# Your Paintings: Wassily Kandinsky

**ABC ME screening details: Friday** 29 May, 2020 at 2:00pm

This episode can also be viewed on [ABC iView](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/your-paintings).

**Key learning areas:** Visual Arts

**Level:** Secondary

**About:** A statue comes to life in a magical gallery and climbs into the painting 'Schaukeln' by Wassily Kandinsky. Inside the painting she explores Kandinsky's role in the birth of abstract art, his discovery of his synaesthesia.

## Before the episode

1. What do you know about abstract art? Jot down all you know about this art movement- when was it invented? What values and rules did it challenge? Have you seen an abstract artwork? What did it look like?
2. Look closely at the painting ‘Swinging’, 1925 by Wassily Kandinsky. Spend two minutes making a quick list of all of the many colours and shapes you can see.

## During the episode

1. Kandinsky was interested in creating artworks that did not depict the world realistically. Instead he used colour to depict emotions and convey music. He thought some colours related to specific sounds. What sounds did he think represented the primary colours of yellow, red and blue?
2. In what other ways did Kandinsky link his paintings to music?

## After the episode

1. What shapes and colours do you imagine might best convey emotions? Use coloured pencils below and draw a shape and colour/s that you imagine might best represent the following emotions: happy, angry, shy, brave.
2. Kandinsky often took inspiration from music. Choose **one** piece of music that you love and write down the name of the song/piece above the box below. Listen to the music or sing it you yourself. Using coloured pencils try to convey the sounds of the music using only patterns, shapes and colours. If the music is soft and gentle your marks might also be soft and applied gently, if it is loud and has a heavy beat you might use bold colours, strong patterns and dark solid shapes. Have fun and try to capture the feel of the music.

The song is called:

**Follow-up activity:** Do this activity with a very different piece of music. Compare both.

# NSW teacher notes

This is an optional standalone resource that could supplement student learning. The activities align with syllabus outcomes across stages and can be modified to meet the needs of your students. Students can complete the activities while learning at home and in the classroom. All activities can be completed without access to the internet or a device. Teachers could collect student work to offer feedback and as evidence of learning.

## Learning intentions

* To investigate the practice of Wassily Kandinsky
* To experiment with abstract mark making.

## Resources

* Coloured pencils, music

## NSW Visual Arts 7-10 Syllabus outcomes

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| Outcome | Stage 4 | Stage 5 |
| **Practice** | uses a range of strategies to explore different artmaking conventions and procedures to make artworks (VA4.1) | develops range and autonomy in selecting and applying visual arts conventions and procedures to make artworks (VA5.1) |
| **Conceptual framework** | explores the function of and relationships between artist – artwork – world – audience (VA4.2) | makes artworks informed by their understanding of the function of and relationships between the artist – artwork – world – audience (VA5.2) |
| **Frames** | makes artworks that involve some understanding of the frames (VA4.3)  begins to acknowledge how art can be interpreted from different points of view (VA4.9) | makes artworks informed by an understanding of how the frames affect meaning (VA5.3)  demonstrates how the frames provide different interpretations of art (VA5.9) |

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