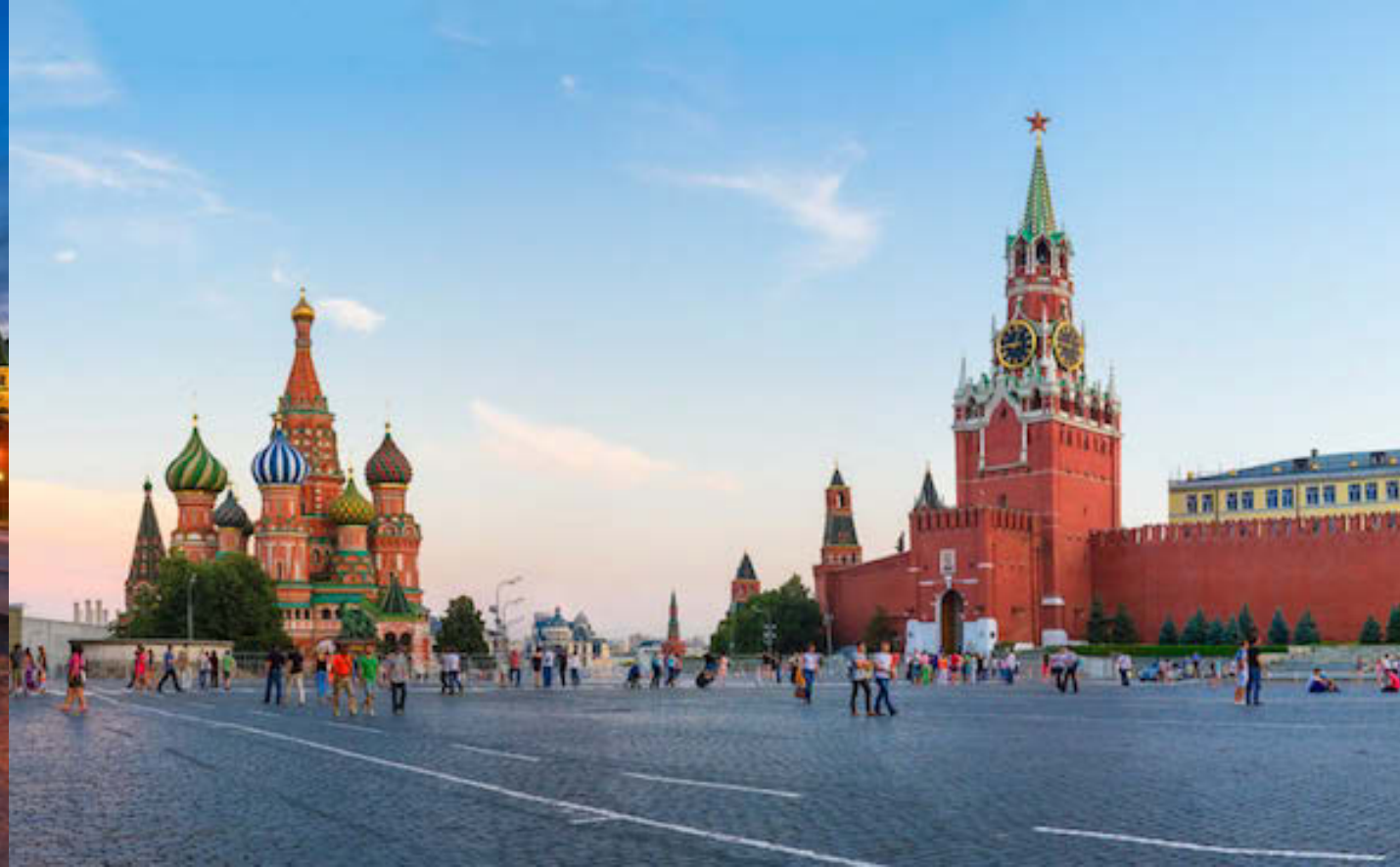


Wassily Kandinsky

Learning Objective:

To learn about the life and work of Wassily Kandinsky.





Wassily Kandinsky
was born in
Moscow, Russia
on 4th December
1866.

