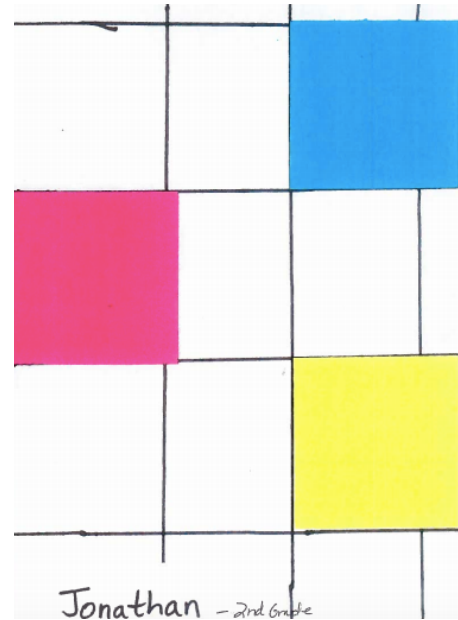


Collages Inspired by Piet Mondrian & Leo Kenny

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY ANNA LAUE



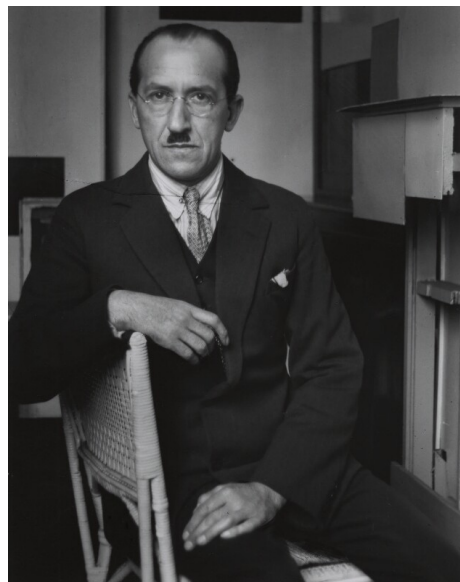
Student example: (Jonathan, 2nd Grade)

Description

Students will create a project emphasizing line, color and balance within an artwork. They will learn about both Dutch painter Piet Mondrian and Pacific Northwest artist Leo Kenny, whose later works also demonstrate color and balance.

About Piet Mondrian

Piet Mondrian was an early 20th Century Dutch abstract painter who is famous for his geometric compositions. He is credited as a leader of an art movement known as De Stijl, or "The Style."



Mondrian in 1926

Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery London

Materials

- White plain drawing paper
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black markers of varying widths
- Red, yellow, & blue construction paper

Instructions

Introduction:

- Introduce students to artist Piet Mondrian and Leo Kenny using the biography and images found in this lesson. Using the included full-size images, hold a VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) discussion using one or more of the artworks.
 - Visual Thinking Strategies is a method of inquiry-based discussion using an artwork. Tips and resources on VTS are included in this lesson.

First Lesson:

- Teach the idea of balance in art by showing examples and non-examples.
- Students can work in small groups to sort pictures according to balanced/not balanced (see following page for further information and example images).

Second Lesson:

- Review primary colors and how to balance them. For example: a smaller square of bold red may balance a larger square of cool blue.
- Additionally, show how balance with lines can be achieved by varying the number and/or thickness of the lines. Again, show examples and let students experiment with combining different colors of paper for different effects.

Third Lesson:

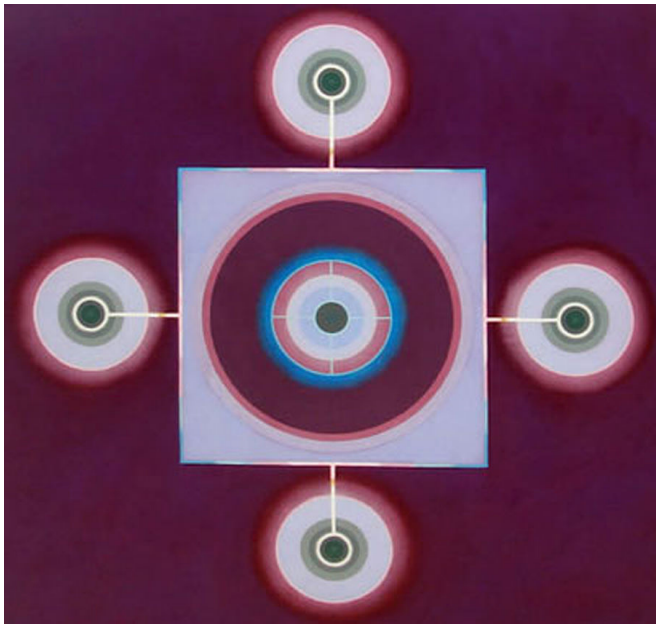
- Demonstrate how to hold a ruler and draw a straight line, and also how to draw parallel lines by measuring and mark-making.
- Give students paper and markers and rulers to practice this.

