

# Abstract Trees

Piet Mondrian was a painter from the Netherlands. He began his career painting objects as he really saw them which is called “realism”. He then began painting objects more simply, reducing the image to only the most simple lines and values. This is called “abstracting” an object. The idea behind abstract art is to draw the viewer’s attention to the forms of the work, not the content. Focusing more on lines, shapes, colors, etc, abstract work doesn’t focus on what the picture is “supposed to be”.

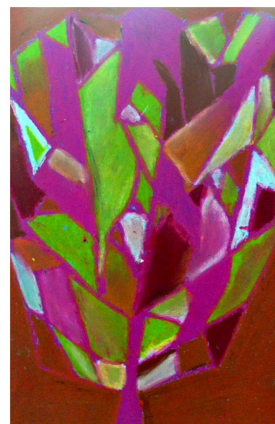
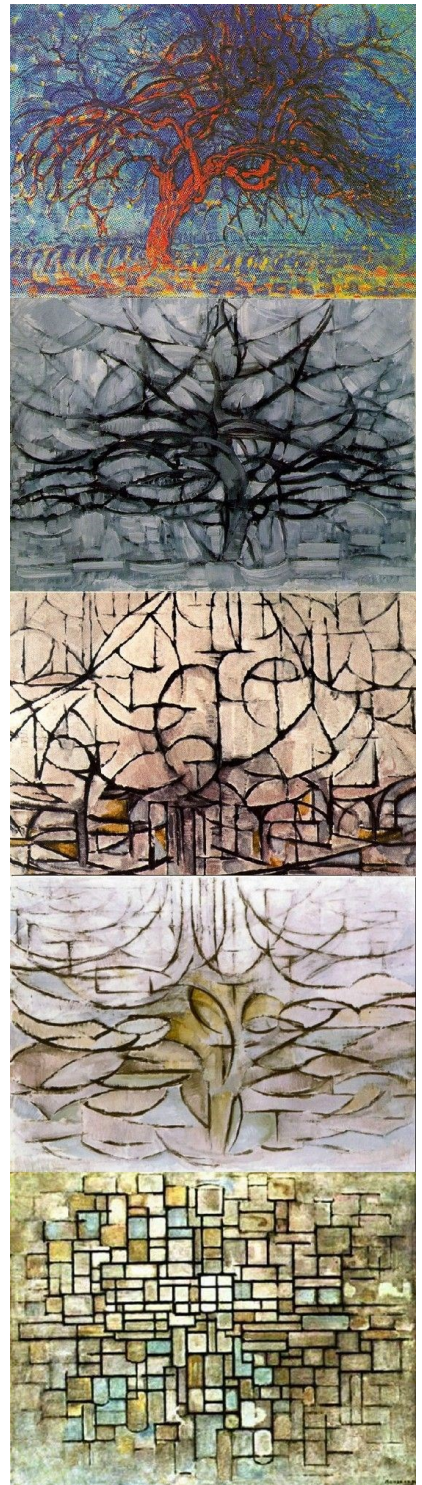
Notice the transition from realism to abstraction in Mondrian’s work on the right. If you didn’t already know, you would never guess the last painting was inspired by a tree!

Create an abstract tree drawing by sketching Y shaped, stylized branches that repeat and continue until they reach the edge of the page. The branches should touch each other or the edge of the page to enclose spaces.

Trace your pencil lines with a black oil pastel.

Add color in the shapes between the branches in the style of Mondrian by limiting your color palette to just a few colors and experimenting with mixing and blending more than one color in each space. White oil pastel is a great blender! All negative spaces must be filled.

Sign and hang your work



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