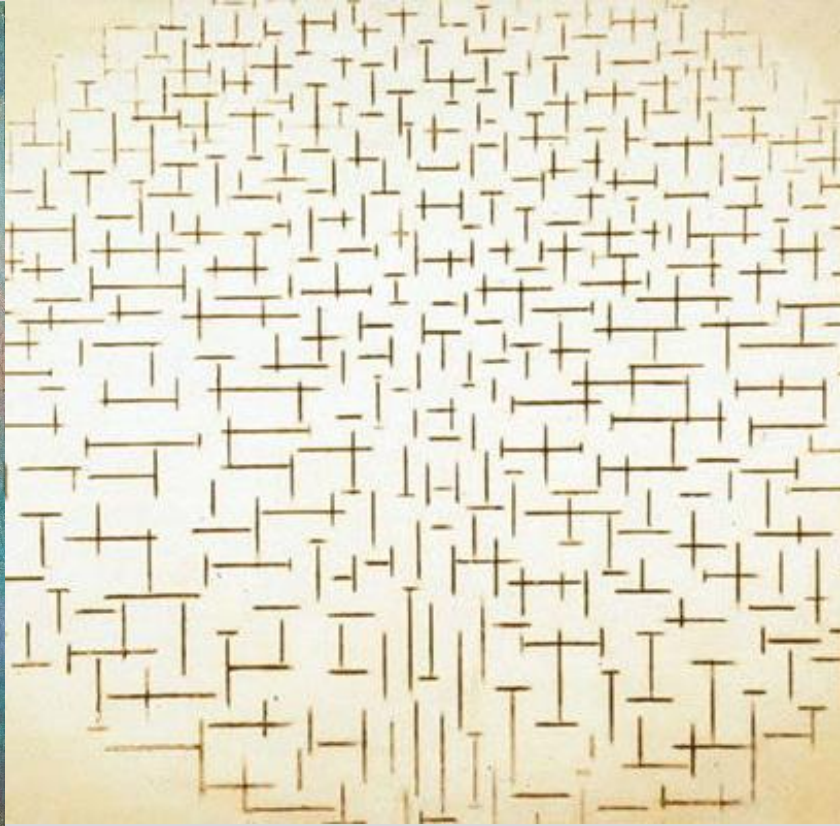


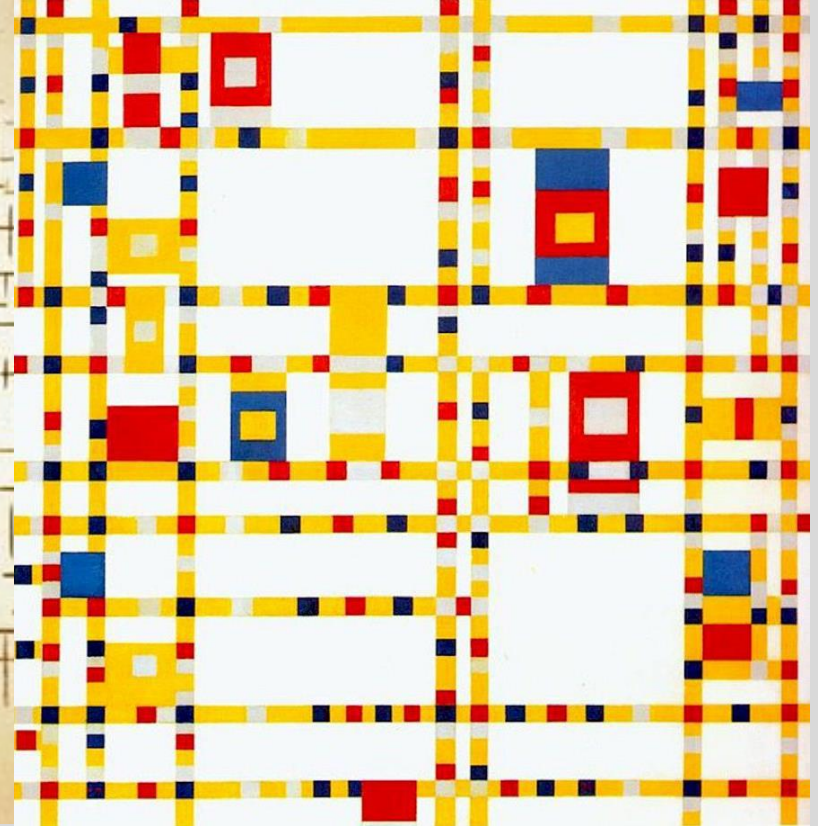
Wassily Kandinsky- Moscow Red Square



Piet Mondrian- Pier and Ocean



Piet Mondrian- Broadway Boogie Woogie



This comparative study will analyze the cultural and formal qualities of Wassily Kandinsky's Moscow Red Square and Piet Mondrian's Broadway Boogie Woogie and Pier and Ocean. The study will focus on the artists