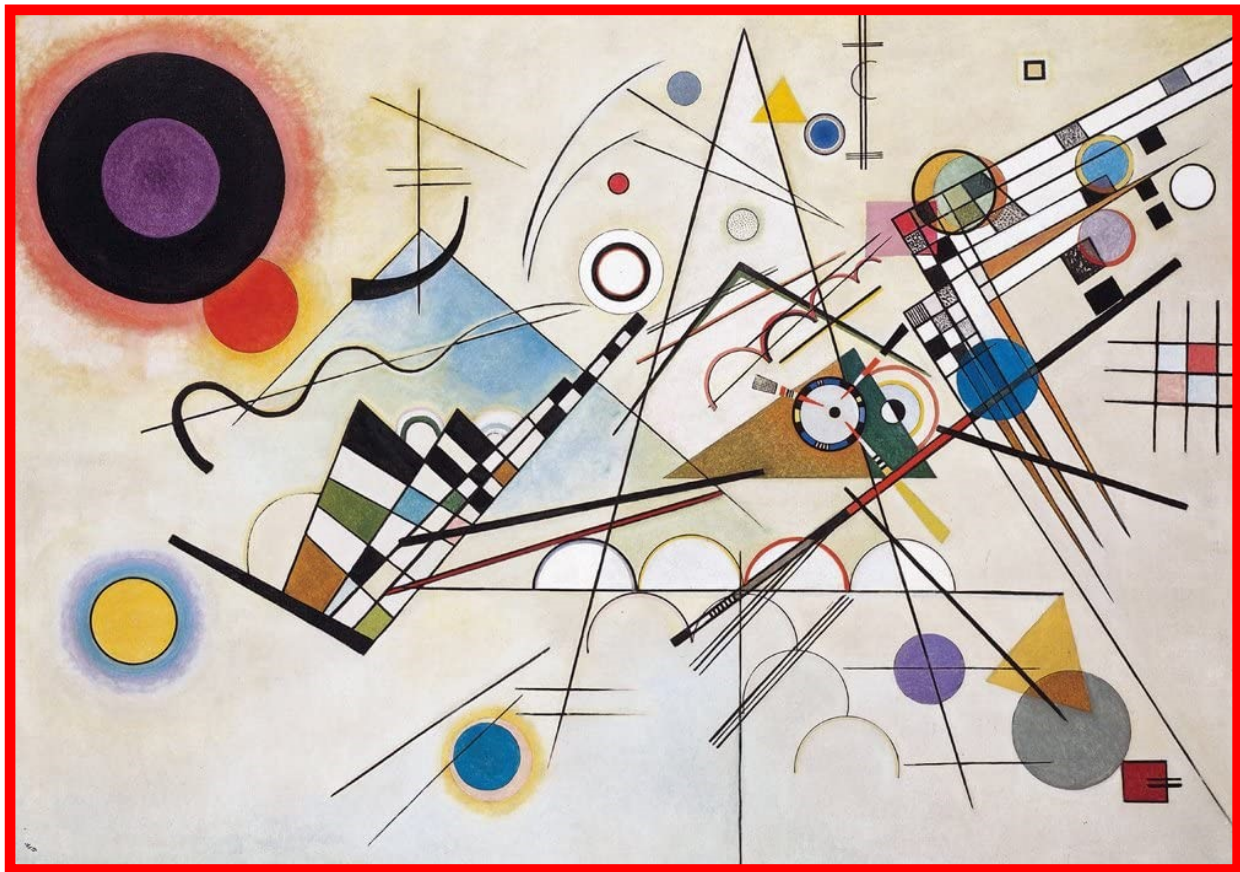


Kandinsky's Abstract Art with Angles



Wassily Kandinsky, *Composition VIII*, 1923

Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

Meet the Artist

Wassily Kandinsky

1866-1944

“Everything starts from a dot.”

—Wassily Kandinsky



Kandinsky was born in Moscow, Russia in 1866 to very wealthy parents. He was quite bright, playing the cello with ease by the time he was 8 and became a law professor by the time he was 26. After a tour across Russia a few years later, Kandinsky was so inspired by the different types of art he encountered he decided to quit his job, and move to Germany to pursue his art career.

