

Quarter/Year

Course Number

Day/Time

Instructor

Winter 2021

ART-HIST 255

MW 12:30-1:50

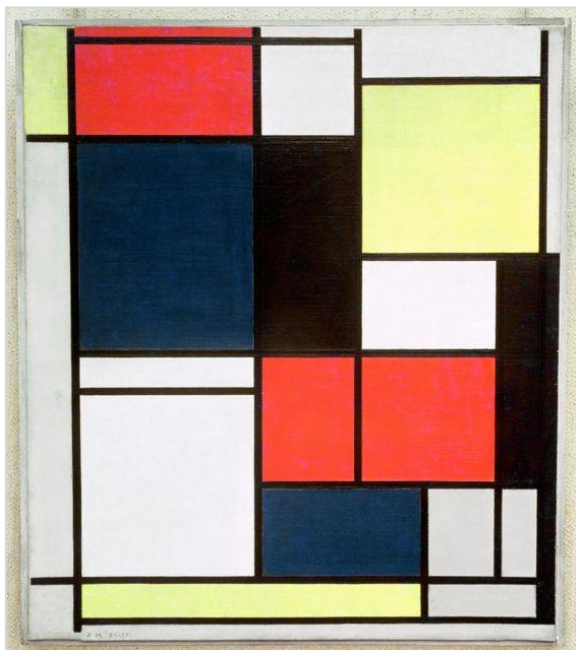
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Course Title

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Introduction to Modernism

200-level



What is modernism? Why did artists in the late nineteenth century stop making realistic images of the world and instead start experimenting with form to the point that they invented abstract art? Modernist art arose in the historical period we call modernity, defined by industrialization; urbanization; colonization; revolution and mass war; the rise of mass commodity culture, spectacle and technology; and the emergence of the art market as we know it today. Modernist art sometimes optimistically mimics the new forms of mass visual culture but more commonly reworks or rejects those forms in a critical commentary on their inequities. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> C to the mid-20th C, primarily in Europe, we will examine the key modernist “isms”: Impressionism, Cubism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Suprematism, Purism, Constructivism, and Socialist Realism, as well as the rise of abstraction culminating in Abstract Expressionism.

Image: Piet Mondrian, *Tableau No. 2 with Red, Blue, Black and Gray*, 1921-25

Required Textbooks

No required textbook. Assigned readings provided on Canvas.

Assessments

Assessments for this hybrid course are still in development in consultation with the Office of Teaching & Learning Technologies, but will likely include a mix of papers, participation, quizzes and other formats, appropriately tailored for remote and in-person students.