The pictures above
show Moscow today. What
do you think it was like when
Kandinsky was born?



Kandinsky went to art school in Odessa, Ukraine (which was part of Russia at that time). As a young, aspiring artist, he was inspired by the work of Impressionist painters – Claude Monet, in particular.



Claude Monet
*Le Port de
Trouville,*
1870.



Wassily Kandinsky
Rotterdam Sun,
1906.

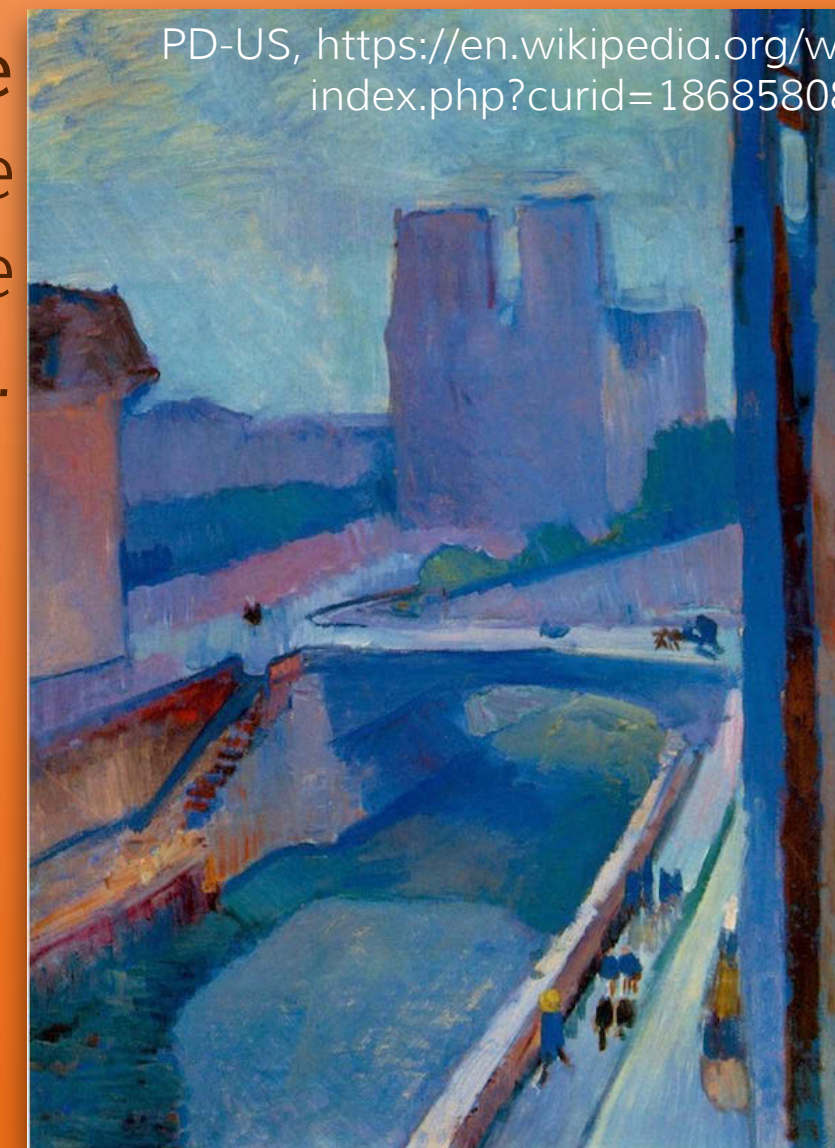
What can you see?
How would you
describe the artists'
techniques? What
similarities are
there?



Wassily
Kandinsky
*Murnau Train
& Castle,*
1909.

As he travelled through Europe during the early 1900s, Kandinsky's style began to change. He was influenced by the French painter, Henri Matisse.