Fourth Lesson:

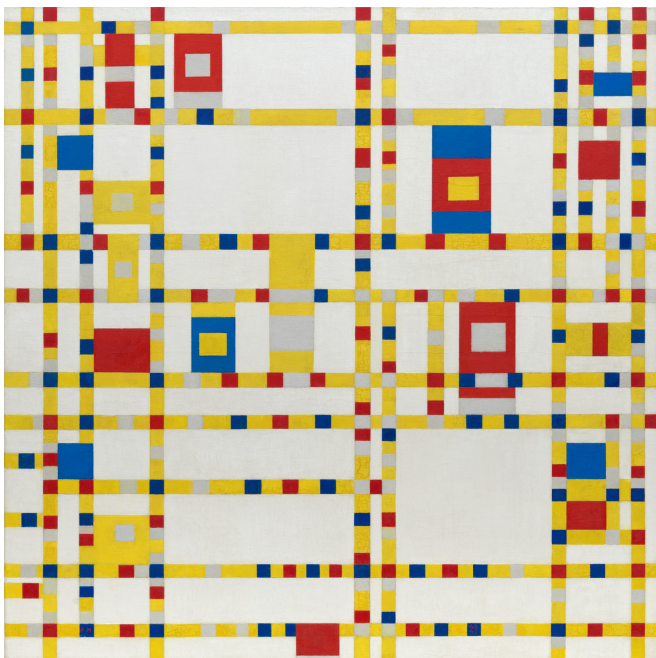
- Students will create their composition emphasizing balance found from top to bottom, and side to side with both lines and colors.
- First, students will draw thick, thin and parallel lines.
- Using what they have learned of color and balance, students will cut squares or rectangles of colored construction paper to glue within the lines.

BALANCED

Use the artworks of Leo Kenny and Mondrian to practice describing *balanced* artworks.



Centralia I by Leo Kenny
Image credit: Woodside Braseth Gallery



Broadway Boogie Woogie by Piet Mondrian
Image credit: MoMA.org



UNBALANCED

Using fellow abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky, explore several *unbalanced* artworks.

What makes these different than the balanced artworks?



