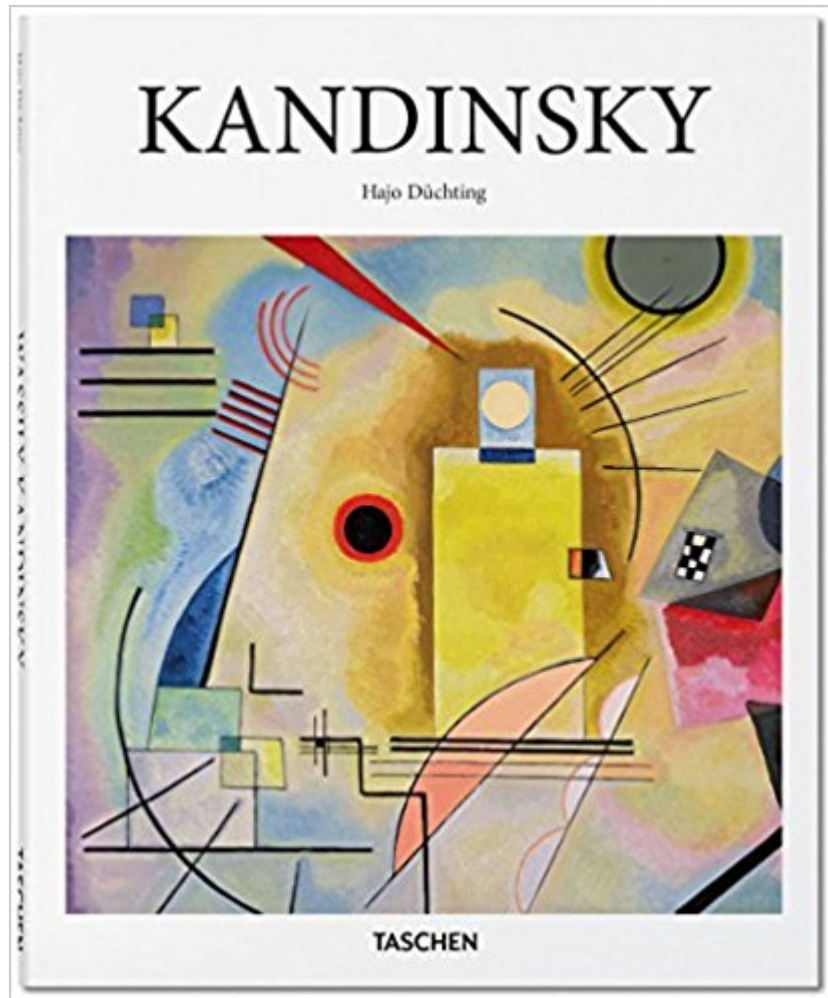




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Kandinsky (Basic Art Series 2.0)



Synopsis

Abstract beginnings: A pivotal portfolio in the history of art Over the course of his artistic career, Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944) transformed not only his own style, but the course of art history. From early figurative and landscape painting, he went on to pioneer a spiritual, emotive, rhythmic use of color and line and is today credited with creating the first purely abstract work. As much a teacher and theorist as he was a practicing artist, Kandinsky's interests in music, theater, poetry, philosophy, ethnology, myth, and the occult, were all essential components to his painting and engraving. He was involved with both the influential Blaue Reiter and Bauhaus groups and left a legacy not only of dazzling visual work, but also of highly influential treatises such as *Concerning the Spiritual In Art*. Key tenets included the connections between painting, music and mystical experience, and the purification of art away from material realism and towards an emotional expression, condensed in particular by color. This book presents key Kandinsky works to introduce his repertoire of vivid colors, forms, and feelings. Tracing the artist's radical stylistic development, it shows how one painter's progression paved the way for generations of abstract expression to come.

About the Series: Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Art series features: a detailed chronological summary of the life and oeuvre of the artist, covering his or her cultural and historical importance a concise biography approximately 100 illustrations with explanatory captions

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let me preface this review with the fact that I am an engineer, not an artist, and know almost nothing about art. That said... Kandinsky is one of my favorite artists, and I have a reproduction of "Composition VIII" hanging on my living room wall. The book contains many good quality pictures of Kandinsky's paintings throughout his life, showing his different styles, interspersed with text about his life. The writing is at times a bit pretentious and/or "etherial" for me. I would have preferred the descriptions of the paintings and reasons for the changings in style to be a bit more "concrete", but as I said, I'm not an artist. I also would have liked a bit more discussion of his childhood, how he got into painting, and synesthesia in general. But, given the book's very reasonable price, if you buy the book, you won't be disappointed.

Good intro to Kandinsky. I saw a travelling exhibition of his works in Milwaukee that really got me understanding his work. This is a good complement, although the show was stronger on recurring themes and motifs in his work. His work is beautiful, and this book is a great way to get a feel for it.

Excellent information on one of my favorite artists. Good quality reprints of paintings but did not include some of his best known works and that's why I gave it 4 rather than 5 stars.

Great book.

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