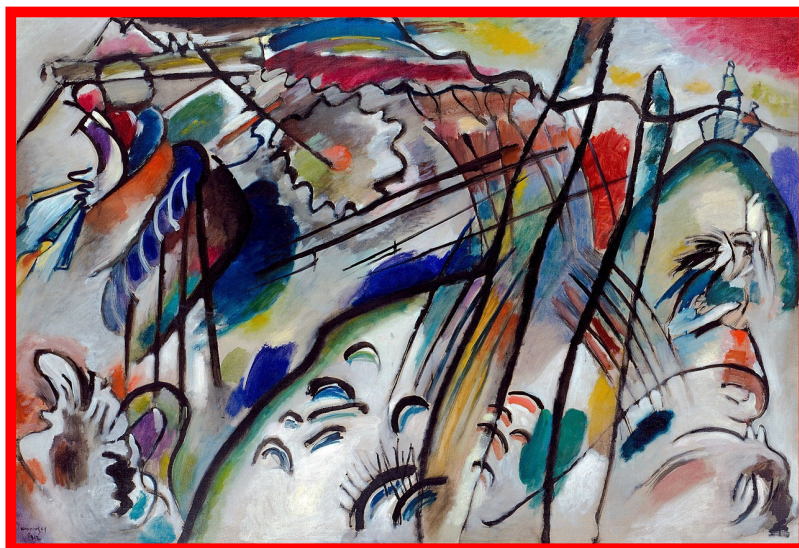
Soon he began to experiment with the use of color. For example, why paint a tree brown when it can be pink? This then led to a shift in his work from representational to more improvisational. In 1914, after WWI broke out, he returned to Russia to teach art. He began to experiment with making visual representations of music and his work became even more abstract. In 1922 he was invited to teach at the **BAUHAUS** in Germany until it was shut down by Hitler in 1933. He soon moved to Paris but in 1940 the Nazis marched there, and his work along with others was declared “degenerate” so it couldn’t be sold. Kandinsky died in obscurity in 1944 but is well known today as one of the founders of **ABSTRACT** art.

In his earlier work, Kandinsky started experimenting with color and shape while still keeping true to representing a particular subject matter. We call this **ABSTRACT** art. For example, in the painting below you can identify a landscape and horses.



Blue Mountain, 1908

But, in this lesson we are going to focus on Kandinsky's later work, where his paintings left the land of representation and were purely inspired by music, movement, emotions. The title of his paintings became vague like "Improvisation".