Yellow-Red-Blue by Wassily Kandinsky
Image credit: WikiArt



In Blue by Wassily Kandinsky
Image credit: WikiArt

About the Artist: Leo Kenny

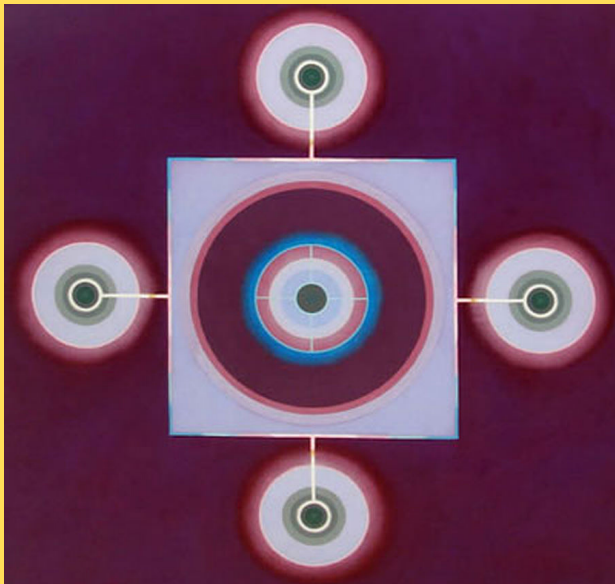


Leo Kenny

Image credit: Cascadia Art Museum

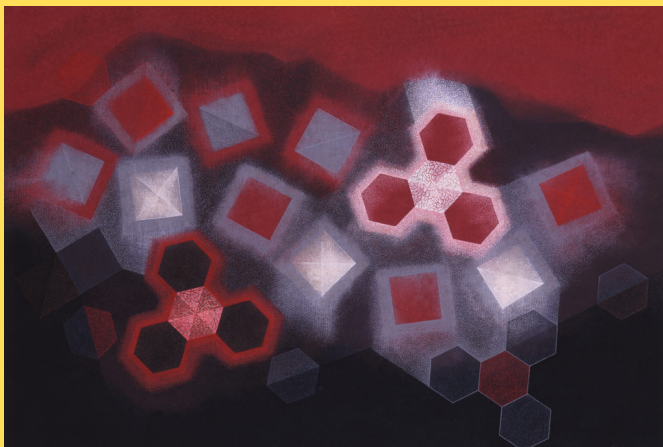
Leo Kenny (1925-2001), born in Spokane, Washington, was a renowned painter from the Pacific Northwest. Gaining recognition at a young age, he was offered a solo exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum at only 24. Kenny's early works showed the influence of surrealism and his surrounding geography. Later in his career, he painted circles of light and color and gently colored geometric shapes.

Although the styles of Kenny and Mondrian are quite different, both artists use color, shapes and lines to achieve balance in their artworks. To learn more about Leo Kenny click [here](#) and [here](#).



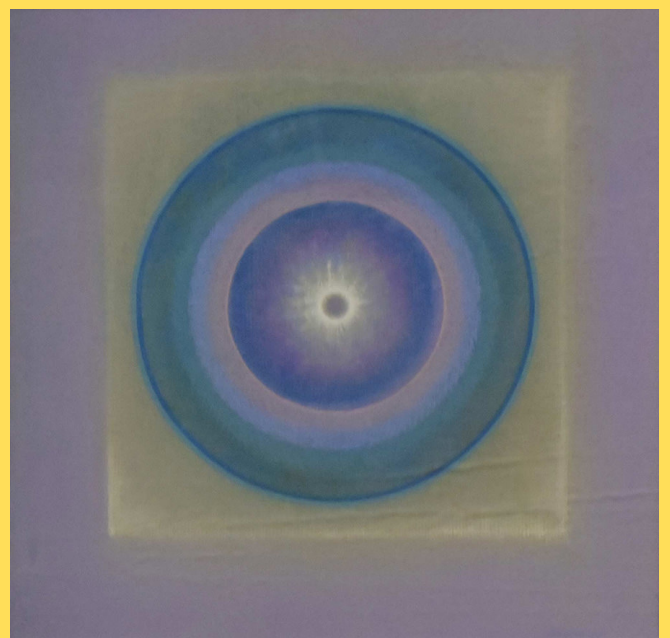
Centralia I by Leo Kenny

Image credit: Woodside Braseth Gallery



Under February by Leo Kenny

Image credit: Cascadia Art Museum

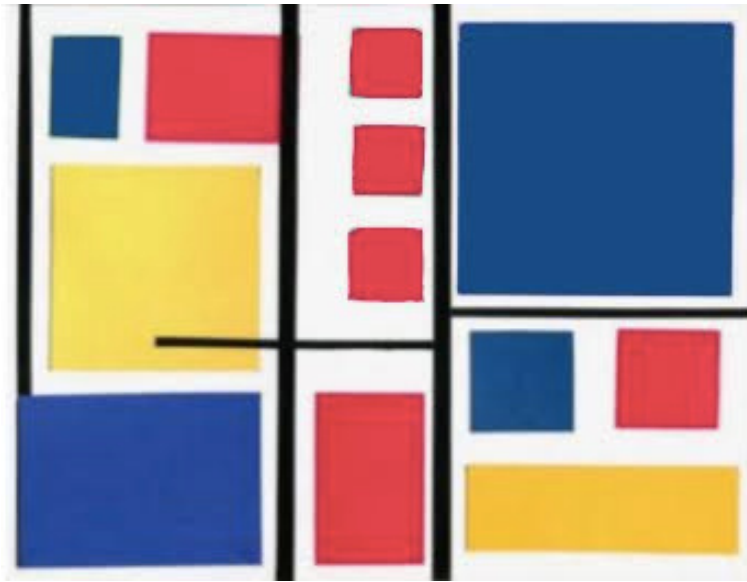


Study for a Transformation by Leo Kenny

Image credit: Woodside Braseth Gallery

Vocabulary

- ✓ Parallel lines
- ✓ Horizontal
- ✓ Vertical
- ✓ Primary Colors
- ✓ Balance
- ✓ Rhythm