shared time period and introductory movements which creates a common culture. It will also focus on their similar yet distinguishable use of line and color in their pieces to recreate the world with a new meaning.

Broadway Boogie Woogie: Formal Qualities

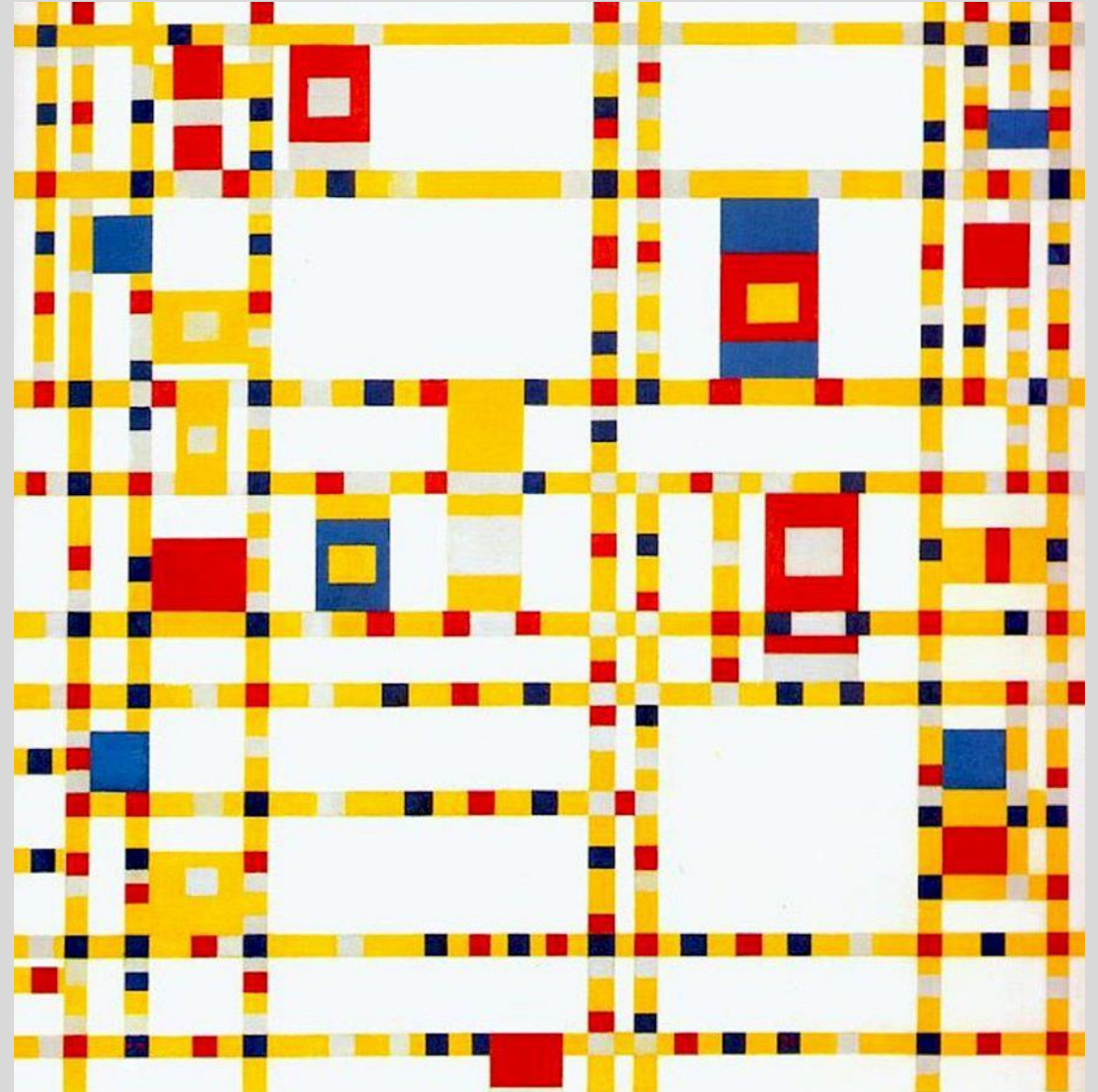
The main elements of line, color, space, and shape influence every principle of Broadway Boogie Woogie.

