

Alan Close demonstration, Saturday 18th February 2017

Our first demo for the New Year was given by our very own Alan Close. He is the amazing all-rounder of the arts, a Renaissance Man. There is no aspect of art in which he is not expert. He has learnt his trade thoroughly. As a tutor he can bring students along in watercolour, pastel, oils and acrylic. He can teach life drawing, portrait or landscape. He has given demos in spray painting, pen and wash, scratchback and pen and ink. Today he would show us how to make an abstract.

The two rooms were set up with table and chair for each of 60 people (which was a tight fit). Each was provided with a plate with squeezes of primary colours and a sheet of cartridge paper. There was a three page handout and a colour copy of a famous painting. The handout is reproduced in this newsletter.

It was to be a hands-on workshop rather than a talkfest so Alan had practised his statement while Jean timed it. 12 minutes.

19th and 20th century artists had moved from realistic paintings to paintings that excited and moved us by their vibrant colours, shapes, lines, and textures. They

were trying to discover an art that did not depict a real object nor rely on a natural meaning. However they found that they still had to make artistic decisions, such as the composition of their shapes, the texture and shading of their areas, the relative placement of their collages. So the abstract emerged. Wassily Kandinsky is now recognised as one of the foremost practitioners of the abstract. You will be able to name more.

The procedure was to be three stages, pencil in the background of about a dozen triangles, paint them in to your own taste, then when dry, paste over this background cut-out elements to make an abstract like Kandinsky's.

Heads down, tails up away we went. Not much talk, complete absorption in the task. It was hard to get us to break for another delicious afternoon tea. That gave drying time. Then back to paste on the elements. Alan then gave us each a larger sheet of black which framed our work and we all took home a very satisfying piece of art, whether we could draw or not. Not bad value for eight bucks.

– Colin Browne



Wow, what a workshop/demo! Sixty artists crowded into our two galleries to enjoy an afternoon of painting colourful abstracts in the style of Wassily Kandinsky.



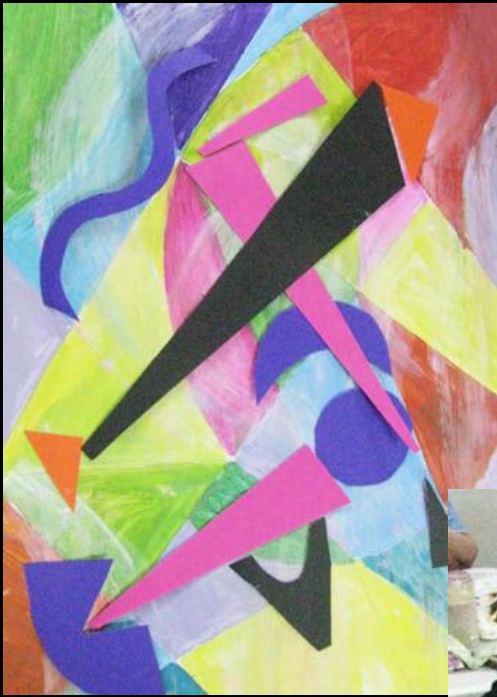
Everyone had smiles on their faces as they launched into creating their abstract art. They really had to work fast as they only had one hour and forty five minutes to finish. All the paint and materials were provided, the method explained in detail on the handout sheet. It was simply a matter of sit down and go for it and that's what everyone did. What fun they had creating such a variety of fabulous abstracts. Big smiles and thumbs up for this workshop! Well done all.

Right: Ron Parker gives the thumbs up to the abstract workshop



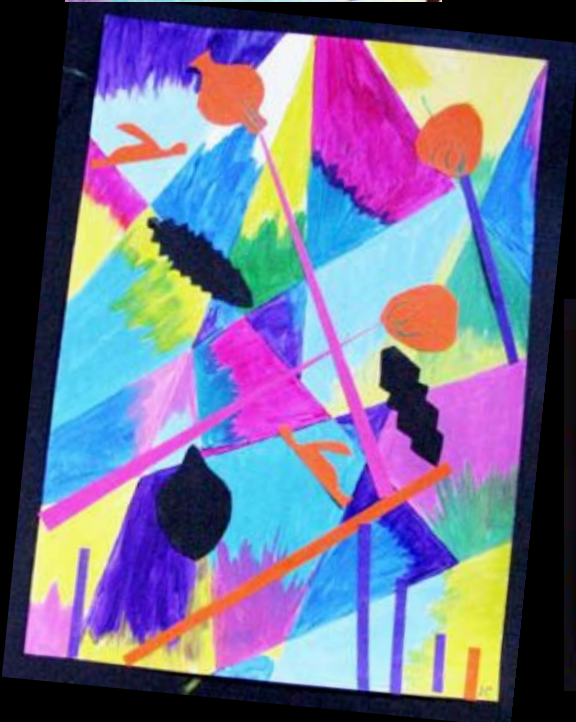
Some of the fantastic abstracts produced on the day.