Example by Nicolette Harrington

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **Kindergarten: VA: Cr2.2.K** (Identify safe and non-toxic art materials, tools, and equipment)
- **1st Grade: VA:Cr1.2.1** (Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art)
- **2nd Grade: VA:Cr2.2.2** (Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces)
- **3rd Grade: VA:Cr2.3.3** (Individually or collaboratively construct representations, diagrams, or maps of places that are part of everyday life)
- **4th Grade: VA:Cr2.1.4** (Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches)
- **5th Grade: VA:Cr2.1.5** (Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice)
- **6th Grade: VA:Cr2.16** (Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design)

Visual Thinking Strategies

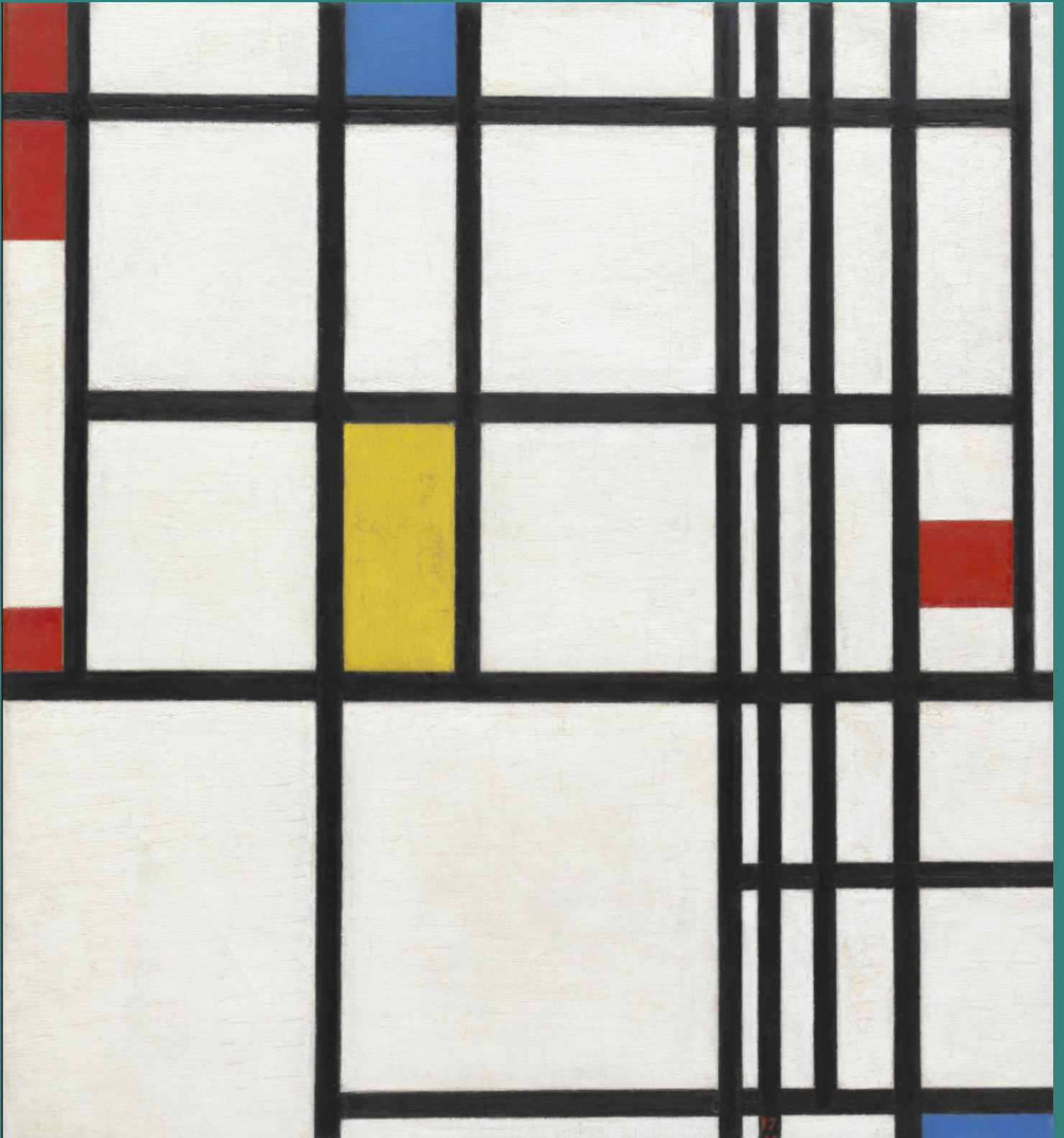
MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