Balance is created using the distribution of space vs. Color.

A variety of shape sizes is used to create emphasis. Mondrian draws the viewer's eye to certain spaces using large blocks of color.

Despite the variety in shape and color this piece is proportionate due to the rhythm created with the primary color triad and the consistent use of straight line and rectangular shapes.

This piece has a strong sense of unity within the work which is again created using the primary color pallet and the exclusive use of straight horizontal and vertical lines.



Pier and Ocean: Formal Qualities

Mondrian's painting pier and ocean uses exclusively horizontal and vertical lines that vary in thickness. The painting is void of shape except for the surrounding border that is an oval.

Mondrian sticks to a mute color pallet of neutral tones of brown, tan, and off white.

Mondrian's repeated use of intersecting lines creates an abstract pattern. The contrast between the busy patterned center and the blank outer edge puts emphasis on the foreground.

The foreground is very balanced and there is an even distribution of lines. Balance is preserved top to bottom as well. Though the lines are smaller at the top they are also denser. As the lines elongate the density and thickness of the lines decrease giving the illusion of even spacing.

This balance creates a strong sense of harmony across the entire piece due to the unified use of line and color. The harmony and pattern give the painting the work random rhythm.



Comparison of Formal Qualities: Pier and Ocean vs. Broadway Boogie Woogie

Compare

Both pieces only utilize vertical and horizontal lines, per Mondrian's philosophical ideas on how the world can be represented on a spiritual level.

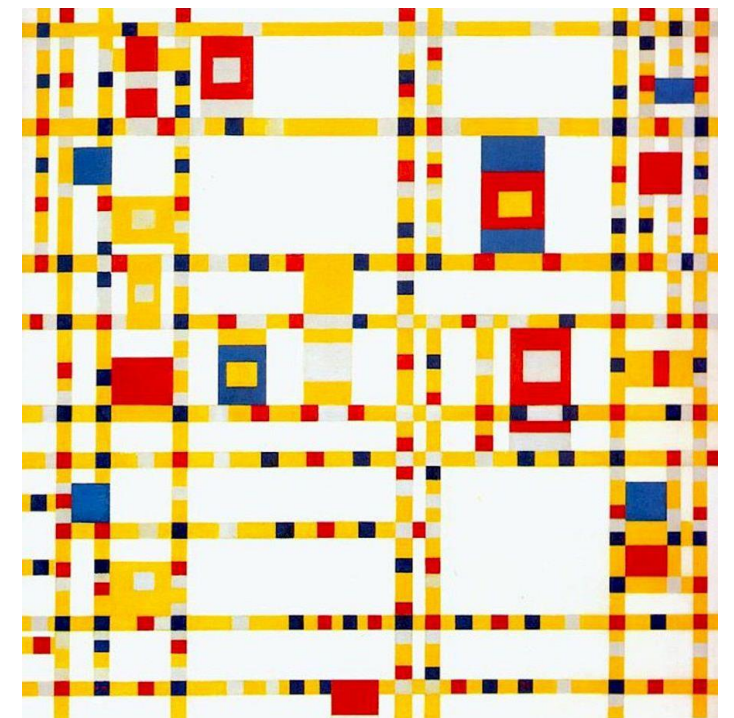
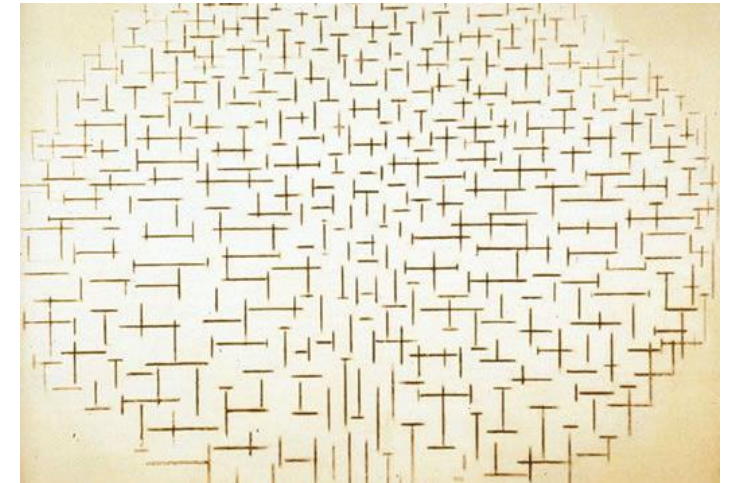
Both works have high degrees of harmony and unity as Mondrian chose a simple color pallet for both. He also balanced them both.

