

The Works of Wassily Kandinsky

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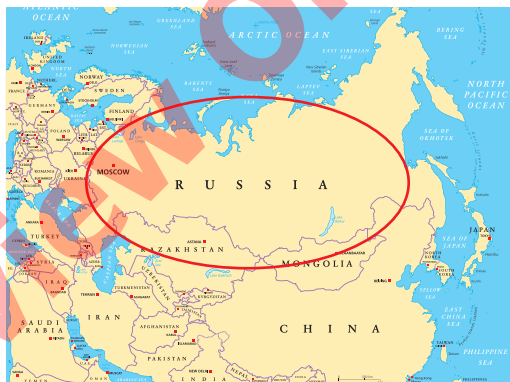


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Introduction

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian artist from the early 20th century. He was both a painter and an art theorist. He painted and taught art. Kandinsky thought about the purpose of art itself.

Kandinsky was from Russia.



Thinking about the purpose of art helps us judge whether a piece of art is a success.



↑ *Murnau, Burggrabenstrasse 1*
by Kandinsky (1908)

Kandinsky started his art career at a late age. However, he became a pioneer of Abstract Art. He challenged the ideas of the Post-Impressionists. He questioned the idea that art had to capture real, visible objects.



Audio

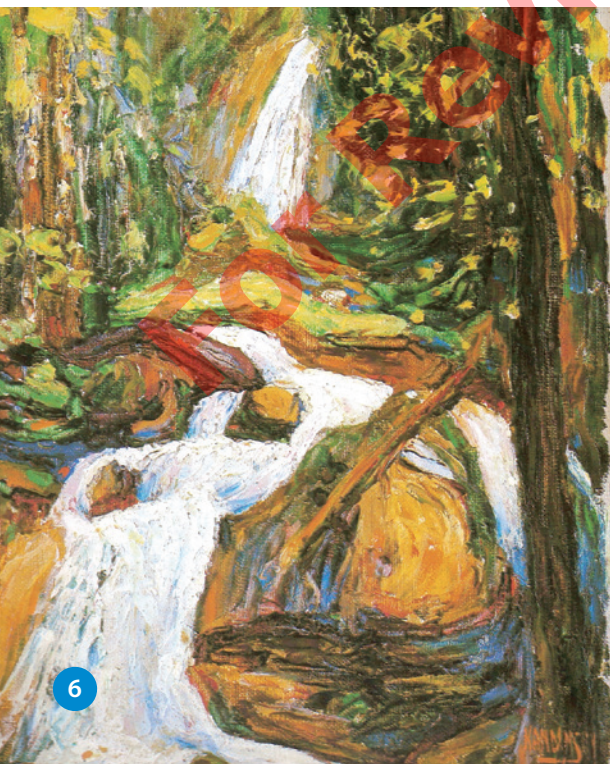
Early Life

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Moscow in 1866. He had rich parents, so he experienced music and fine arts from a young age. As a child, he showed a talent for both.

↪ Kandinsky learned to play the cello and the piano in elementary school.



Kochel: Waterfall I—an early painting by Kandinsky (1900) ↪



Merry Structure—a later painting by Kandinsky (1926) ↪

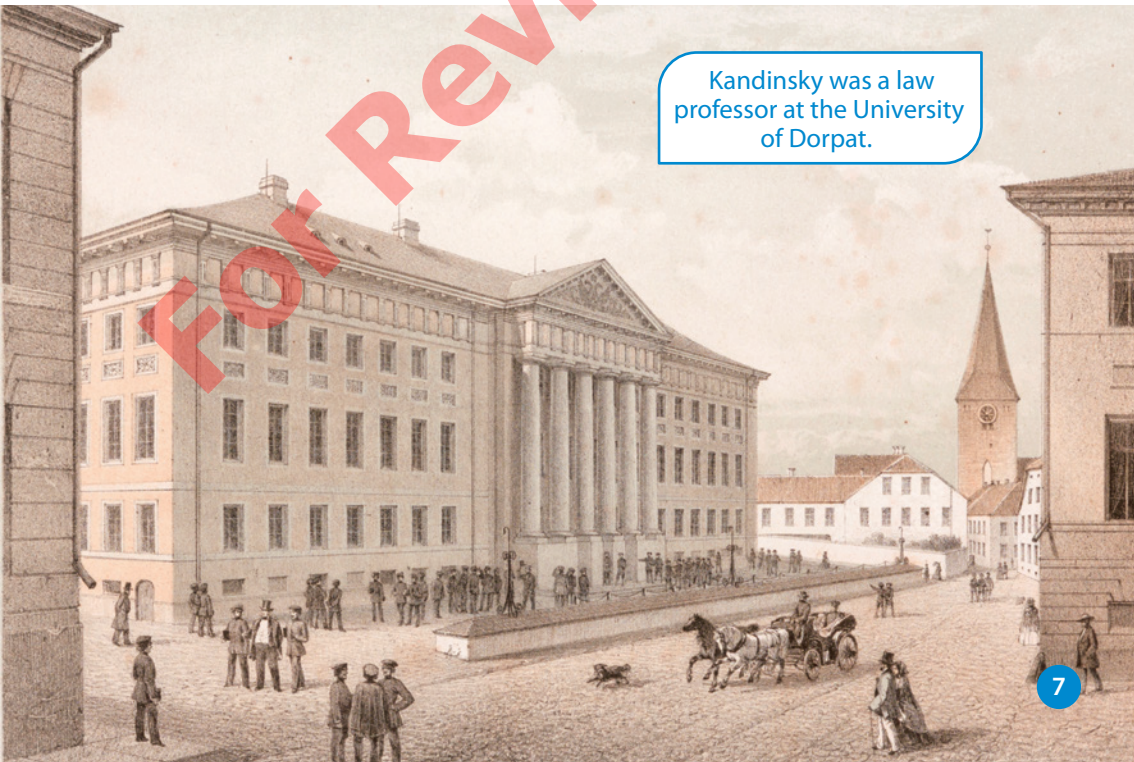


Kandinsky was fascinated by art and color from an early age. However, he decided not to begin a career in the arts. He studied law at Moscow University. Then, he became a law professor.

Kandinsky loved color. ➡



Kandinsky was a law professor at the University of Dorpat.





You can see haystacks in the countryside.

One day, he saw a painting of haystacks by the Impressionist Claude Monet. Then, everything changed! Seeing it, he was both confused and surprised.



↑ *Haystacks at Giverny, the Evening Sun* by Monet (1889) was the painting Kandinsky saw.

It seemed incomplete. It was not a realistic image of haystacks. There was only an impression, that is, a general, not complete idea. However, he still felt strong emotions!