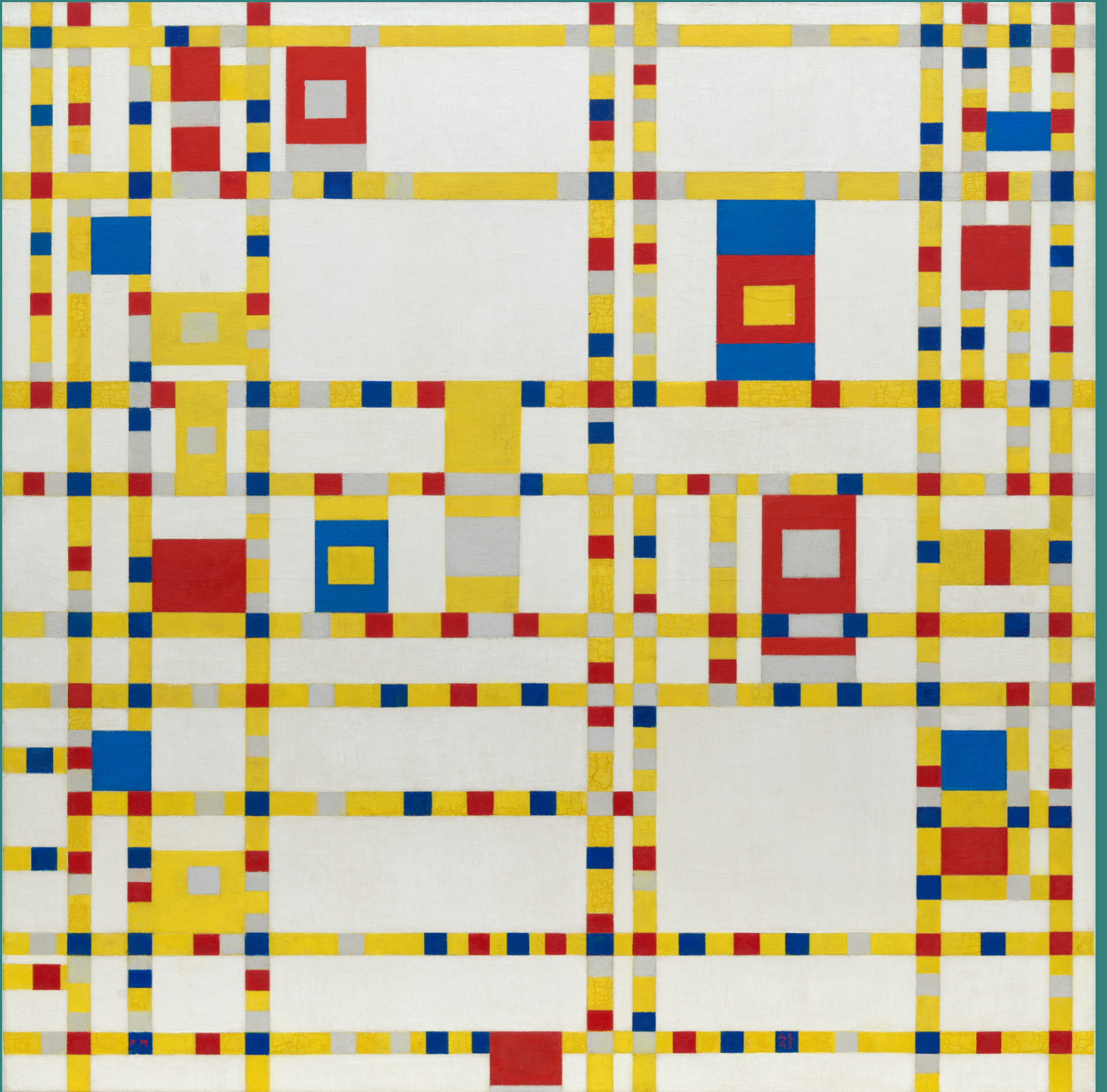
What's going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that...?
What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

