

Thinking about Abstractism

Date	Monday 21 October 2019 11am-4.15pm	Price	£38
Venue	Brockway Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL	Lecturer	Linda Bolton

Road to Abstraction

Kandinsky, the great Russian artist and theorist, believed that painting should aspire to the condition of music. His work moved from Russian folkloric style to complete abstraction within fifteen years, and his publications and position as a teacher at the seminal Bauhaus School meant that his influence was immense. His journey from the figurative to the abstract will be our starting point in this session.

Mondrian and de Stijl

Looking to establish harmony after the horrors of WWI, Mondrian sought a spiritual dimension in his art where a balance of opposites could be distilled into a zen-like state to create utopian designs, projects and painting for a Brave New World.

Abstract Expressionism

In the mid-twentieth century American artists embraced the abstract, both with colour field painting and abstract expressionism. Jackson Pollock's drip paintings trace the process of his work while Mark Rothko's provide a large meditative space. He described the subject of his work as tragedy, ecstasy and doom. Here we think further about the impact of colour, form and gestural painting.

Leader

Linda Bolton is one of Art History UK's leading exhibition guides and is a highly experienced and senior art historian and a curator at Tate Britain. Linda has published a dozen books on nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists and art movements, and is currently writing a graphic novel on the French artist Elizabeth Vigée le Brun.