

# Pieter Cornelis Mondrian Jr.

## 1872-1944

By Ashley Hernandez Reynoso



# Early Years



- Who is Piet Mondrian?
- Born March 7, 1872 in Amersfoort Netherlands
- Died February 1, 1944 in New York, New York at age 71
- He was the second of five children in a Calvinist home in Central Holland.
- Art & Music were encouraged in his household
- Father whom is Pieter Cornelis Mondrian Sr. Whom taught a local primary school who gave drawing lessons to his son
- Uncle Fritz Mondrian whom was a painter taught his nephew how to paint



## More of his Early years

- He first obtained a degree in education by 1892 he was able to teach secondary schools for drawing
- Instead of becoming a teacher he took painting lessons in a small town not far from Winterswijk
- He became a member of the art society Kunstliefde in Utrecht where his first paintings were exhibited in 1893 & in the following year he joined the two local artist societies in Amsterdam

# The Grey Tree- 1912

- The Grey tree exemplifies his early transition toward education & application of cubist principles to represent the landscape. The three dimensional tree has been reduced to lines & planes using a limited palette of grey's & black. This painting is one in a series of works Mondrian created, in which the early trees are naturalistically represented, while the later works have become progressively more abstract.



# Pier and Ocean (composition No. 10) - 1915

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- Pier and Ocean marks a definitive step in Mondrian's path toward pure abstraction. Here he eliminated the angles & curves, as well as the color; there is a single true reference to nature in Title and Horizontal lines that allude to the horizon & vertical lines which invoke the pilings at the pier. The rhythmic movements of the alternating lines & their variations, which reflect an uneven balance as well as a wave pulse in the ocean are, precursors to Mondrian's evolving dynamic. Reviewing his work : Theo Van Doesburg wrote: "Spiritually this work is more important than the others. It conveys the impression of peace & the stillness of the soul."



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## Composition with Large Red Plane, Yellow, Black, Grey and Blue, 1921

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- In this composition, Mondrian uses a grid of black lines to define rectangular shapes filled with bold, flat colors. The geometric precision and primary colors, along with the neutral black and gray, epitomizes Mondrian's vision of pure abstraction, where art transcends physical representation to convey universal principles of harmony and balance.



## Woods nr. Oele (1908)

- Bosch (Woods); Woods near Oele, represents a culmination of the explorations of color seen in Mondrian's evening landscapes and the loose, sketchy style he adopted in Twente.



# Movements that Piet Mondrian used

**Cubism:** Cubism is an artistic movement, created by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, which employs geometric shapes in depictions of humans and other forms. Over time, the geometric touches grew so intense that they sometimes overtook the represented forms, creating a more pure level of visual abstraction.

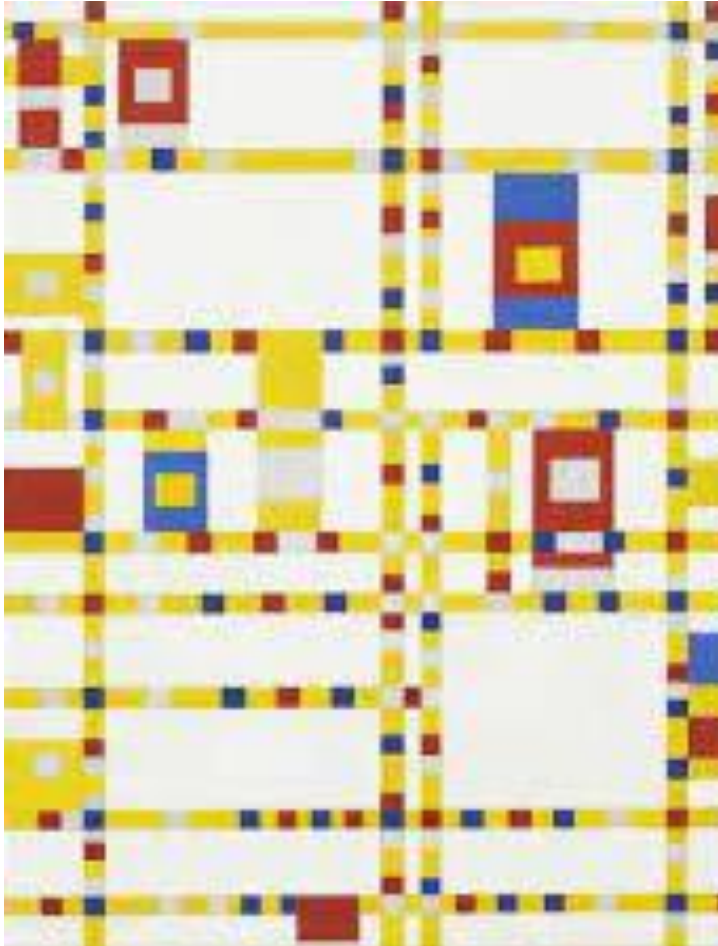
**De Stijl:** Proponents of De Stijl advocated pure abstraction and universality by a reduction to the essentials of form and color. They simplified visual compositions to vertical and horizontal, using only black, white and primary colors.

**Abstract Expressionism:** abstract expressionism include nonobjective works that are not represented in nature. Instead, the artist uses large brush strokes, drips of paint and color swathes to create a two-dimensional canvas that reflects the artist's emotional and subconscious state.