Broadway Boogie Woogie has asymmetrical balance and Pier and Ocean has symmetrical balance.

Contrast

Pier and Ocean is Mondrian's earlier style when he first introduced the concept of visualising and displaying the world purely through horizontal and vertical lines without the use of color.

Broadway Boogie Woogie shows one of Mondrian's last stylistic developments when he reduced world representation to a grid of varying blocks of the primary colors.



Broadway Boogie Woogie- Function and Purpose

"Mondrian believed his abstraction could serve as a universal pictorial language representing the dynamic, evolutionary forces that govern nature and human experience." <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/late-europe-and-americas/modernity-ap/a/mondrian-composition>

Mondrian moved to New York to pursue art and because of his fascination with modern jazz. He was inspired by the movement and the music in New York.

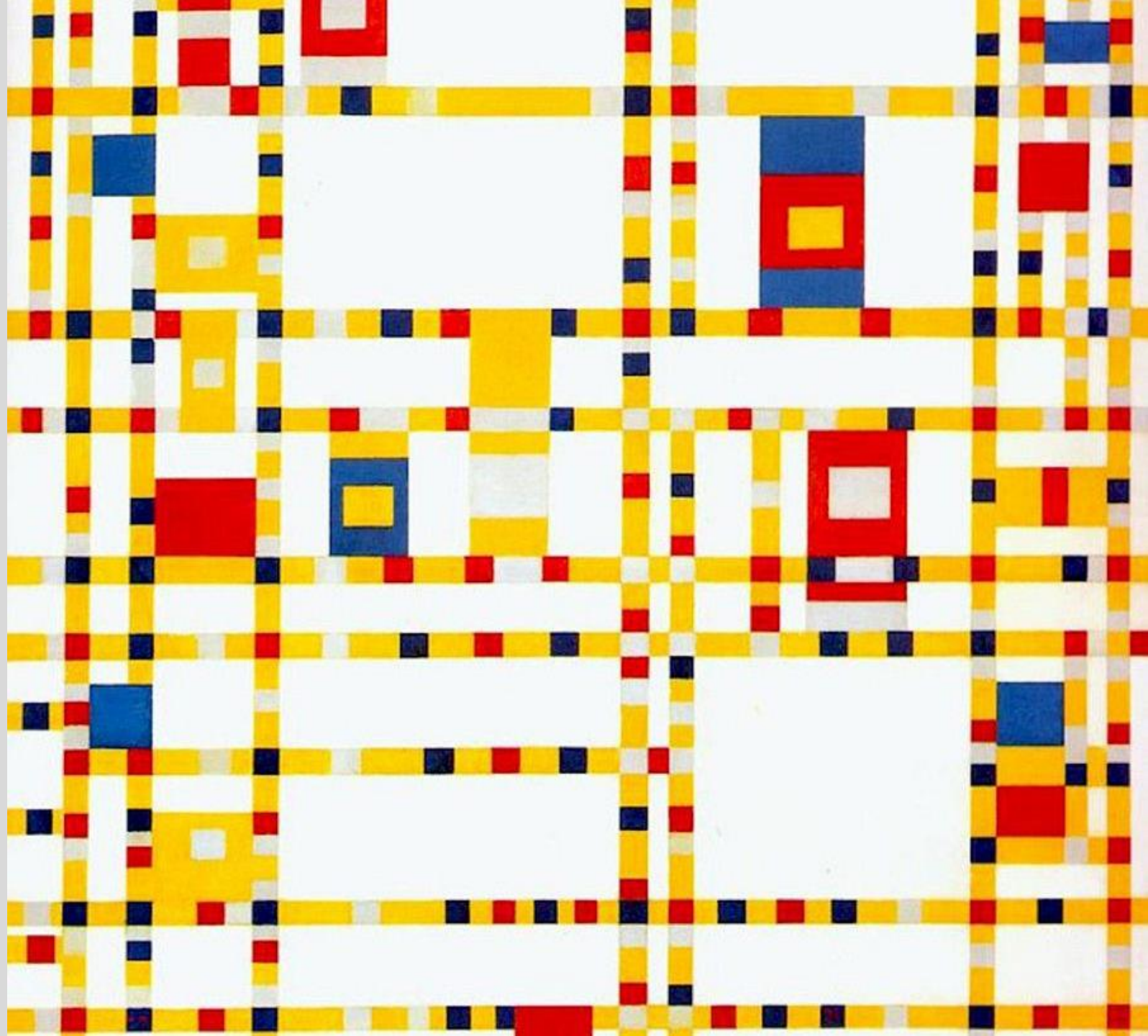
"*Broadway Boogie Woogie* not only alludes to life within the city, but also heralds New York's developing role as the new center of modern art after World War II."