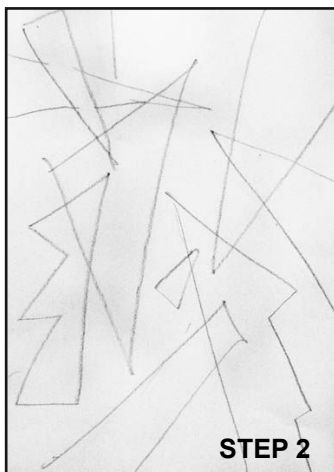
Above: Ann Fiedler with her colourful abstract

Right: Gabriele Pelling
in the process of creating an
exciting abstract





STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

Actual Kandinsky elements you can use.



STAGE ONE: Plan and draw big triangles on the A3 cardboard sheet provided.

1. Pencil in your composition. Use all triangular shapes. Start with large triangles creating interesting angles & positive /negative shapes. TIP- some triangles and lines will run off the page.

2. Complete the composition adding more shapes but not too complicated a design. You have to be able to fill in each triangle with colour by 3pm .

TIP keep your base design simple

3. Complete the base by painting in each triangle with colour.

Keep to the colour scheme we are using today for the base, pinks, turquoise, blue, pale yellow, orange. TIP: Pick out 2 (or 3) triangles to be the same colour.

3 PM AFTERNOON TEA BREAK 20 MINUTES

STEP 3 . Dry your completed stage one painting if still wet.

STAGE TWO: PLACING KANDINSKY ELEMENTS AND FINISHING

STEP 4. Cut out and place the Kandinsky abstract elements over your painted abstract base ie: the crescent and wiggly lines, the colour stripes and triangular strips, and other elements.

STEP 5. Glue in place with the glue stick provided.

STEP 6. TO FINISH STICKY TAPE TO THE BLACK BACKING CARD PROVIDED

STEP 4.
Creating the cut out abstract elements
 Fun Kandinsky style elements you can use as cut out paper shapes in colour or black and white. Create them yourself or get pre-cut from the resource box.



STEP 4 and 5



STEP 6.

Congratulations you have created a fantastic abstract art in the style of Wassily Kandinsky. Well done!



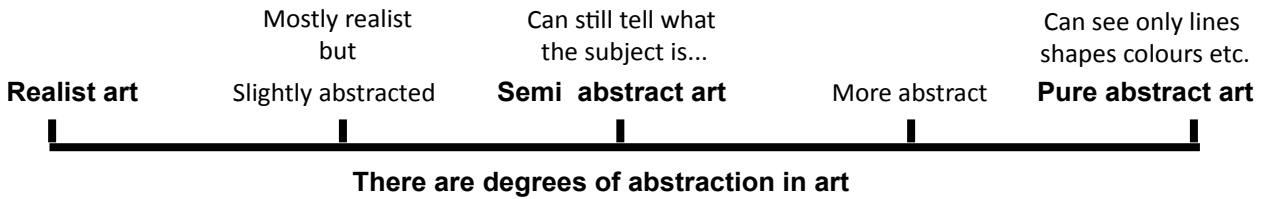
Kandinsky and abstract art.

What is abstract art?

Abstract art is art that does not represent any known object. It is made up of shapes, colours, lines, patterns and textures. Abstraction is a process. You can have slightly abstract, semi abstract and total pure abstract such as geometric forms.



First abstract watercolor art painted by Kandinsky in 1911.



Wassily Kandinsky is generally regarded as the pioneer of abstract art. He created one of the first purely abstract works in 1911 (see above) when other artists were not painting in the abstract style. **As such they call him the father of abstract art.**

Kandinsky was born in Moscow in 1866 and his journey to abstraction started at age 30 with a part abstract-impressionist style which evolved over time to complete abstraction.

Kandinsky was a man of considerable intellect, an artist and art theorist of high profile.

In 1923 he was appointed a tutor/master at the Bauhaus school in Germany which combined Arts and architecture. The Bauhaus was famous for its cross fertilization of the arts and revolutionary teaching, stripping away the decorative and superfluous of previous styles, and teaching back to basics, form follows function. The Bauhaus teachings and styling ushered in our modern style of architecture and industrial design.

The process of abstraction can also be one of stripping away and simplification.

Kandinsky played a major role in the art movement of 1911 onwards. His high profile, numerous exhibitions, writings and works, were a major influence in freeing art from traditional realist, representational styles. Of course by the 1920s Kandinsky was not the only artist to be painting abstracts but because of his prominence and claim to having created the ‘first’ purely abstract art, history has deservedly conferred on him the title ‘**father of abstract art**’.



Kandinsky's early style (above left) gradually became more abstract (middle) until he adopted pure abstract geometric shapes (right)