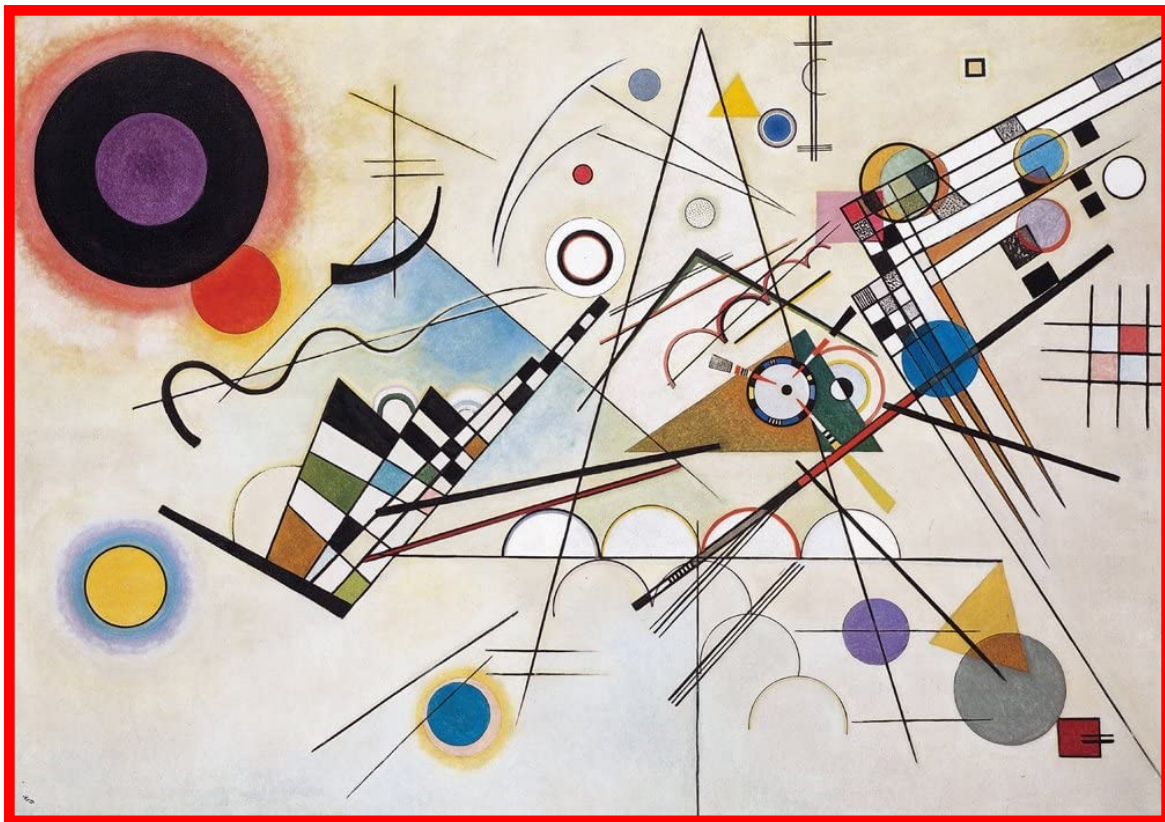


Improvisation #28, 1912



Balancement, 1925

Later he simply moved simply to titles like “Composition.” We call this type of art **NONOBJECTIVE**.





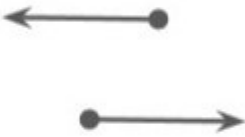


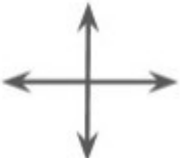

Composition VIII, 1923

Notice how you can no longer identify any subject matter in Kandinsky's work. **The emphasis is now geometric forms, lines, and angles.**

What geometric shapes can you identify in *Composition VIII*?

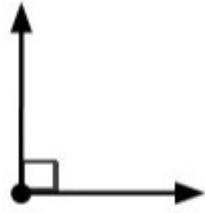
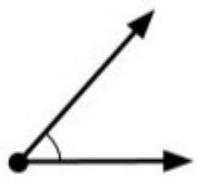
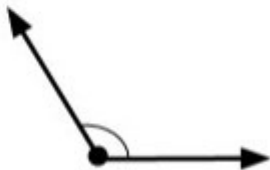

In our artwork we are going to make a Kandinsky inspired composition made from these same elements: geometric shapes, lines, and angles. But first, let's review the different types of lines and angles. We will be using this vocabulary in our lesson.

Different types of Lines

Word	Definition	Image
Point	A location on a line or in space.	
Line	A straight set of points that extend in opposite directions without ending.	
Ray	A line that has one endpoint and continues in the other direction without ending.	
Line segment	Part of a line between two endpoints.	
Parallel Lines	Two lines that never cross.	
Perpendicular Lines	Two lines that cross and form four right angles.	
Intersecting Lines	Two lines that cross at a single point.	

Types of Angles

Angles are formed when two rays share an endpoint.

Angle Name	Definition	Example
Right Angle	An angle that measures exactly 90°	
Acute Angle	An angle that measures between 1° and 89°	
obtuse Angle	An angle that measures between 91° and 179°	
Straight Angle	An angle that measures exactly 180° . This would be a straight line.	


MATERIALS:

White drawing paper, ruler, black marker, circles to trace such as lids, 1 die, crayons or markers, printed “Roll a Kandinsky” (page 12)

OPTIONAL protractor

PROCEDURES:

1. Roll the die for the first time.
Circle the box in the **FIRST COLUMN** that corresponds with the number that you rolled.



ROLL A KANDINSKY!