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist-mondrian-piet-artworks.htm>

During his time in New York Mondrian was developing his method of "distilling his representations of the world to their basic vertical and horizontal elements, which represented the two essential opposing forces: the positive and the negative, the dynamic and the static, the masculine and the feminine."-

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist-mondrian-piet.htm>

This piece introduced his newer style that eliminated bold black lines and introduced blocks of color to show the life and movement of New York.



Pier and Ocean: Function and Purpose

"I wish to approach truth as closely as is possible, and therefore I abstract everything until I arrive at the fundamental quality of objects."

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/33419>

Pier and Ocean introduced Mondrian's idea of reducing the world to its most basic elements.

During his time in New York Mondrian was developing his method of "distilling his representations of the world to their basic vertical and horizontal elements, which represented the two essential opposing forces: the positive and the negative, the dynamic and the static, the masculine and the feminine."

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Comparison of Function and Purpose: Pier and Ocean vs. Broadway Boogie Woogie

Pier and Ocean

Pier and Ocean was one of Piet Mondrian's earliest introductions to his conceptual thinking of reducing the world to its purest form in order to convey the spiritual sense.

He wanted to convey nature and its rhythm outside of the realistic world.

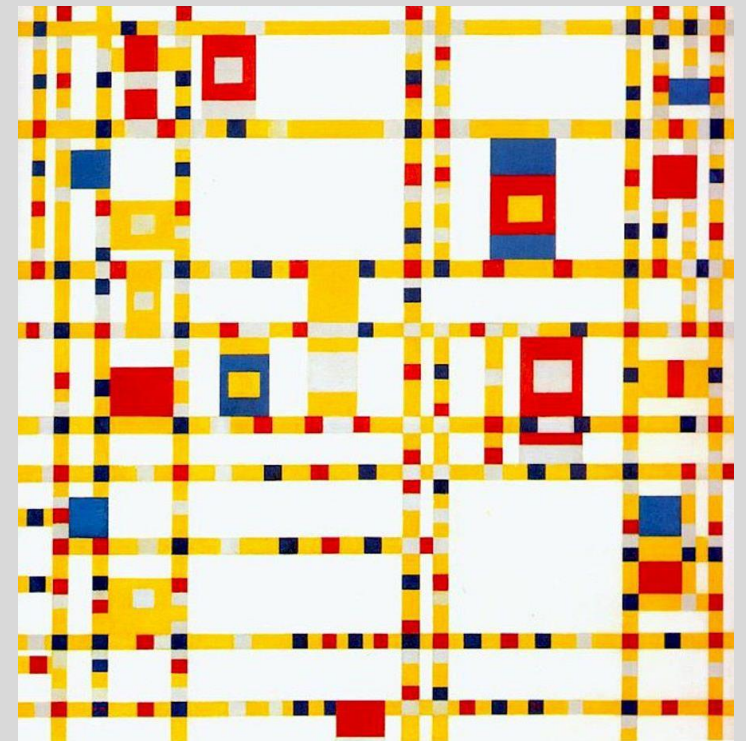
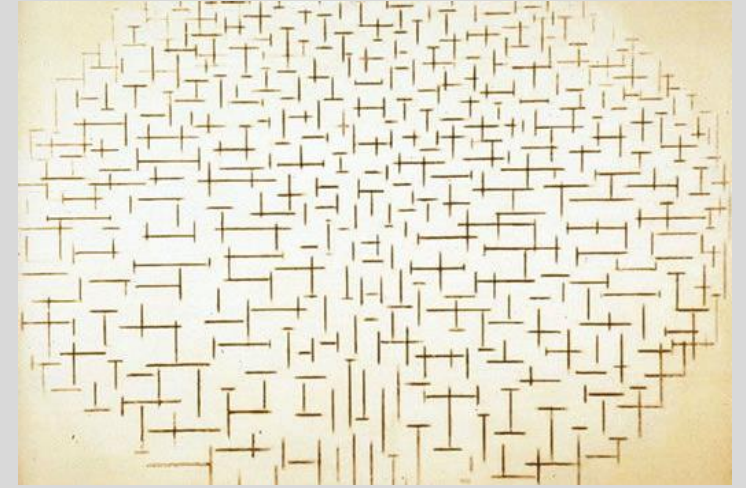
In both works Mondrian searched to find the natural underlying rhythm of life and nature.

He was inspired by movement and rhythm to create a "universal atheistic" that would show the world's natural order.

Broadway Boogie Woogie

Broadway Boogie Woogie was Piet Mondrian's rendition of New York and all the life and music within it.

Mondrian wanted to convey the feeling and life of New York by reducing it to a natural atheistic interpretable by anyone one.



Broadway Boogie Woogie/ Pier and Ocean - Cultural Significance

Mondrian formally studied art from a young age. At fourteen he began to study drawing and received a degree to teach drawing at 20 in 1892.

