

RESEARCH REPORT

Part 1: Brief history of Abstract Art and how the work of one abstract artist influenced modern Graphic Design

Part 2: Analyse the work of one contemporary illustrator/designer that you feel inspired by.



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INTRODUCTION

My name is Paul Quinlan. I am currently in my second year of studying Graphic Design at Colaiste Dhulaigh Raheny Campus. As part of this Graphic Design HND1 course i must research and analyse Abstract Art and its impact on modern design. In this report i will outline the history of Abstract Art and focus on one particular abstract artist who has influenced modern Graphic Design.

PART 1:

HISTORY:

Originating in Europe in the late 19th Century, Abstract art fully emerged in the early 20th Century due to the decline in appreciation for realism among Avante-Garde Artists at that time. The abstract art movement of the 20th Century allowed for lucid analysis and meaning via lines, shapes and colours that were not yet recognised in art. Abstract art opened a gateway to many forms of art such and Impressionism and Expressionism as it focused on few key elements to manipulate realism.

As a result of the first and second World Wars many of Europes leading artists had to flea their homes for America. (Somshun Khan - 2011) Useum.org - History of Abstract Art

Wassily Kandinsky is noted as one of the most recognised abstract artist of the 20th Century. Born in Moscow, Russia in 1866 he was one of the earliest and most influential abstract painters. A former musician, Kandinsky's main objective of to evoke sound through sight and he worked to create the painterly equivalent of a symphony in his works.



Picture via (<https://www.wassilykandinsky.net/painting1896-1944.php>)

“Kandinsky believed that colours provoke emotions. Red was lively and confident; green was peaceful with inner strength; blue was deep and supernatural; yellow could be warm, exciting, disturbing or totally bonkers; and white seemed silent but full of possibilities. He also assigned instrument tones to go with each color. Red sounded like a trumpet; green sounded like a violin; light blue sounded like a flute; dark blue sounded like a cello, yellow sounded like a fanfare of trumpets; white sounded like the pause in a harmonious melody.”

(Beth Gersh-Nesic, 2018 - <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-abstract-art-183186>)



(‘Im Blau’ - Kandinsky 1925)

Kandinsky removed all recognisable subjects and objects from his art and achieved a new pictorial form of music. He achieved pure abstraction by replacing castles and hill tops of his early landscapes with stabs of paint or, as he saw them, musical notes that would visually ‘sing’.

PART 2:

Christoph Niemann:

The contemporary artist i have chosen is German born illustrator, graphic designer and animator, Christoph Niemann.



Images via (<http://www.christophniemann.com/portfolio/nyercover/>)

Niemann studied at the State Academy of Fine Art in Stuttgart. After his studies in Germany he moved to New York in 1997, where he quickly grew to be one of the most successful illustrators of the 21st Century, with work appearing on the covers of The New Yorker, WIRED and The New York Times Magazine, as well as writing and designing his own series of children's books.

Niemann's witty and cunning attitude towards illustration has led him to come up with inventive and thought - provoking designs that capture the essence of everyday life.

(Sarah Gilbert - Oct 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2017/oct/04/christoph-niemann-illustrator-exhibition-new-york-in-pictures>)



In a series Niemann calls 'Sunday Sketches' he uses everyday objects to create playful illustrations.