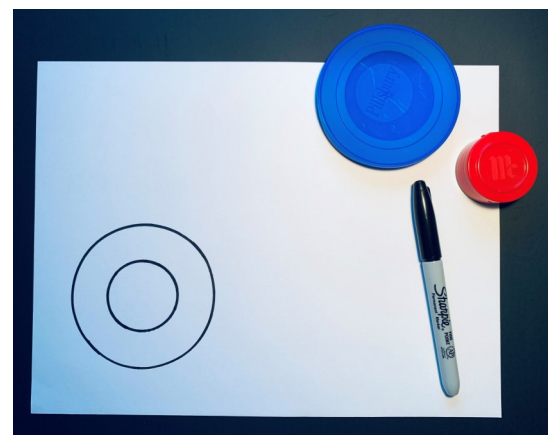
	ROLL 1	ROLL 2	ROLL 3	ROLL 4	ROLL 5
	Draw 1	Draw 2	Draw 3	Draw 4	Draw 5
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SETS OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBUSE ANGLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HALVE LINE SEGMENTS THE INTERSECT	RIGHT ANGLES
3	SET OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	INTERSECTING LINES	OBUSE ANGLES	PARALLEL LINE SEGMENTS	ACUTE ANGLES
4	TRIANGLE WITH 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	LONG LINE WITH AWAYLINE THAT INTERSECT IT	OBUSE ANGLES
5	LONG LINE WITH AWAYLINE THAT INTERSECT IT	PAIRS	ACUTE ANGLES	INTERSECTING LINES	RIGHT ANGLES
6	MEDIUM CIRCLE	SHORT LINES	OBUSE ANGLES	TRIANGLE WITH LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	ACUTE ANGLES

2. Now note **HOW MANY** of that shape you need to draw in the magenta row.

ROLL A KANDINSKY!

	ROLL 1	ROLL 2	ROLL 3	ROLL 4
	Draw 1	Draw 3	Draw 2	Draw 4
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SETS OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HALVE LINE SEGMENTS THE INTERSECT

3. Using your black marker and provided tools, **DRAW** your assigned lines, angles, or shapes.

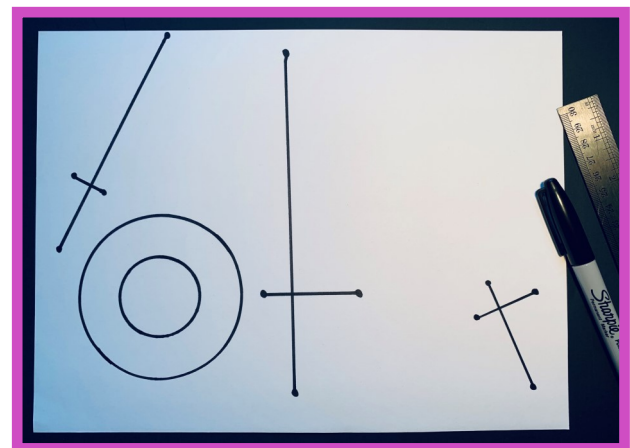


4. Now roll the die a second time and mark your selection in **SECOND COLUMN**. Note in the magenta row how many of this shape you need to draw.

ROLL A KANDINSKY!

	ROLL 1 Draw 1	ROLL 2 Draw 2	ROLL 3 Draw 3	ROLL 4 Draw 4	ROLL 5 Draw 5
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SET OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBUSE ANGLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HAVE 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT EACH	RIGHT ANGLES
3	SET OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	INTERSECTING LINES	OBUSE ANGLES	PARALLEL LINE SEGMENTS	ACUTE ANGLES
4	TRIANGLE WITH 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	LONG LINE WITH AWAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	OBUSE ANGLES
5	LONG LINE WITH AWAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	PAIRS	ACUTE ANGLES	INTERSECTING LINES	RIGHT ANGLES
6	MEDIUM CIRCLE	SHORT LINES	OBUSE ANGLES	TRIANGLE WITH 3 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	ACUTE ANGLES