Despite having a degree to teach Mondrian searched for further artistic learning opportunity from a small-town painter. Mondrian was fascinated with art and approached it with a lifelong learning mindset. He later enrolled in Rijksacademia, a prestigious art school filled with artists and philosophers from around the world.

Mondrian first began exhibiting his work when he joined an art society, Kunstlietde.

Mondrian began developing his signature aesthetic during a trip to Belgium. There he began to experiment with composition, line and color. He further developed under the influence of post-impressionist artists. His main source of influence was Jan Troop who was the leader of the Dutch Luminist movement.



Moscow Red Square- Formal Qualities

Kandinsky utilizes a variety of line to create the mainly organic shapes in his painting. He focuses on organic shape with few geometric shapes such as the buildings.

The entirety of the work is purely two dimensional there is minimal implied form. His abstract style led Kandinsky to simplify many of the true forms within his work. His abstract style also led to the variety of color within the work, with a focus on blue and red hues. The color in the painting creates patterns to imply roads and buildings.

There is a high contrast within the shapes and colors in the work foreground vs. The background of the work. The background has shaded values and low saturation in the colors with open spaces and a lot of blending. Conversely the foreground is filled with vibrant, highly saturated colors. This contrast draws the eye to the center of the painting.

There is also a radial balance to the work that combined with the high contrast creates a sense of dynamism. The highly disproportionate style of the work with the high contrast reduces the harmonic feel of the work. Kandinsky's piece is chaotic and unrhythmic.





Moscow Red Square- Cultural Significance

Wassily Kandinsky was born in 1866 in Russia. He was born into money and was well traveled even as a child. His parents moved him around often which allowed him to experience cultures across the continent.

By 1871 at the age of 5 Kandinsky was being trained in music and visual art. He was "an amateur piano and cello performer as well as an amateur painter." Despite his skills Kandinsky studied "law economics and ethnography at the university of Moscow." With his degree he taught law.

In 1889 Wassily Kandinsky was exposed to Russian Folk Art on a school trip and in 1896 he moved to Germany to do art. He soon gained a degree from the Munich Academy and traveled Europe.