**Minimalism:** Minimalism describes movements in various forms of art and design, especially visual art and music, where the work is set out to expose the essence, essentials or identity of a subject through eliminating all non-essential forms, features or concepts.



# Later Years



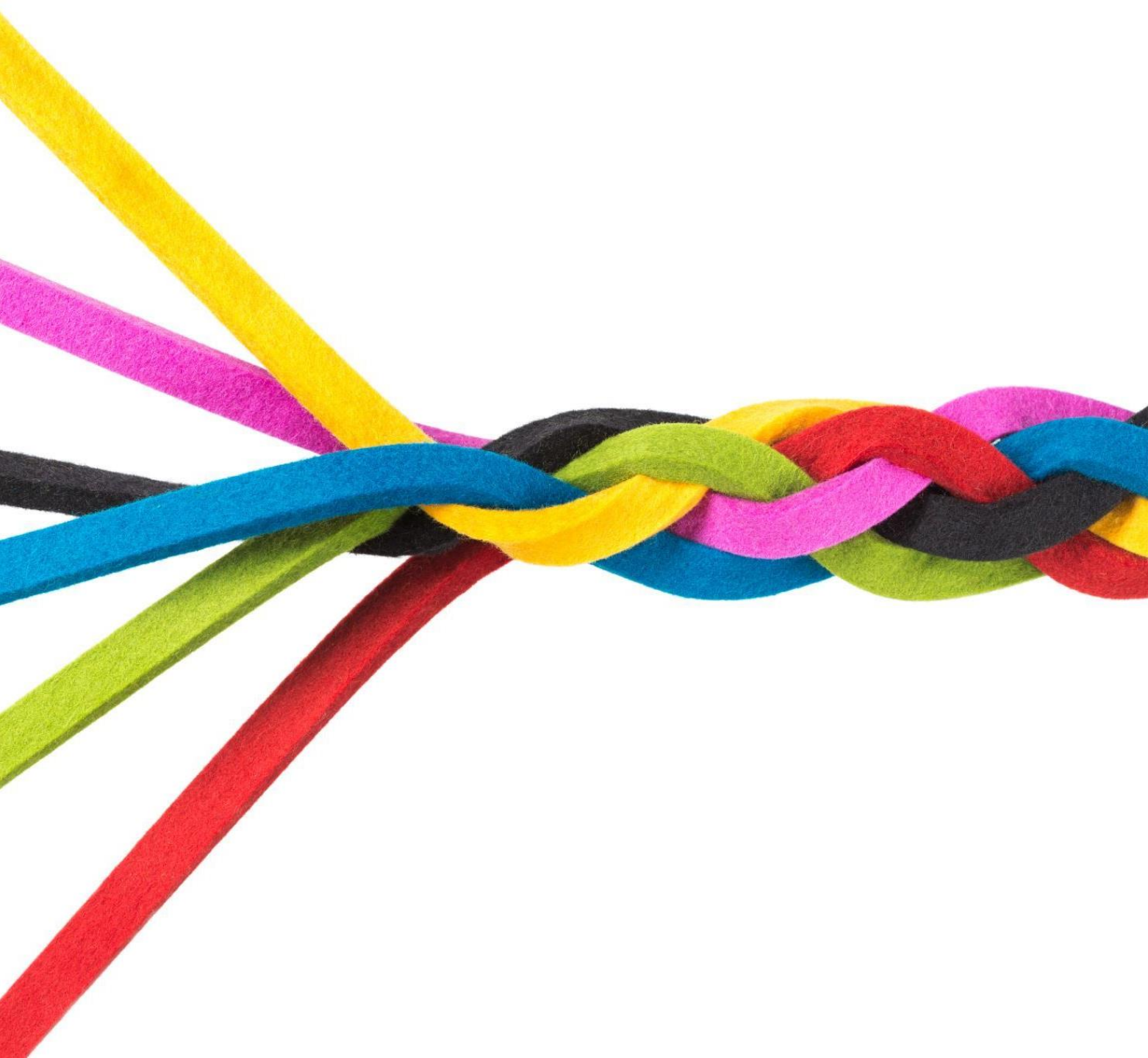
- When Mondrian decided to leave Paris in 1938, under the shadow of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Adolf Hitler, he was welcomed in London by members of the Circle group.
- For two years he worked and lived in a London suburb, but the bombardment of the city forced him to flee to New York City in 1940, where he was welcomed by Holtzman, the art collector Peggy Guggenheim, art critic and museum director James Johnson Sweeney, and other members of the American artistic vanguard.
- His late masterpieces—*New York City I* and *Broadway Boogie Woogie*, exhibited in 1943–44, in his first personal exhibition in more than two decades—express this new vivacity through the autonomous, joyous movement of colour blocks.

## Significance

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- He liked painting trees
- Started out painting realistic scenes
- Started Abstract paintings
- He cofounded De Stijl which was a movement that he has used in some of his paintings
- He created the Abstract style with Wassily Kandinsky





**Activity!!**

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- For our activity we are going to be doing an abstract drawing
  - It could be about anything you want it to be just use your imagination
  - Here's an example, to the left