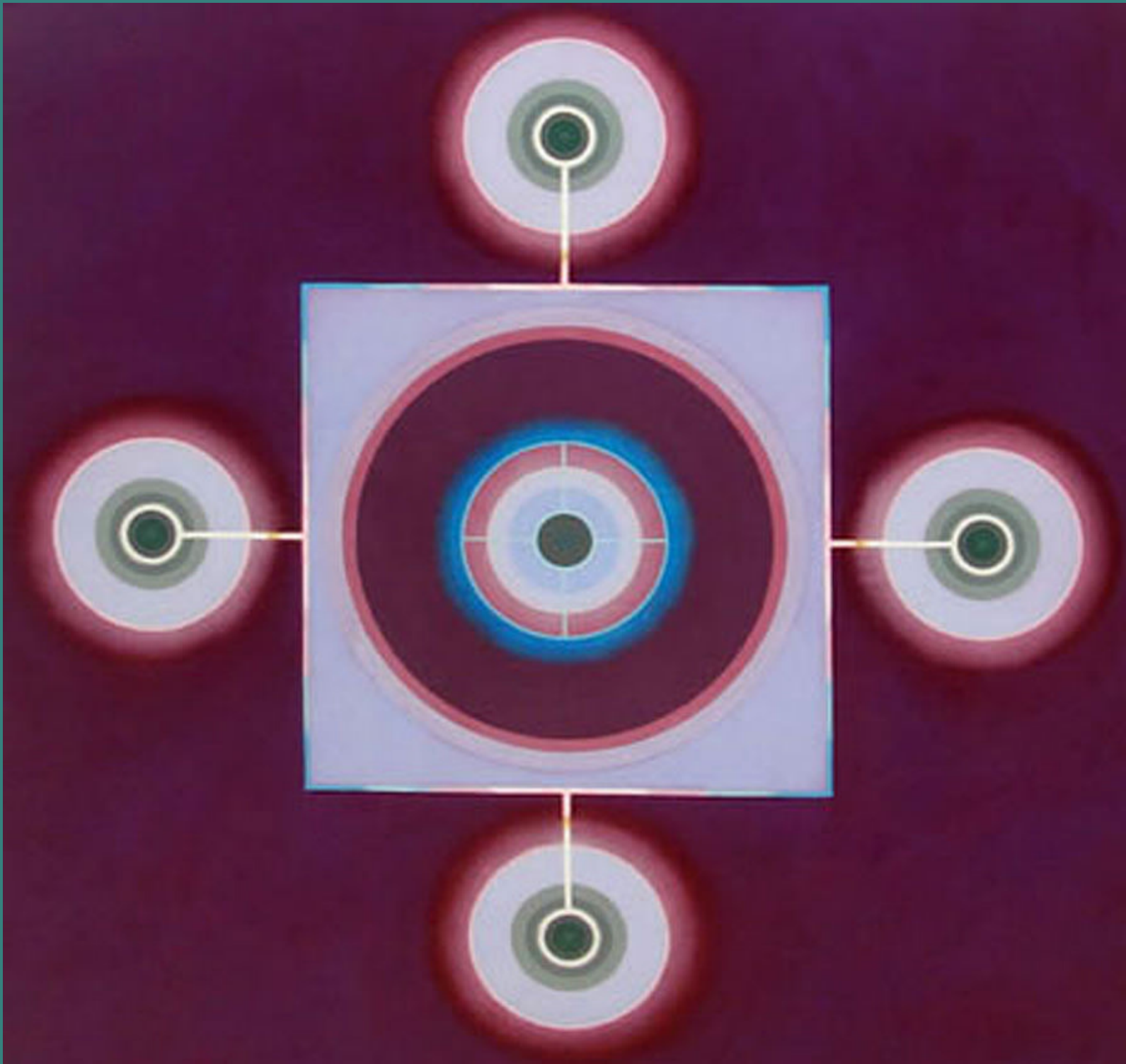
If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to VTS in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: <https://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators>