Kandinsky's travels showed him many of the modern art movements spreading across Europe. These included: "Impressionism, Art Nouvaeu, Neo Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism and the folk art that originally inspired him."

Kandinsky developed a diverse cultural background as well as a diverse set of artistic inspiration. In 1901 he cofounded Phalanx, an artistic group that sought to break traditional views on art. He went on to join the Avant-Garde "innovative artists of the 19th and 20th centuries that pushed the boundaries of creativity." Kandinsky was also a member of The Blue Rider, "a group of 9 expressionists who promoted modern art and spiritual experiences through art."

Kandinsky was surrounded by artists who pushed boundaries and developed the abstract movement . He was also in a major turning point for the world as WW1 was declared in 1914, two years prior to his creation of Moscow Red Square.

Moscow Red Square- Function and Purpose

"Kandinsky wanted to develop a universal language as abstract as the language of music, that expressed general ideas and evoked deep emotions."

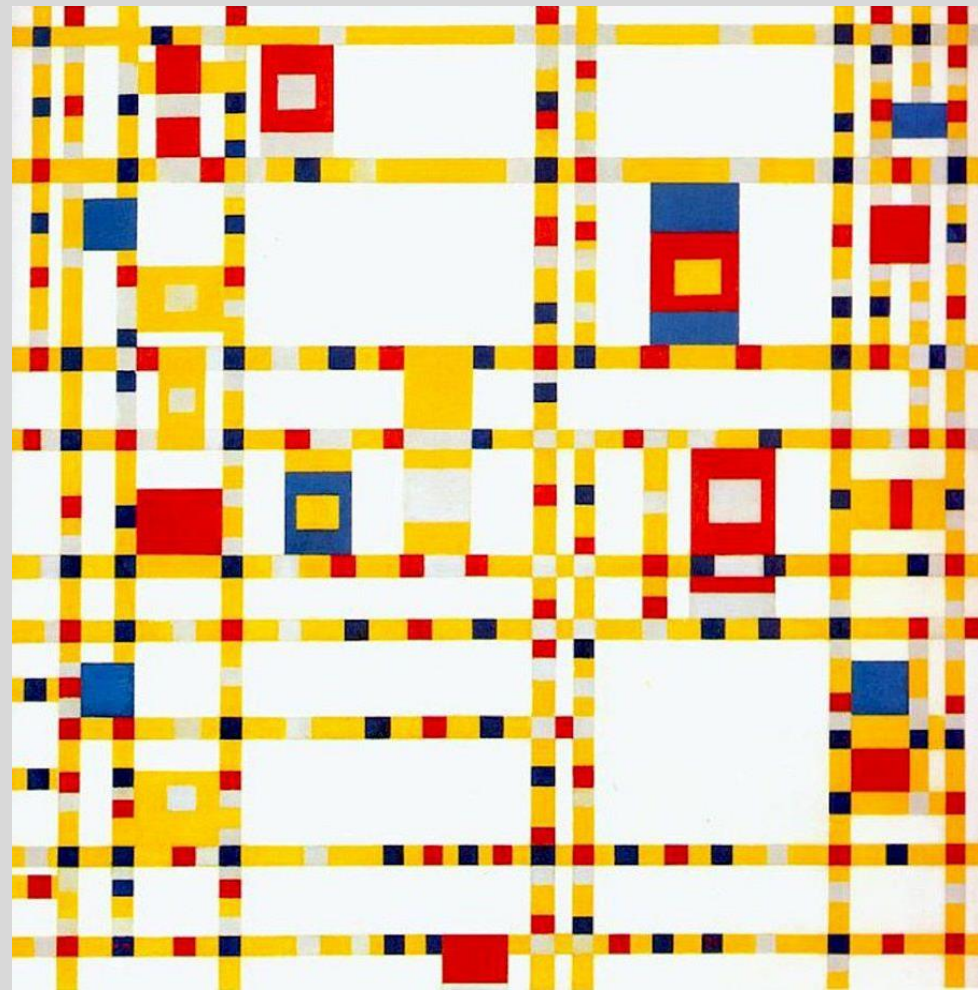
Kandinsky created this piece in 1916 two years after the beginning of world war one. He saw Moscow as a center of life that he wished to express in a way where everyone could see its beauty.

