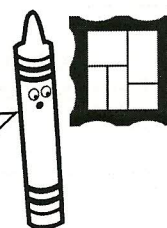


Assignment 1: Explore Geometric Art

Before students start 'painting' their own masterpieces, they watch a presentation that contains sample artwork painted in the De Stijl art style. By watching the presentation they learn what makes this type of art unique.



What is an Art Style?

An art style is a term used to categorize paintings, drawings, sculptures and other forms of art work. Distinctive features make artwork created in one style unique from other work. Often a particular period in time is linked with an art style.

What is De Stijl?

De Stijl means "The Style." However, it is considered more than just an art style. It is referred to as an art movement. The artists who painted in this style had strong opinions about the goal of art and how it should look. They believed that the purpose of their art was not to represent an object such as a vase, animal, or landscape but rather should focus on pure abstraction and simplicity. Pictures were made of rectangles and other geometric shapes, and the colors used were primary colors (red, yellow, blue), along with black and white.

Piet Mondrian (Netherlandish, 1872-1944) was the group's leading artist. He published an article titled Neo-Plasticism in 1920. Another member, painter Theo van Doesberg (Netherlandish, 1883-1931) had started a magazine named De Stijl in 1917, which continued publication until 1928, spreading the theories of the group.

Geometric Design and Art

To some people, geometric design and modern artwork are not considered beautiful. Critics state that the work is simply a collection of shapes and that anyone could produce these paintings. However, to the artists these works are more than just pictures. They represent a belief about the world. The De Stijl style of paintings, show the importance of clarity and simplicity. This style of painting has changed throughout the years and has many different labels depending on the time period or places. However, no matter the name, the design is geometric.