5. Use your black marker and tools to **DRAW** your shapes, lines, or angles.



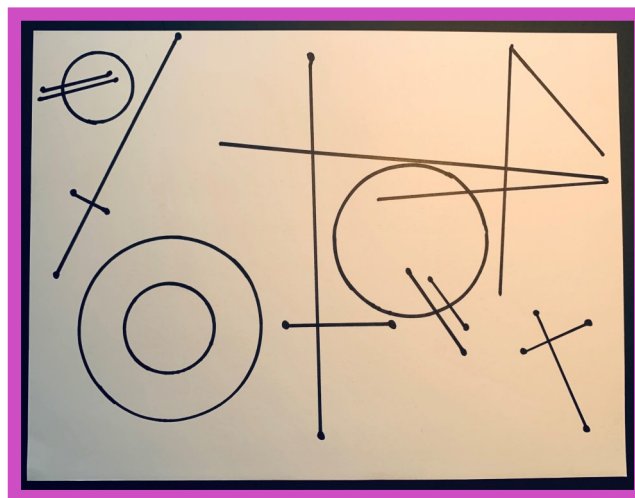
6. Repeat this process for the **NEXT 3 COLUMNS**, adding the quantity and element that you are assigned with each roll.

ROLL A KANDINSKY!

	ROLL 1 Draw 1	ROLL 2 Draw 2	ROLL 3 Draw 3	ROLL 4 Draw 4	ROLL 5 Draw 5
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SET OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBUSE ANGLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HAVE 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT EACH	RIGHT ANGLES
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ROLL A KANDINSKY!

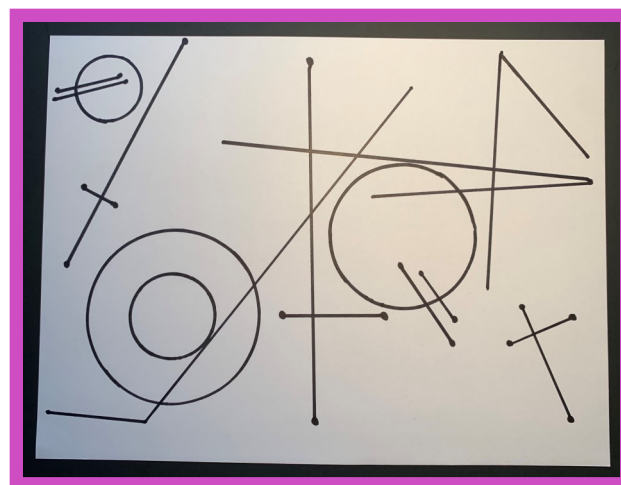
	ROLL 1	ROLL 2	ROLL 3	ROLL 4	ROLL 5
	Draw 1	Draw 3	Draw 2	Draw 2	Draw 1
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SETS OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBLIQUE ANGLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HAVE 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT EACH	RIGHT ANGLES
3	SET OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	INTERSECTING LINES	OBLIQUE ANGLES	PARALLEL LINE SEGMENTS	ACUTE ANGLES
4	TRIANGLE WITH 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	LONG LINE WITH AWAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	OBLIQUE ANGLES
5	LONG LINE WITH AWAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	RAWS	ACUTE ANGLES	INTERSECTING LINES	RIGHT ANGLES
6	MEDIUM CIRCLE	SHORT LINES	OBLIQUE ANGLES	TRIANGLE WITH 3 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	ACUTE ANGLES



ROLL 4

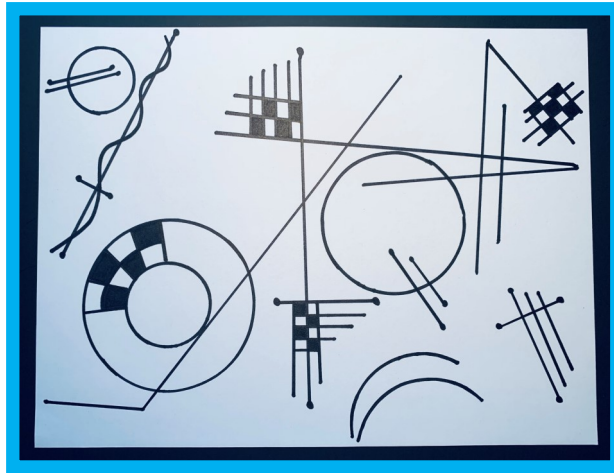
ROLL A KANDINSKY!