Piet Mondrian
Composition in Red, Blue and Yellow
Image Credit: MoMA.org



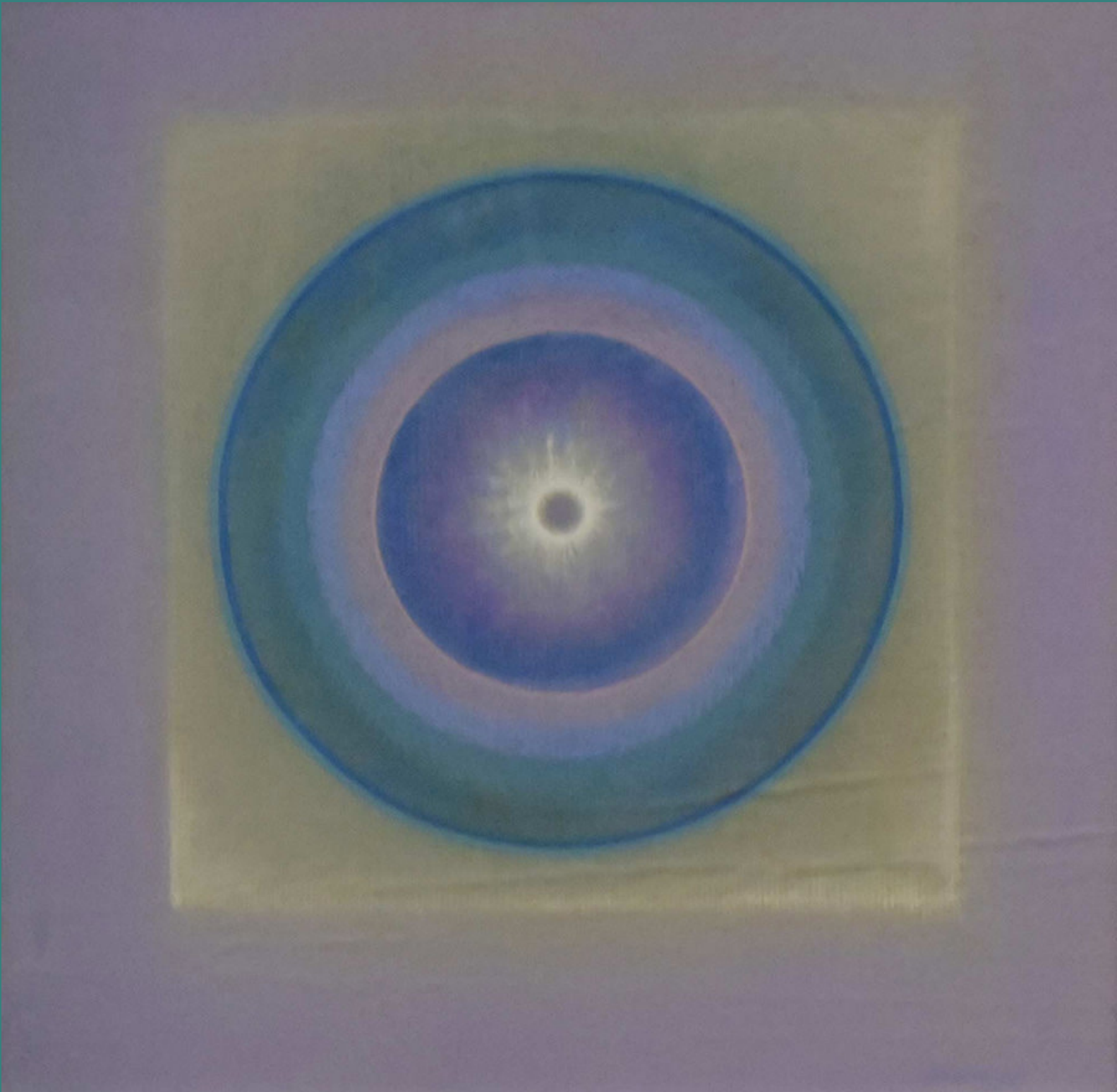
Piet Mondrian
Broadway Boogie Woogie
Source: MoMA.org