Henri Matisse
*A Glimpse of Notre
Dame in the Late
Afternoon, 1902.*



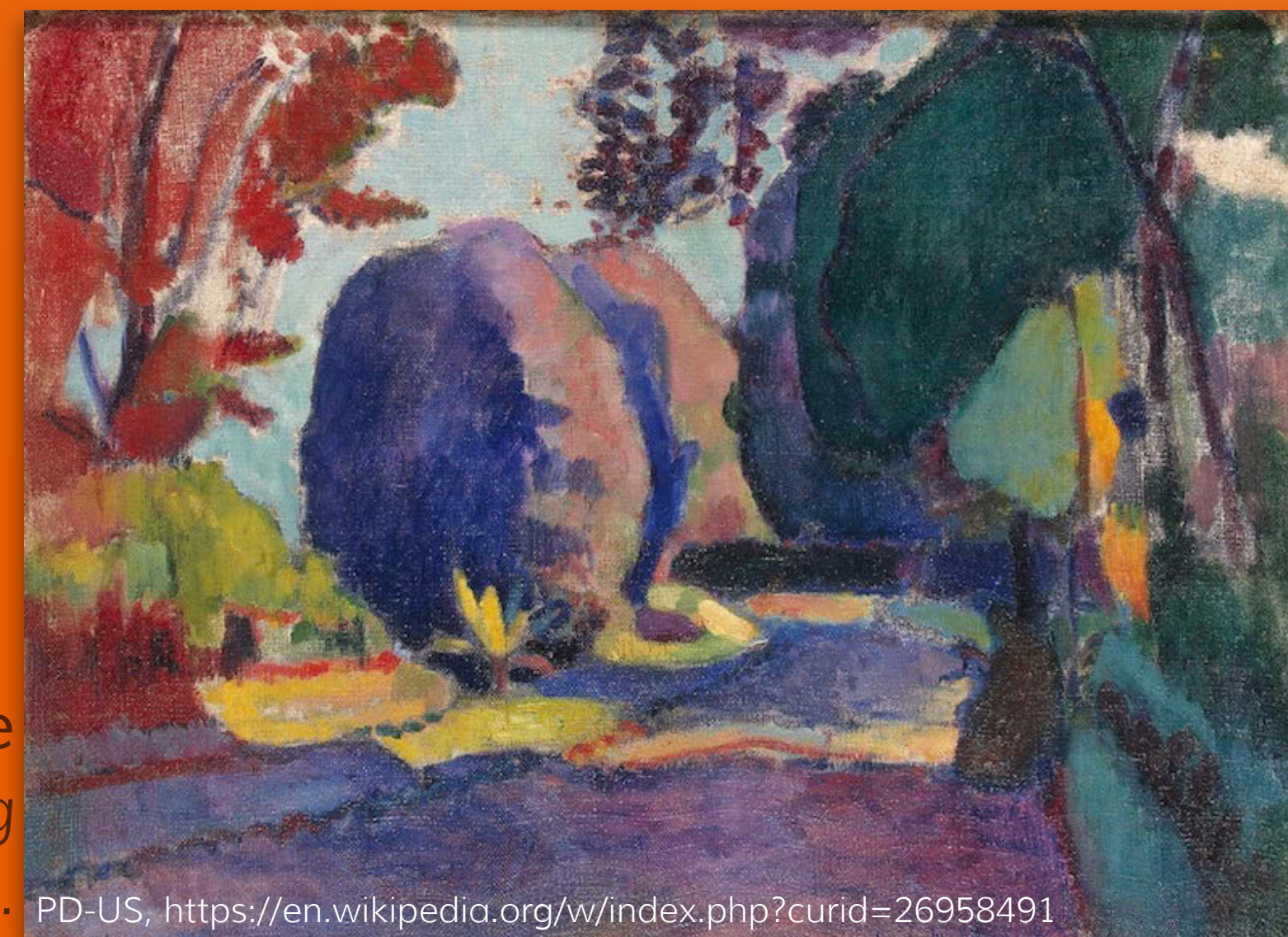
PD-US, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18685808>

What do you notice? How did Kandinsky's style change?



Wassily Kandinsky
Houses in Munich,
1908.

