

The Works of Piet Mondrian

Andrea Janzen

Series Editor **Liana Robinson**

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Introduction

Piet Mondrian was a Dutch painter and art theorist from the early 20th century. Born into an artistic family, he learned art from a young age. Early on, he painted in a traditional style. However, Mondrian became fascinated with Modern Art.



↑ Vincent van Gogh is one artist who impressed Mondrian.



↑ *View of Winterswijk* by Mondrian (1899)

We can still see
Mondrian's influence
around us today.



Mondrian was inspired by the Post-Impressionists and Cubists. He then created his own style of modern art. He became one of the great pioneers of abstract painting. His way of thinking influenced art, design, and even popular culture.

Fashion influenced
by Mondrian





Audio

Early Life

Pieter Mondrian was born in 1872 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. Named after his father, his birth name was Pieter Cornelis Mondriaan.

Mondrian grew up among artists. His father was a drawing teacher. His uncle, Frits Mondriaan, was a talented landscape painter.

Both art and music were encouraged in Mondrian's home.



Amersfoort is in the central part of the Netherlands, near Utrecht.



Mondrian learned drawing from his father at a young age. Later, he learned painting techniques from his uncle. As he grew older, Mondrian wanted to paint as a career. However, due to family pressure, he studied education instead.

Mondrian's family
thought being a teacher
was a better job. ➡

The Dam in Amsterdam by George Hendrik
Breitner (1901) is a painting done in the
traditional style that Mondrian first learned.





↑ *The Sampling Officials by Rembrandt (1662) is an example of a painting by a master painter.*

By 1892, Mondrian was qualified to teach art. However, he still loved painting. He didn't look for a teaching position. He moved to Amsterdam. There, he started studying at the National Academy of Fine Arts. He studied at the academy for three years. He learned traditional painting techniques. He practiced by copying masters. His own paintings at this time were in a realistic style. He used darker colors and traditional effects for light.

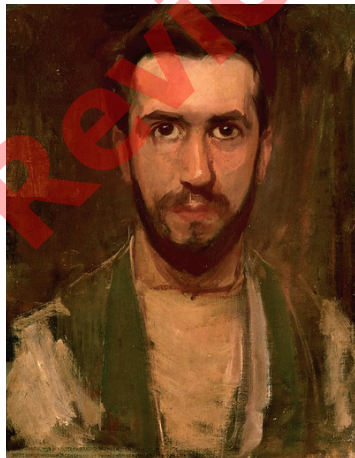


Woman with Spindle by Mondrian (c. 1893) →

Mondrian had a difficult time in his early career. To earn money, he did odd jobs. He made drawings for textbooks and copied museum paintings. He also painted portraits and taught art lessons. His life was hard but enjoyable. Mondrian said, “I was happy to make just enough money to do what I wanted to do.”



↑ *Village Church* by Mondrian (1898)



↑ *Self Portrait* by Mondrian (c. 1900)



↑ *Chrysanthemum* (1908) is an example of Mondrian's art style for textbooks.