	ROLL 1	ROLL 2	ROLL 3	ROLL 4	ROLL 5
	Draw 1	Draw 3	Draw 2	Draw 2	Draw 1
1	LARGE CIRCLE	SETS OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBLIQUE ANGLES
2	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HAVE 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT EACH	RIGHT ANGLES
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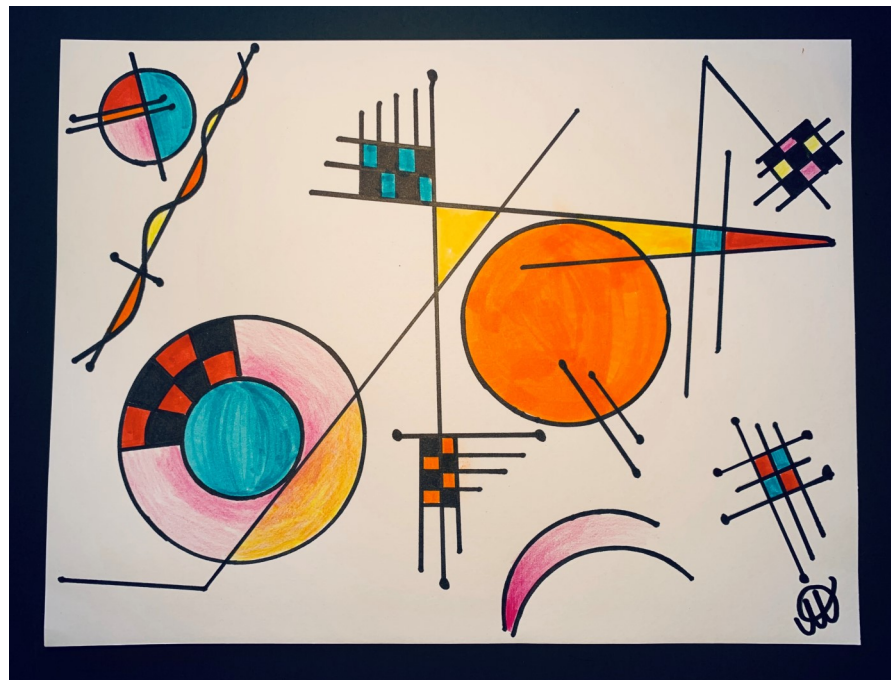


ROLL 5


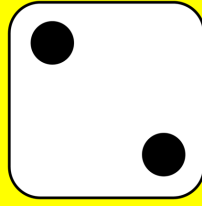


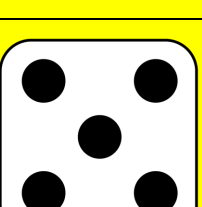
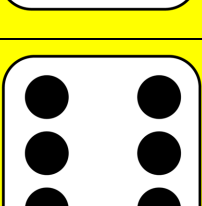
7. Now, you may **add any additional lines, angles, or shapes** to your work if you would like to—to **BALANCE** out your composition.



8. Finally, use your markers, crayons, or colored pencils to **COLOR** your **ABSTRACT ARTWORK**! Don't forget to sign your name. What will you call your creation? Hmmmm.....



ROLL A KANDINSKY!

	ROLL 1	ROLL 2	ROLL 3	ROLL 4	ROLL 5
	<i>Draw 1</i>	<i>Draw 3</i>	<i>Draw 2</i>	<i>Draw 2</i>	<i>Draw 1</i>
	LARGE CIRCLE	SETS OF PERPENDICULAR LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	MEDIUM CIRCLES	OBTUSE ANGLE
	PAIR OF SMALL CIRCLES	PARALLEL LINES	ACUTE ANGLES	CIRCLES THAT HAVE 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT EACH	RIGHT ANGLE
	SET OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	INTERSECTING LINES	OBTUSE ANGLES	PARALLEL LINE SEGMENTS	ACUTE ANGLE
	TRIANGLE WITH 2 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	LINE SEGMENTS	RIGHT ANGLES	LONG LINE WITH A WAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	OBTUSE ANGLE
	LONG LINE WITH A WAY LINE THAT INTERSECTS IT	RAYS	ACUTE ANGLES	INTERSECTING LINES	RIGHT ANGLE
	MEDIUM CIRCLE	SHORT LINES	OBTUSE ANGLES	TRIANGLE WITH 3 LINE SEGMENTS THAT INTERSECT IT	ACUTE ANGLE

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Portrait of Kandinsky, Gabriele Muntz, 1906

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