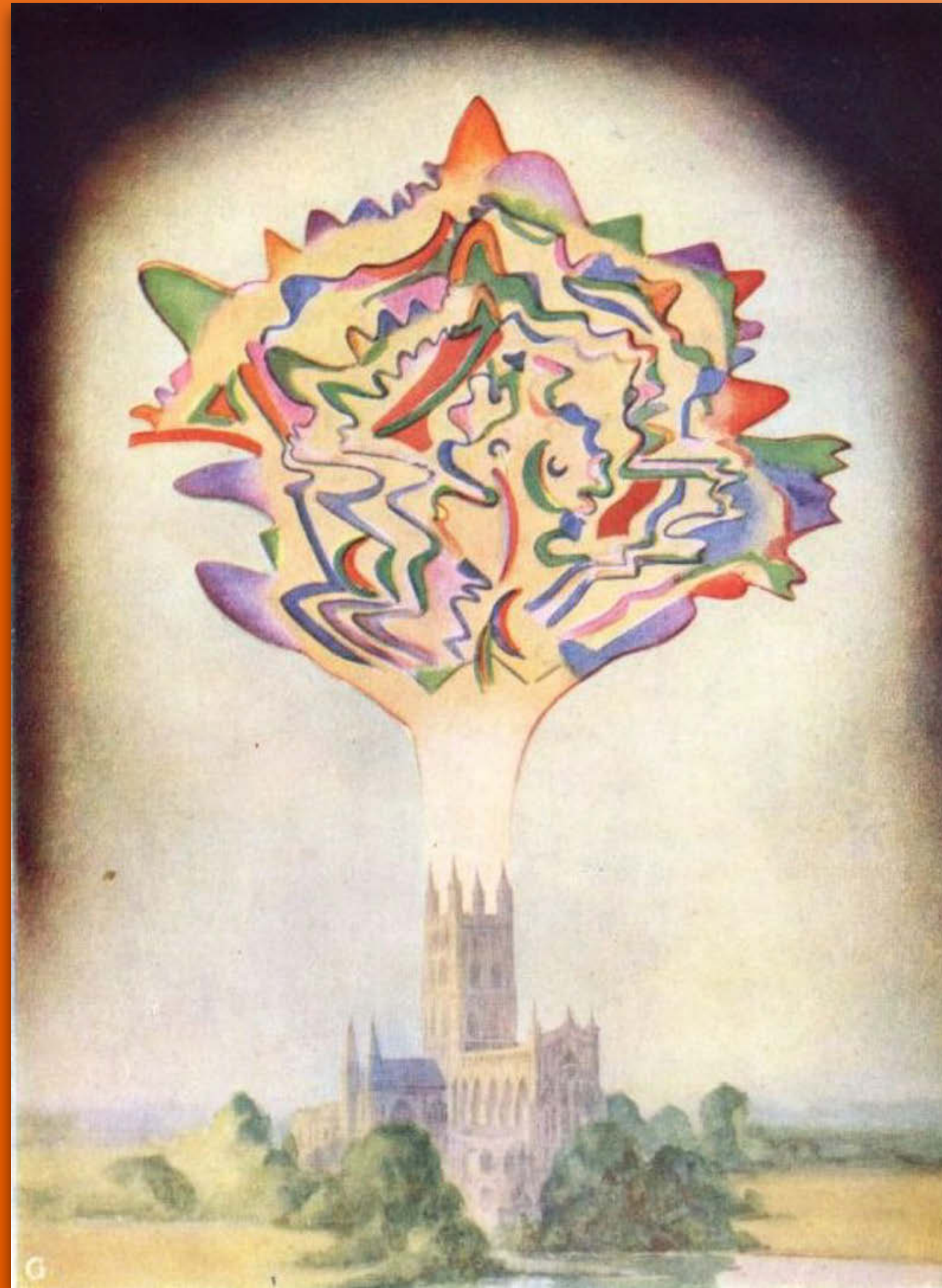
Henri Matisse
*Luxembourg
Gardens, 1901.*