"Moscow represents duality, complexity and a high level of mobility, collision and confusion of separate elements of appearance... I consider this internal and external Moscow to be the starting point of my starving. Moscow is my pictorial tuning fork". Kandinsky

Within this piece Kandinsky showed the music in the city the flow of life through the abstract representation of the major monuments of the city.



Comparison of Formal Qualities: Broadway Boogie Woogie vs. Moscow Red Square



Mondrian's Broadway Boogie Woogie utilizes the basic elements of vertical and horizontal line combined with primary colors to represent the city of New York.

He expertly balanced the weight of the open white spaces with the varying widths of the color blocks to create strong harmonious rhythm.



Wassily Kandinsky uses varying lines and color to create an abstract representation of Moscow's center Square.

His piece is slightly less harmonious as the colors and shapes clash and overpower each other in a beautiful rhythmic representation of a bustling square.

Comparison of Formal Qualities: Pier and Ocean vs. Moscow Red Square



Pier and Ocean is Mondrian's earlier style when he first introduced the concept of visualising and displaying the world purely through horizontal and vertical lines without the use of color.

Wassily Kandinsky uses varying lines and color to create an abstract representation of Moscow's center Square.

His piece is slightly less harmonious as the colors and shapes clash and overpower each other in a beautiful rhythmic representation of a bustling square.



Comparison of Cultural Context: Wassily Kandinsky vs. Piet Mondrian

Mondrian was highly influenced by art from a young age

Mondrian gained a teaching degree and soon left to further study art

Mondrian studied art at a prestigious college and was surrounded by philosophical thinkers in the art world.

Wassily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian shared very similar cultural backgrounds in art and during the time period. Both artists were introduced and gained interest in art from a young age.

Kandinsky studied art and music in Russia while Mondrian only studied the visual arts in the Netherlands. Mondrian went on to further study and teach art, Kandinsky studied and taught law for a short period.

Both artists abandoned their jobs as teachers to further pursue the arts in other countries across Europe. Kandinsky and Mondrian ended in Germany where they gained degrees in art.

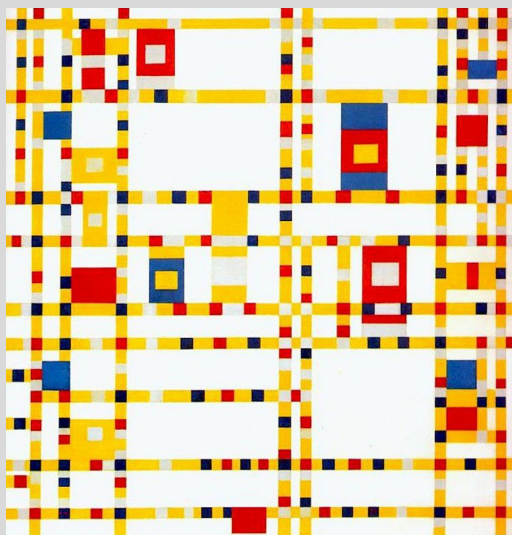
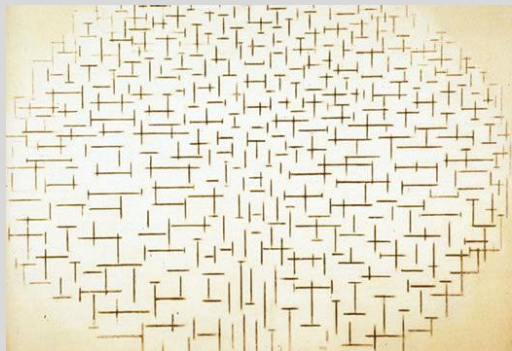
More importantly both artists were a part of the development of abstract art. They were surrounded with progressive artists during a milestone in art history.

Kandinsky was trained in art and music from childhood

Kandinsky gained a degree and taught law, but left to pursue art in Germany

Kandinsky was well traveled and influenced by art across Europe like : Impressionism, Art Nouveau, Neo Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism and folk art

Comparison of
Function and
Purpose:
Broadway Boogie
Woogie and Pier
and Ocean vs.
Moscow Red
Square



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