

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Project

Spotlight on Art History

Piet Mondrian

About the Artist:

“Every true artist has been inspired more by the beauty of lines and color and the relationships between them than by the concrete subject of the picture.” – Piet Mondrian

Dutch modern painter Piet Mondrian (1872 – 1944) is best known for his 1920's works of art that feature only horizontal and vertical lines along with black, white and primary colors. These pieces reflect his belief that objects must be simplified down to their basic elements to reveal their energy and balance. Though he began his artistic career as a traditional landscape painter, his artistic work evolved and progressed until they were purely abstract versions of modern reality. When Mondrian made his paintings, he would always mix his own colors, never using the paint directly out of a tube. He often used primary colors – red yellow and blue. Mondrian became an important artist whose ideas and work influenced lots of later artists. In fact, it wasn't just visual art that Mondrian inspired. The influence of his paintings can be seen in lots of other things – from furniture to fashion.



ART AT HOME – Line Design

What You'll Need:

- Large Poster Board / Cardboard / Canvas
- Pencil
- Ruler / Straight Edge
- Black Tape
- Paint (Red, Yellow, Blue)
- Paint Brushes for each color you use

Mondrian did not use rulers when drawing his lines, but we will since it will help to develop our composition (but if you're up for the challenge, try free hand drawing the lines!)

- Step 1 – Begin by drawing vertical and horizontal lines all over your canvas. In doing so, try to create interesting patterns of different sizes of rectangles and squares.
- Step 2 – Paint the squares and rectangles. Be sure to leave some of the shapes without color, since Mondrian often left some of the shapes white.
- Step 3 – Set the painting aside to dry.
- Step 4 – Once the painting is dry, apply the black tape along the outlines.
- Step 5 – Give your painting a title!
- Step 6 – Help clean up your supplies and workspace.

Tips:

- Look at pictures of Mondrian's work before you begin for inspiration!
- Though Mondrian usually worked with bright primary colors, feel free to use your own favorite colors.

Questions to ask one another:

- If you could ask Piet Mondrian one question, what would it be?
- How many different shapes can you find inside your work?

Follow Up Project Idea:

- Using painter tape to outline your shapes, create this project on your driveway using chalk. Instead of using the tape to divide the shapes and colors, remove the tape so that the empty space is the outline. Your neighbors will appreciate your artwork!