PD-US, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26958491>

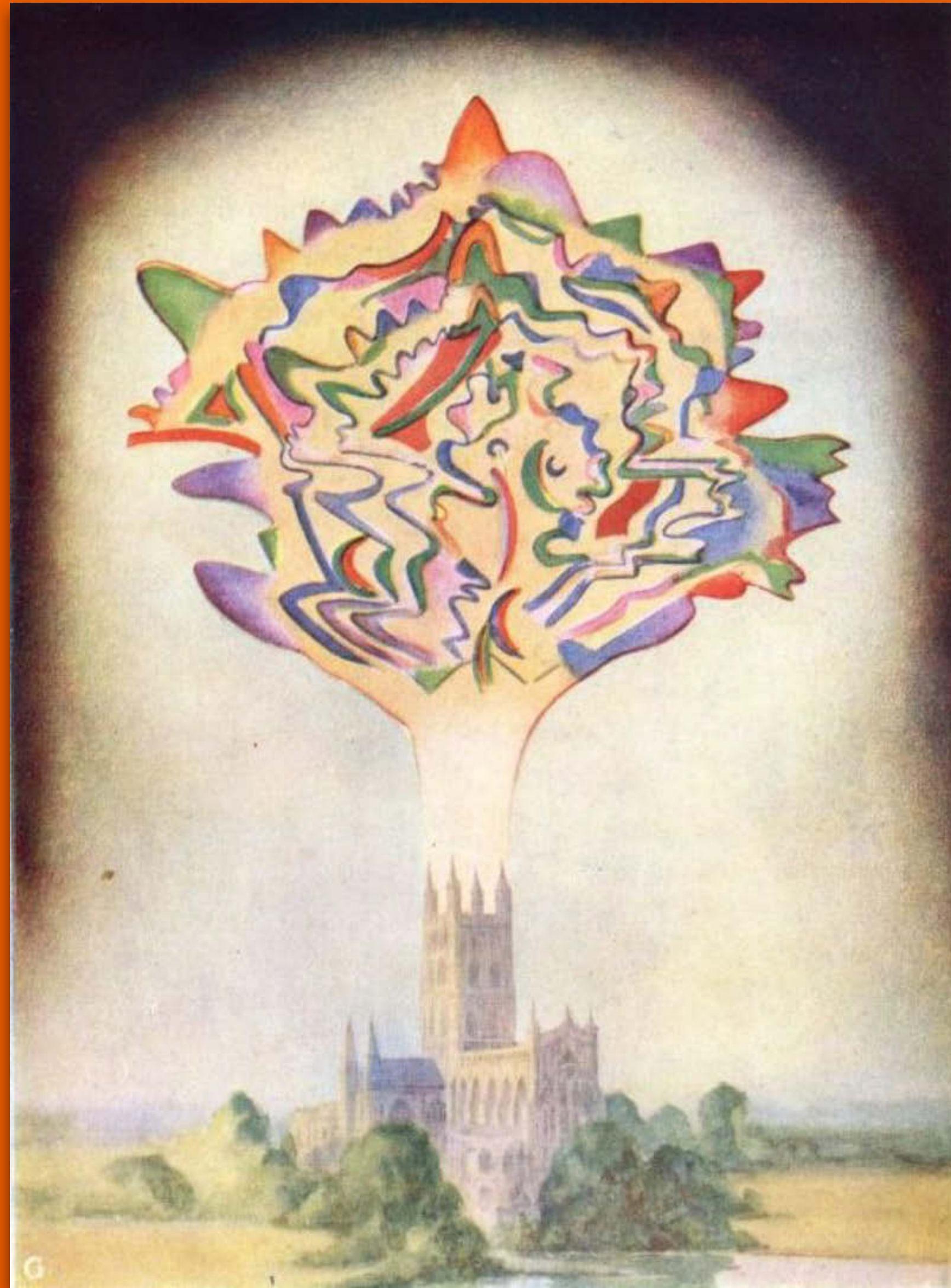
While travelling, studying and painting, Kandinsky began to develop ideas about the ways in which music and painting were related.

He, and many other artists, thought that the colours and shapes they painted were a bit like a language. They could describe ideas and feelings, or tell a story.



This image is from a book that influenced Kandinsky called *Thought Forms* (1901).

What do you think this picture is showing?



This picture shows what the illustrator pictured while listening to music by a French composer called Charles Gounod.

Did you think it showed something different?

When you listen to music, does it have a similar effect on you? Does it 'paint pictures' in your mind?