Centralia I by Leo Kenny
Image credit: Woodside Braseth Gallery



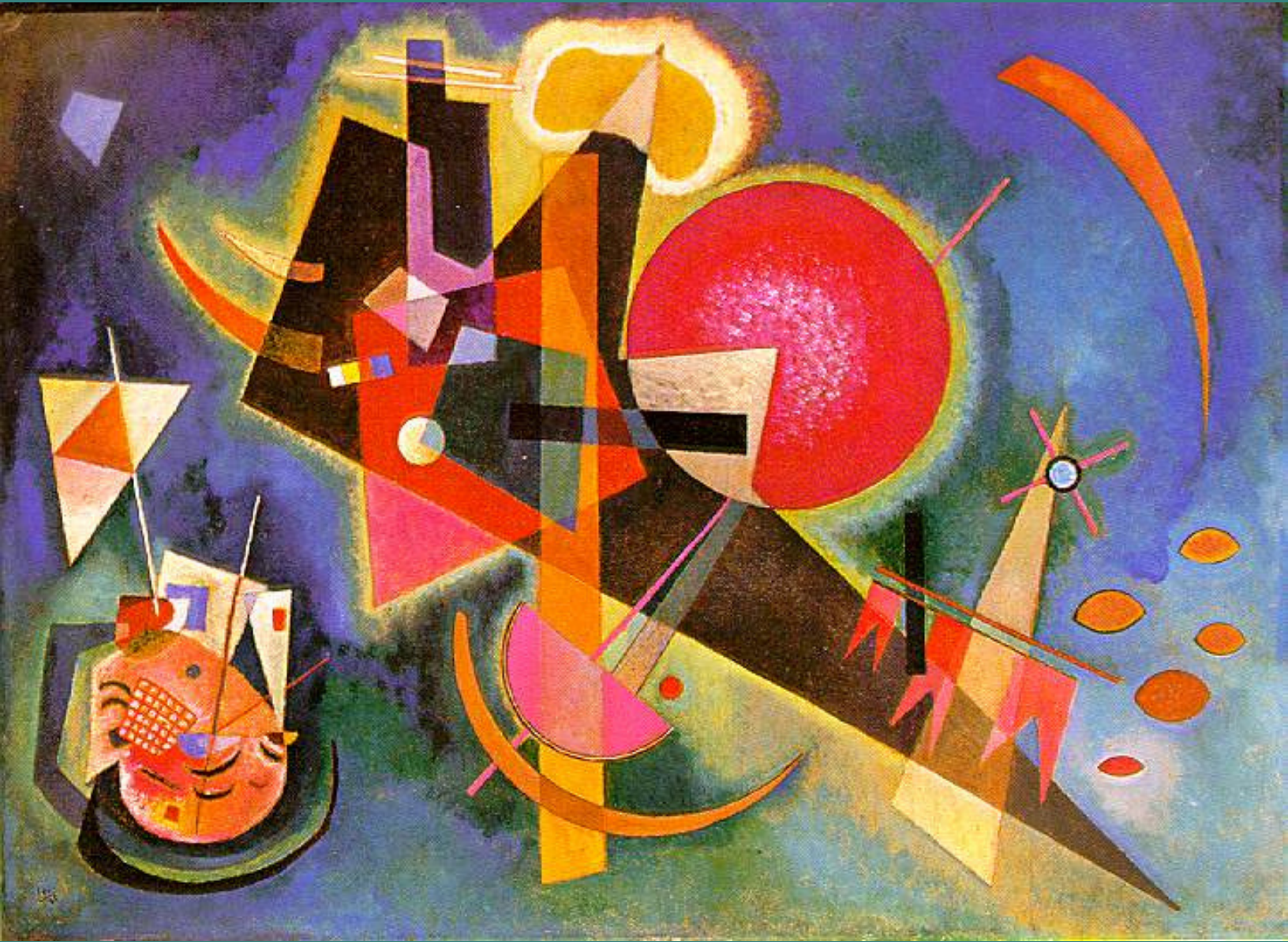
Under February by Leo Kenny
Image credit: Cascadia Art Museum



Study for a Transformation by Leo Kenny
Image credit: Woodside Braseth Gallery



Yellow-Red-Blue by Wassily Kandinsky
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