Wassily
Kandinsky
Small Worlds
II, 1922.



Wassily
Kandinsky
Small Worlds
IV, 1922.

Soon after the end of the First World War, Kandinsky went to Germany to study and teach art in the city of Weimar. Here, he continued to develop his style and techniques.

What can you see? Do any of the shapes or patterns remind you of anything?



Wassily Kandinsky
Black and Violet, 1923.

Kandinsky's paintings were becoming increasingly abstract.

Abstract art does not show places, people or objects realistically. Instead, simple forms, patterns and colours are used.

They can remind us of 'real' things. Kandinsky often painted abstract boats, hills and mountains.

People see different things when they look at abstract art. The person sitting next to you might think the patterns, shapes and colours in this picture show something completely different to what you see!

In 1933, the Nazi party came to power in Germany. They approved of art that was very traditional, and showed strong, healthy, powerful German people.



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=469130>

These statues at the 1936 Berlin Olympics showed the 'ideal' bodies of men and women, in the opinion of Hitler and the Nazis.



Wassily Kandinsky
Merry Structure, 1926.

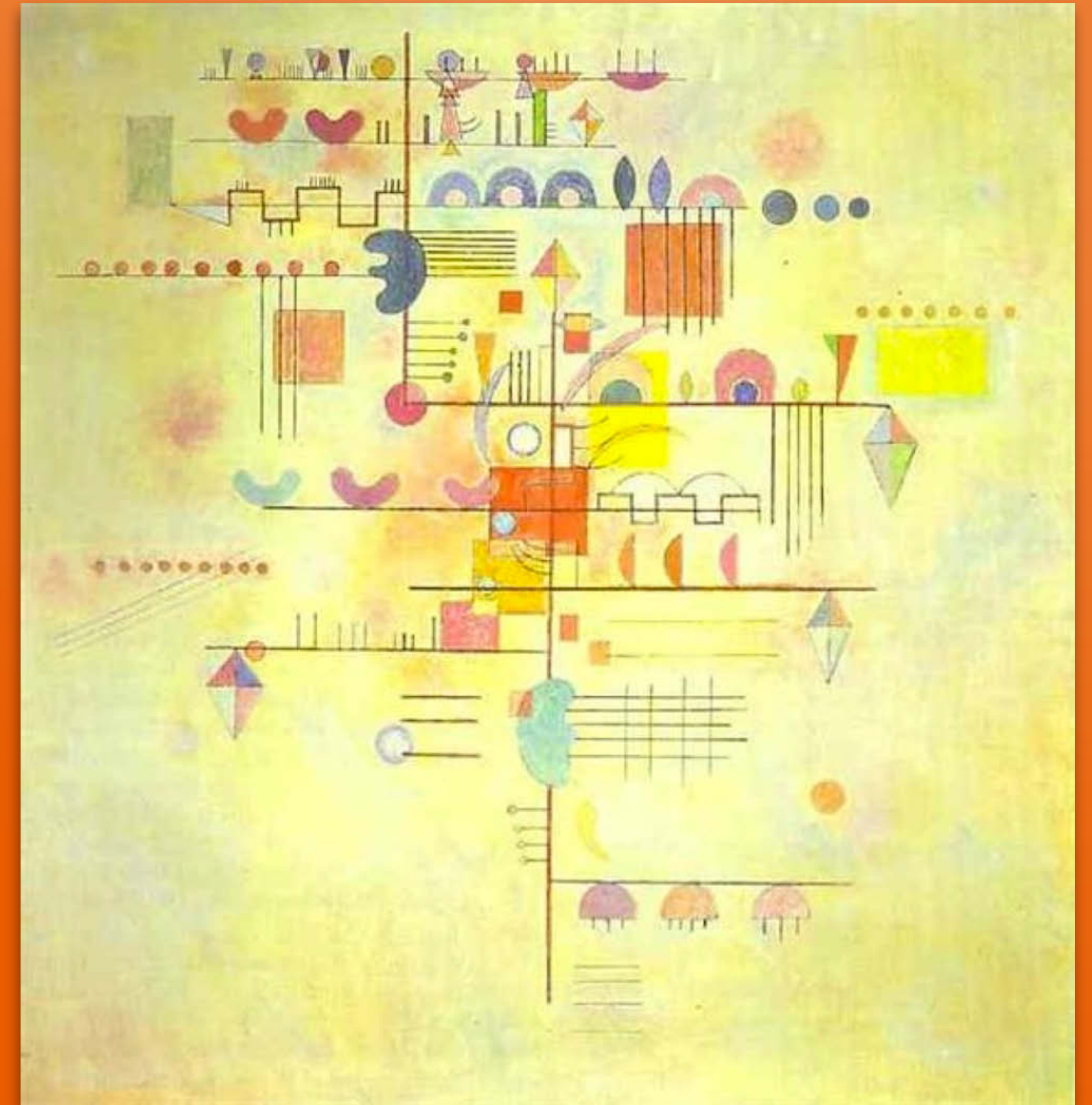
The Nazis disapproved of abstract art such as Kandinsky's, so they banned it.

Why do you think art like this was banned by the Nazis?

Only art works approved by Hitler and his ministers of culture were allowed to be created, sold or displayed in Nazi Germany.

Kandinsky fled to Paris, France. He eventually became a French citizen, and lived the rest of his life there.

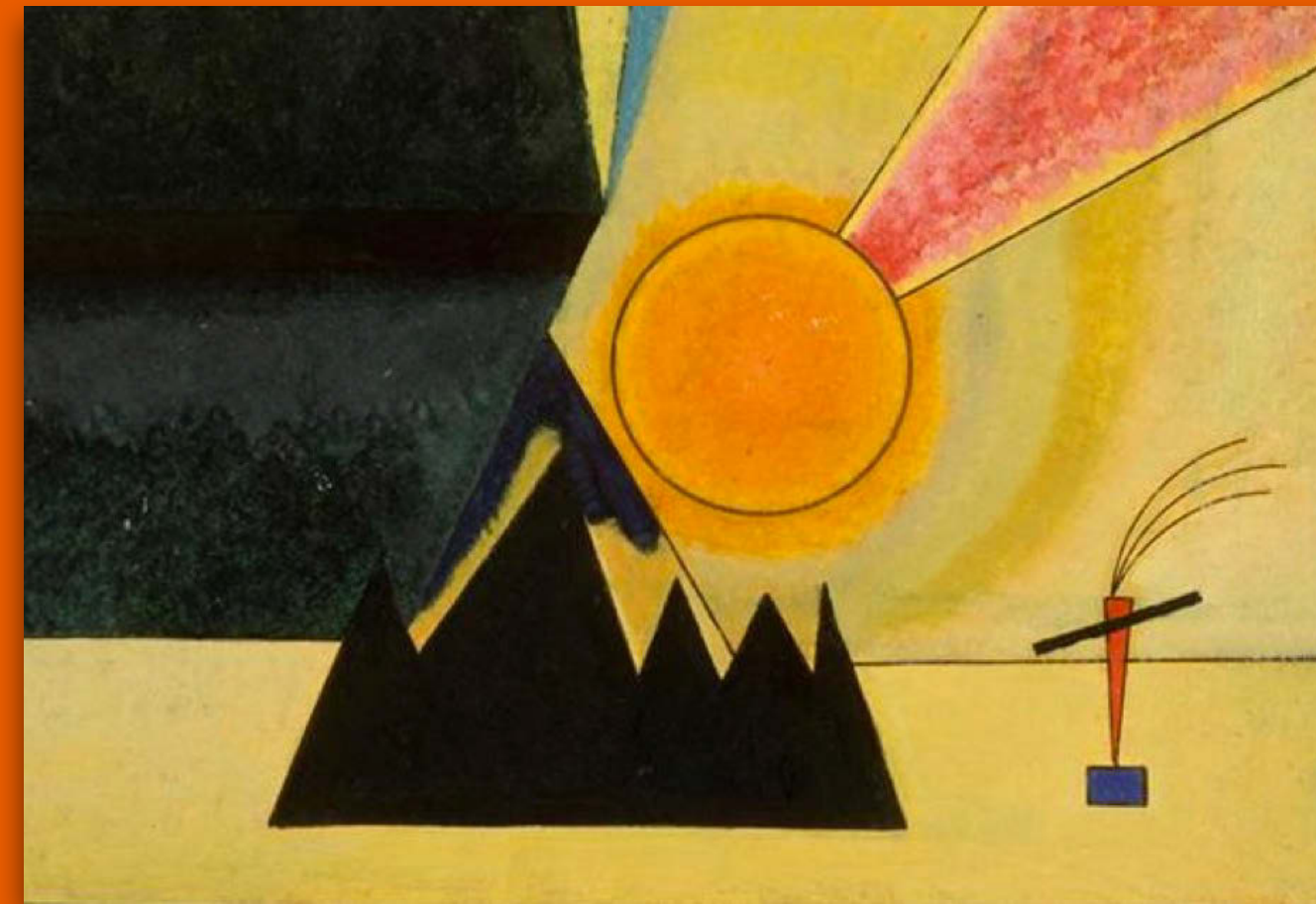
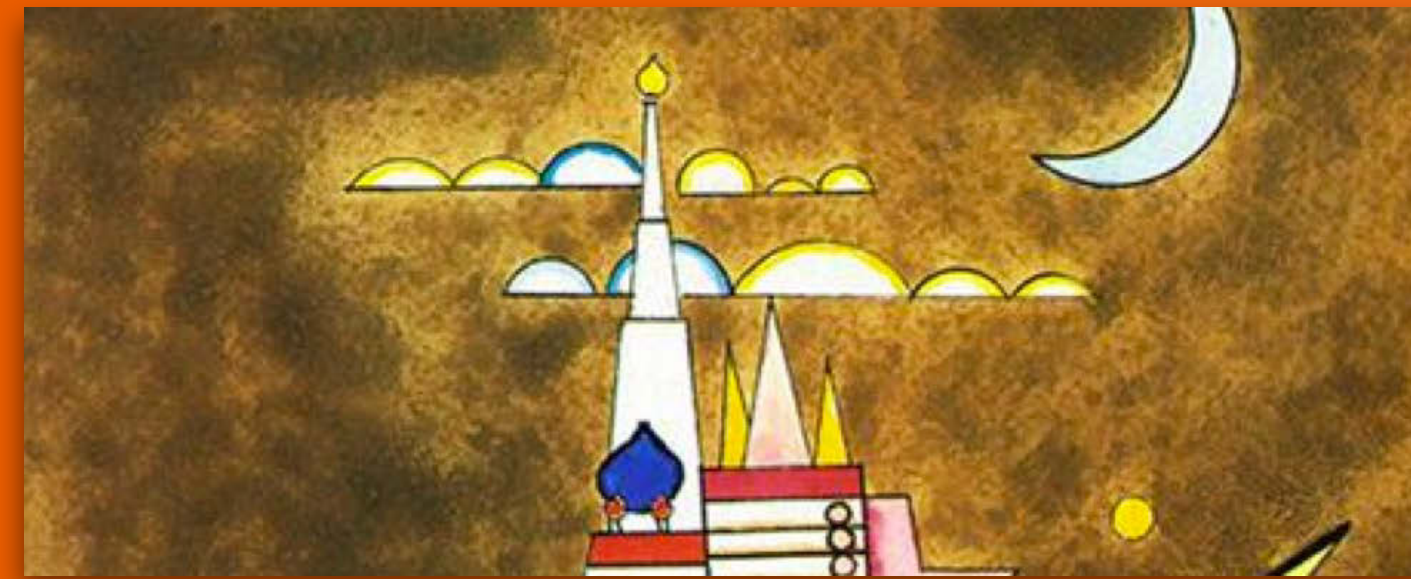
Do you think you can sketch or paint abstract art in a style similar to Kandinsky?



Wassily Kandinsky
Gentle Accent, 1934.



Try using triangles and lines to draw abstract 'people'.



Use simple circles and lines to describe birds, clouds, planets, hills, mountains or buildings.
How simple can you make your sketches? Can others still tell what they show?